

Lakes,Ponds and Drainage
11-3-25 5pm at Maintenance Meeting Room
And Zoom

Attending: Lowell Lorenz ALT, Gwynne Briggs ALT, Bill Reilly, David Carpenter, David Scheirman, Jack Dyrland, Karen Anthony, Jon Hall, Mathue Totten

Staff: David Franklin, Bobby Hoffer

Visitors: Eddie Wood, Michelle Sartor, Molly Seminick

Approval of the 10-5-25 minutes motion made by Jon and 2nd by David S.

Approval of the 11-3-25 meeting agenda motion made by David S. And 2nd by Betsy

Fishing Safety and Liability Review

The meeting started with guest visitors Molly Seminick and Eddie Wood raised concerns about liability, risks and safety for fishing on the lakes. Suggesting the possible need for legal and insurance reviews. Molly, who lives by the BBV public walking path and boat launch on Kwann lake, (and is also a fly fishing instructor), brought up the safety issue that if someone was back-casting while fishing it could catch on someone passing by. Or it could get tangled in blackberry bushes.

The group emphasized the importance of addressing these concerns and ensuring safety measures are in place, including potential signs for fishing areas.

Bill expressed gratitude to Molly and Eddie for bringing up the issue, and Bill offered to be a resource if needed, though he noted that liability insurance questions would need to be addressed by the insurance company.

David F said he would work on a survey to present to the village on what the general consensus would be on opening up fishing.

Bubbling System Maintenance Discussion

The committee discussed the status of the bubbling system, where Bobby reported that two pods were down but two compressors on Thunderbird had been replaced. Still working on the remaining two compressors and soundproof housing. Bill clarified that while Rick Whitaker was correct about many bubblers being inactive due to motor problems, maintenance work was already in progress. The committee acknowledged that the 16-year-old aeration system was functioning beyond its expected lifespan, leading to a discussion about whether to start funding a replacement, with Bobby suggesting it could last until 2028 with proper maintenance. Should

L,P&D start saving money in the budget for replacement? The group agreed to explore new aeration technologies, including intermittent systems and nanobubble technology, and decided to make this a future agenda.

Thunderbird Lake Phosphorus Monitoring

The group discussed phosphorus levels in Thunderbird Lake, with the suggestion that high levels might be due to runoff from golf course ponds.

David S. Noted that although we still are having phosphorus issues it is much lower than in past years. We are making progress and in much better shape.

They agreed to test North Pond in November to monitor phosphorus levels. Jack and Bobby made plans to do the next testing around November 17.

MOU And Pipe Replacements

Bill reported that an MOU for pipe replacement projects was nearly complete, with cost sharing arranged for two specific projects in Lower Salish. The group also discussed the need to determine next steps for the remaining pipe replacement projects, including engineering work to be completed by Cascade.

We are hoping to be close to finalizing plans with Whatcom County to the following:

-Agree to a 75% County/25% BBVCC Cost Share on the cost of stormwater projects

1. Birch Bay Drive to Kwann Lake Connection Project
2. Reconnect Kwann Lake with Rogers Slough.

These 2 projects would help tremendously in helping to divert stormwater away from inside the village.

Project Updates and Wildlife Response

The group also addressed the ongoing issue with the Washington Department of Fish and Game regarding the Salish Lane project. The discussion concluded with David F. providing input on the position to take regarding the correction notice, emphasizing biological arguments and practical considerations for the Salish Lane Repair. He will send the letter soon.

Rogers Slough Log Management Discussion

The County removed many logs from the Slough for us and we are thankful. There is a pile in the parking near Sunrise Park and a larger amount near the water passage. The county renewed a 5-year HPA for removal, and there was discussion about potentially using booms to restrict log entry.

The logs will be offered to the residents that would like to take for firewood. Bobby and his crew will start to remove the rest.

Flood Monitoring Volunteer Training Update

Karen reported on flood monitoring efforts, including a recent pump training session attended by 11 people, 8 of whom were new resident participants. The committee has established a text blast group for after-hours pump activation and has set up equipment at the guardhouse including a 5-gallon bucket with key, funnel, and flashlight. Bill emphasized the need to clearly communicate that the flood monitoring efforts are volunteer-based and not guaranteed by the village.

Karen said she would work on a draft a disclaimer that we are only providing our best guess with flood/weather when providing flood information to residents and are not responsible.

Renaming The Lakes Discussion

While renaming the Kwann and Thunderbird “Lakes” to “Retention Ponds” might not sound attractive to home owners, sellers or buyers it could have other implications (Permission and permits) as they were originally designed for. David C. Will come up with a “Pros and Cons” to be discussed at a future meeting.

Avista Highlands

Bill provided an update on the Avista Highlands development, noting ongoing concerns about annexation and water planning. Bill did get an email from them but had to postpone communication because of his broken leg. David F. And Bill will follow up and see if they can set up a meeting soon.

Proposed Birch Bay Incorporation

The conversation ended with a brief discussion of the Birch Bay Incorporation initiative. The group expressing pros and cons preferences for the area to remain unincorporated.

Motion To adjourn by Betsy and 2nd by Karen

Meeting ended at 6:30 pm

Minutes By Betsy Just and AI