

## Lakes, Ponds and Drainage Committee Meeting

12-1-2025 (5pm via Zoom)

And Maintenance Conference Room in person

Attending: Betsy Just, Gwynne Briggs, David Scheirman, Bill Reilly, David Carpenter, Staff and BOD Rep: Mathue Totten, David Franklin

Approval of the 11-3-25 Minutes motion made by Betsy and 2nd by David S.

Approval of the 12-1-25 Agenda motion made by Betsy and 2nd by David S.

### **Meeting Notice Legislation Update**

David F. discussed new legislation (RCW 6490) requiring 14-day advance notice of all committee meetings and agendas for community associations, with implementation required by January 1, 2028. (This includes the Lakes Committee) They reviewed a proposed calendar system for meeting notifications, which will be included in the December statement mailing to all members. The board agreed to post agendas on their website 14 days before meetings, with the understanding that this would satisfy the legal requirement for notice, though they would need to send individual notifications if meeting dates or times were changed.

### **Lakes and Pond Water Quality Testing Review**

The committee discussed water quality test results done on Nov 11 for Thunderbird Lake showing elevated levels. Kwann was not tested due to its previous tests showing low levels.

They decided to conduct another test in December, focusing only on Thunderbird and the North Pond. David C. agreed to arrange the testing, with Jack's support.

Bill noted that Thunderbird had experienced significant plant die-off and decomposition in recent years, which could be affecting the water quality.

The fountain on the golf course pond has been turned off and removed for the winter.

### **Nutria Sightings Update**

David S. shared an unusual encounter where a muskrat was dropped by an eagle after being harassed by crows in his back yard. (David S. Lives across from the lower gate on Kwann Lake) The muskrat looks very similar but is not a Nutria. So we feel confident we can close the topic of a Nutria sighting.

He also mentioned seeing six otters converging at his dock, an unusual sight to see so many.

## **Cascade Engineering**

Cascade Engineering Service Pipe Replacement information for surveying has been finalized and sent to Northwest Surveying and Wilson. We contacted Cascade on this 2 years ago so we are very glad it is finally happening. It should be done by the Dec. 15 deadline. We are hoping to get the results soon after that.

Bill will contact the 2 properties owners to inform them when the surveyors will be here and need to access their properties.

## **Training and Newsletter Updates**

The group also noted the success of a recent newsletter blurb that asked for volunteers that were interested about pump training sessions. We had a lot of volunteers attend the trainings which pictures were on the cover of the last Newsletter. Great exposure.

## **Flood Disclaimer For The Lakes Committee**

The group discussed a Disclaimer (that Karen drafted) stating that the Lakes Committee and village volunteers are not responsible in preventing flooding. The committee was very impressed by the draft and thought it covered the topic well. We are all doing our best to predict weather from news, apps and information available to us. But no one but Mother Nature knows for sure.

Suggesting it should be accessible online under the "lakes" section.

## **Fishing Survey**

Results from a fishing survey that received 139 responses (out of 1,129 residents) in only 10 days. Most seem to be favorable. David F. Will send out another email with the survey attached to get more responses.

There is a way to look at the results and see if the people that live on the lakes are more/less favorable to allowing fishing. That will be interesting.

We are planning to create a draft of rules, regulations and narratives about fishing considerations for the BOD by February. It could possibly rolled out in late April.

## **Development Oversight**

Dec. 6 Bill Reilly, David Scheirman, David Franklin and David Wilbrecht plan to meet with Avista Highlands Representatives to discuss topics such as stormwater, developments and a proposed Blaine UGA swap. This is great news.

## **Fish and Wildlife To Discuss Logs From Rogers Slough**

The committee also addressed concerns about wood debris management from Rogers Slough, with plans to meet and/or contact Fish and Wildlife, Whatcom County Stormwater, and Public Works with our concerns.

Fish and Wildlife are planning to meet us at the Slough Dec. 6 at 1:30 PM to discuss potential solutions including boom installation to prevent logs from entering the Slough.

Logs removed by F&W (recently) are proving to be more difficult to get rid of than we thought. We have offered them to the village as firewood but we still have a lot. Dump fees would be very expensive. The County has no use for them.

## **MOU Update**

In our effort to work with Whatcom County Stormwater Staff and BBWARM to promote cost sharing of our joint capital projects MOU has been completed-signed-delivered. It is in their hands now.

Motion to adjourn By Betsy and 2nd by David S.

Meeting Adjourned at 6pm

Meeting Minutes done by Betsy Just and AI