

Lakes and Drainage Committee Meeting  
June 5,2023

Attending:  
Betsy Just  
David Scheirman  
Bill Reilly  
Mark Hodges  
Terry Sullivan  
Karen Anthony  
Bobby Hoffer  
Harry Shearer  
Ken Hecker  
David Wilbrecht

Approval of the 5-1-23 minutes motion to approve David and second by Karen.

**Old Business:**

**Carp Removal Status Report:**

Ken reported that he tried to use baited hooks on a very strong line with zero success. By bow hunting he caught about 12 carp. 1 carp weighted 37 pounds. The carp have proved to be very hard to catch. They are very spooky and if scared they will run. They are very strong and put up quite a fight. Molly Semenik, a professional fly fishing teacher tried to catch some and she had zero luck. That tell you hard they are to catch.

Kens recommendation was to wait until July 11th, 2023 and take the Department of Fish and Wildlife on their offer to BBVCC and assist us with doing an electroshock treatment to shock/stun the carp and remove them from the lakes. We have the permits needed and are ready to go.

Some of the carp will be moved to the pond at the beginning of golf hole 5. The weeds have gotten really thick in that pond and appears to have no carp.

David S. has contacted a few companies that make custom nets we can use to catch the carp. They will not commit to a quote because what we actually need is still unknown. Our best guess is it will be between \$500 to \$1,000 dollars.

Jack Deryland (that lives on hole 3) and Karens neighbor Don Hall have offered to help.

**Status Report on Gauges:**

Bobby is planning to install the last 2 this week and then they will be completely installed.

**Status on Lake Treatment:**

Bill wanted to thank Bobby and team on the effort they have put into the treatment of the lakes .We seem to be on the right track with the Algaecide. Thunderbird and Kwann are looking really good. Thunderbird is actually growing the good aquatic weeds which is very good news. The Bass fish are starting to spawn. But both are extremely better than last year. We may want to do one more treatment even though it is recommended only once a year.

No Algaecide was put in the golf ponds. Bill suggested we treat the north pond by the bridge on hole 2 golf course. It is looking a little rougher than the other golf ponds.

It was asked how much Lake chemical treatment we have in stock? Do we have enough back stock to treat when needed? Not having to wait to order and wait until shipped to treat? Bill will ask board about an extension on budget to be sure we always have enough to treat as needed.

David is going to take pictures of golf ponds the 1st of each month to review progress.

**Status Report of Aeration System:**

Bobby said one on Thunderbird and one on Kwann not working. He will work on soon. We all agreed our goal is to keep as them all working ASAP and keep as much oxygen in the lakes as possible.

**Status Report County Study:**

The stormwater study from County should be out soon. BBVCC has made it very clear what our concerns are. They have not shared their findings with us yet but we expect it any day now.

**New Business:**

**Proposed Memorandum of Understanding with County:**

The permits for the lower gate drainage project (opening underground drainage pipes from Kwann Lake to Rogers Slough to help alleviate flooding) has proven to be very hard and labor intensive. Bill has asked the county to get more involved as it helps the county as well as BBVCC. He has had many conversations and emails with Kraig Olufsen from the county. He seems to agree and is sympathetic to our requests. We found out that the county recently helped Sudden Valley with an issue and we are requesting they get more involved and help us as well with our stormwater and flooding issues.

Bill has done a wonderful job of putting together a "Memorandum Of Understanding For Capital Improvement Project Coordination Within Birch Bay Village" Also referred to as a MOU. After we present them with this MOU hopefully they will work with us and funding. The amount of excessive permits and professionals they have asked us to hire could be \$100,000 or more. Bill is going to present the MOU to the board for approval.

The pros of a MOU is that it becomes a joint project with the county and BBVCC. We hope it will encourage the County to work with us on joint funding, planning and permitting. The cons can be it delays the timelines.

The lower gate drainage project timeline looks like it cannot possibly happen this year.

Mark asked David W, our newly elected board member that was in our meeting what he thought? He has a lot of experience with the county and BBWARM. He thought the MOU was very good and headed in the right direction. He had a couple of additional ideas we could request.

Bill, David W, David S agreed to meet later this week and perfect the the MOU before presenting to board and county.

**Cattails in the Golf Ponds:**

It was bought up as an additional agenda item to bring up the removal of cattails. The concern was that it could be disturbing the nesting of the geese and ducks. And it looks messy and unsightly for golfers and residents that look at it.

The answer is that cattails should not cover more that 10% of a ponds perimeter. Every 2 years cattails need to be thinned out. Steve and Ryan (the golf course maintenance crew) removed a significant amount of cattails but left a large amount still in the ponds so that the ducks and

geese still have plenty of places to nest. Too many cattails provide too many birds nests which can provide an overpopulation of birds which bring an entirely different problem.

Cattails can add some natural beauty to lakes and ponds but if you don't stay on top of their growth and spreading it can turn into a lakeshore maintenance nightmare. Cattails have extensive root systems so it is important to stay consistent with their removal and prevent them from taking over a lake or pond shoreline.

It was asked if it could be done in the winter so it was not such an eyesore. Answer is no. The heavy equipment needed such as bulldozers and backhoes would sink in the soft fairways of the wet season in Fall and Winter. Not even Golf carts are allowed on the fairways in winter.

Maybe we could suggest that next time the cattails are removed we could put a little blurb in one if the communications of when and why it need to be done.

So it sounds like we can all put up with a little inconvenience to balance cattails, nature and our beautiful golf course.

**Need for Public Outreach:**

It was brought up that there is a need to educate our BBVCC population of why we have to do things that pertain to drainage a water a certain way. There are laws, permits, permission and rules we need to follow. There is a long history between BBVCC, the county and city of Blaine dealing with stormwater Drainage. As too much water can cause flooding we **need** a lot of the water to keep our lakes and ponds fresh, moving and not becoming stagnate.

We want to work with the county, Blaine and BBWARM to be part of the solution. The county has a long memory and were very upset with us when we rejected their proposal in 2011. We want to treat this in a mutual respectful way.

Education is key. We can do this through by having more representation in Town halls, Newsletters and Ricks weekly Friday updates.

Motion to adjourn by David S. And 2nd by Mark

Minutes by Betsy Just