

Lakes and Drainage Committee Meeting Minutes January 2, 2023

Attending:

Bill Reilly
Bobby Hoffer
Mark Hodges
Terry Sullivan
Karen Anthony
Lowell Lorenz
David Scheirman
Ken Hecker
Betsy Just
Harry Shearer
Rick Tanner

Approval of 12-5-22 minutes, Mark Hodges approved and David Scheirman 2nd

Agenda Additions:

Karen asked about the recent flooding that happened at Quinalt and Skenna. There was a pipe that had a 90% blockage of roots. Which resulted in a residents yard and crawl space taking in a lot of water. Bobby and his team brought pumps and cleared up pretty quickly. No permanent damage but the residents had a sump pump. When asked why we didn't catch this earlier the answer was we only have \$15K budgeted a year for pipe cleaning.

Lake Levels

Lowell brought up the need to document the water levels in the lakes. It was decided that we install staff gauges and create a spread sheet;

Staff Gauges—-Purchase and install staff gauges for the following bodies of water, Kwann, Thunderbird, Rodgers Slough, and a golf course pond. The gages should be set at the proper datum.

Spreadsheet—-Once gauges are installed start collecting data from them on a regular time interval put this information on a spreadsheet. This spreadsheet should also include other data that is deemed important such as water quality tests, chemical addition amounts, etc....., and a place to do a short summary.

We need baseline data collected that can be retrieved and is meaningful for future decisions

Old Business:**Status Report Storm System Mapping:**

There will be an Open House meeting at the BBVCC clubhouse on January 18 where BBWARM (Birch Bay Watershed and Aquatic Resources Management District) will do a presentation on how the water above us travels to Birch Bay Drive, Birch Point Road, the Village and Rogers Slough. L&D have shared all of our mapping research with them. It is on Zoom and in the Clubhouse. Everyone is encouraged to come.

Horizon Development:

There will be a meeting at the County Courthouse and also on Zoom January 18 where Horizon is asking for approval to build another 66 single family houses on 28 acres. They are also expected to talk about the drainage. All are encouraged to attend in person or Zoom.

Semiahmoo Highlands Development: No report

Status on Emergency Pump:

The new pump works great! We still are planning to take it back for a few additional repairs. The Pump exceeded our expectations of how much it could pump.

Revised Lakes Management Plan Report and Discussion of Chemical Treatment of the Lakes:

David Reached out to 12 PhD's and Biologist experts that he met at the recent WALPA (Washington Area Lakes Protection Association) Conference on Lakes Management and to our delight all 12 responded.

We also had an in house visit from Aqua Technex (a full service lake and aquatic management firm bases in Bellingham). We met with them in our clubhouse.

After speaking and being advised from all these resources David suggested that we hire Aqua Technex for a one time consultation and to take samples of all lakes water and sediments from the bottom of lakes to advise us how to go forward.

We get some of our lake chemicals from SePRO. They have a representative with a masters degree in environmental science that is willing to give us complimentary advise on how to treat the lakes after we get the results from the water and sediment samples. We are hoping to have him join us on our next L&D zoom meeting.

Our lakes have changed and we need a professional company to help guide us in the right direction so we have more knowledge of how to proceed forward. We do not want a repeat of last years algae. It is estimated it will be \$2,900. We have the money already in the L&D reserve.

New Business:

Recap of the 12-27-23 Flood Event

Now that the water issues have calmed down Bill has taken a look at how this latest flood compares with others. He thinks that everyone knows this but if not, the flood that we had on Tuesday Dec. 27th was completely different from the November 14-16 floods of 2021. Every flood seems to present different challenges. All coastal flooding is composed of four components: the amount of rainfall, the level of the tides, wind and as we found out on Tuesday barometric pressure.

In 2021, He would say that the flood was caused 80% by rainfall (5-6 inches over 48 hours) with the other 20% attributable to wind. The tide was fairly normal but was certainly higher than the prediction due to the influence of the wind (50 mph). Barometric pressure was only slightly low and contributed minorly to the flood. The rainfall from this event was near or exceeding a 100 year probability.

This week's flood, however, was quite the opposite. On Tuesday the rainfall was only about an inch. While just days previous there was a significant snow pack most was melted by the time the flooding occurred. The predicted tidal levels for the week were all high but they did not cause an issue until Tuesday when a record low barometric pressure occurred. In this case he would say that the flood was 90% caused by the high barometric pressure with the residual being from wind and rain. While not the record, the actual tidal elevation was near the record set in 1982 of 12.84 feet. He looked through the records for barometric pressure and it appears this was the lowest in the last 50 years for the local area.

Bill has previously been using NOAA data to look at the predicted rainfall and predicted tides to assess flood danger. He learned a lesson. He now also have a site that predicts barometric pressure and wind speeds up to 5 days in advance. We assume that we could have been better prepared with that information for the ultra high tide that occurred.

The Scariest part of this last flood is it happened so FAST!

We will keep trying to do the best we can to aid our fellow neighbors. Mother nature will always win but we can do our best to understand where and when we are most vulnerable.

Salish Neighborhood Road Meeting:

Karen has done a fantastic job of checking in with neighbors of lower Salish that were flooded or almost flooded. She has talked to them all and gotten emails, phone numbers and text information. She had a meeting at her home January 2 and talked about the following topics:

1. Drains- Keeping them clean. Mark locations so we know their locations water is high
2. Protecting Homes-Sandbags, there are some Quick Dam products on Amazon, Water activated flood barriers, possible berm the length of lower Salish

3. Response to Flood-The pumps need to be refueled every 2 hours. Best place to put pumps. Security to check ditch water levels.
4. Maintenance Crew Responsibilities-What are the rules? What are they allowed to/not do? We need to understand these rules.
5. BBVCC Long term Strategy- Bill and BWARM Open House meetings later this week that is open to all BBVCC residents will be very helpful.
6. Potential Flood Watch Plan- Notifying neighbors, group texts, door knocking, at what point of water rising do we act?
7. During a Flood- Karen did an EXCELLENT job of gathering volunteers to man the pumps

As you can see there was a lot to talk about. Residents were very grateful to see that L&D has been working very hard on this. Until we have permanent fixes we are all going to look out for each other. It takes a Village

Report of Effectiveness of Emergency Plan:

The pumps, Maintenance staff and quick response of volunteers literally saved our neighbor Gale's home this flood! A HUGE THANK YOU TO BRIAN AND HIS TEAM! And thank you to the Board Members that came to the flood zone to get a better idea of how critical this is and what is happening. There was a feeling of a caring community.

Storm Drain Maintenance in Front of Homes:

A recommendation was made for Rick to put in his weekly news email a message to encourage residents keep their storm drains and ditches clear of debris. It is so important for drainage. Bobby said that Ferndale recently had a blurb in their newsletter that was similar and very well done. He will find and forward to Rick.

Carp:

Too many carp. They have done their job and eaten all the bad weeds/vegetation and now are eating all the good vegetation. All the experts we have met with say they need to go. There are several ways to do this.

1. Use a chemical that kills carp
2. Take out individually. Spear fishing-bow hunting
3. Cast netting
4. Gill hunting with netting
5. Electric shock that can stun or kill
6. Fishing Derby

There was a motion that a sub-committee of Lowell, Ken, Bobby, Terry will look into how to reduce the carp with village participation.

Motion #1 by Lowell and #2 by David.

Motion to adjourn #1 Mark and #2 David

Minutes submitted by Betsy Just