

To: BBV Lakes, Ponds & Drainage Committee

JULY MTG. REPORT [actual: 6/26/26]

From: David Scheirman, Committee Member

RE: BBV LAKES & POND ALGAE, CURRENT CONDITIONS

This is the third report for the 2026 season, with photos and notes on five different water bodies being taken. These include **Thunderbird Lake** SE corner, **Kwann Lake** [NE corner + SE corner] the **South Golf Course Pond #5**, and the **North Golf Course Pond #1**. When available we also include photos and notes from the other (mid-course) golf course ponds # 2,3 and 4. The **Beaver Pond** is also now being included.

The purpose of this activity is to ensure a documentary record of algae conditions as they develop in our water bodies each season. This document shows current conditions and includes photos taken at the usual, pre-established observation sites.

A brief summary shows the following:

LOCATION: PHOTOS TAKEN ON 5/01/26	IS ANY SURFACE ALGAE PRESENT NOW?	DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS
1. Thunderbird Lake, SE corner near boat launch	NO	Practically no signs of filamentous algae on the surface of the lake, a clear reduction since last month.
2. Kwann Lake, NE corner near the blocked culvert	NO	No signs of any type of algae are visible on the surface at present.
2a. Kwann Lake, SE corner near launch	NO	No visible surface algae of any type here.
3. South Golf Course Pond (#5), viewed from the road	YES, at edges	Filamentous algae mats are visible on both eastern and western edges, a modest increase since last month.
4. North Golf Course Pond (#1), viewed from east shoreline	YES, minor	Small amount of shoreline patches of filamentous algae mats present at the eastern edge; less algae on the surface compared to last month.
5. Beaver Pond	YES	Natural, unmaintained conditions. Riparian area, mature tree growth overhanging the water area on both sides.

6/26/26 11:45am / Conditions: 61° F (16.1 C). Full cloud cover, light drizzle. Steady 6-7 mph breeze.



1. **SE Corner of Thunderbird Lake, 6/26/26.** Thunderbird Lake water generally clean and clear. The lake surface is essentially devoid of filamentous algae as seen from this viewing location. Only some very modest amounts near the homeowner's dock that can be seen in the distance at right in this photo.

A very notable decrease in shoreline-edge filamentous algal mats since last month. It could be that the frequent winds (gusts up to 15 mph) over the past 1-2 weeks have blown surface mats from this end of the lake, to the north. Unconfirmed.

Shoreline plant growth (including blackberry bushes) along the southern edge (boat launch side) is slowly recovering. Maintenance staff previously cleared areas at this location more than usual to provide more access for those persons fishing.



Closeup at this observation point on Thunderbird Lake shows a relatively barren bottom with very little signs of aquatic plant growth. Area seems more traffic-impacted since last month, likely due to the current fishing program which brings more persons to this area.



Dead mature Asian grass carp observed at this site (just to the left of this boat launch area). Cause of death unknown.

2. **NE Corner of Kwann Lake, 6/26/26.** No sign of any algae on the surface or along the edge here.

Maintenance recently cleared even more of the shoreline-edge plants including canary grass, the usual/typical blackberry bushes, and some cat-tails in this area, down to the water's edge. This has created more open space for use by persons fishing here.



Closeup [below] of this northeast corner of Kwann Lake shows the usual buildup of 'pond scum' on the surface: a mix of dead leaves, pollen, feathers and dust. More submerged, built-up trimmed vegetation in this corner than usual.



Significant amt. of goose feces & feathers here.



2a. **SE corner of Kwann Lake near boat launch.** 6/26/26. No signs of blue-green algae (or any other type of algae) present on the surface at this location. The lake as viewed here is generally clean and clear.



The area shows increased amount of use impact (boats, fisherpersons etc.). Tufts of sedge grass usually growing here have either been mowed or trampled down.



3. **South Golf Course Pond (#5)** – 6/26/26. Filamentous algae still appearing on the surface at both the eastern and western shoreline edges. Modest increase since last month.



Pond #5 as viewed from east edge, north of the bridge. Aerator is functioning; algal mats on surface similar to last month.



4. **North Golf Course Pond** - 6/26/26. Surface condition: Very little visible plant matter on the surface, less than last month. some at the eastern edge. Shoreline plants have grown since last month.



East edge, some fresh algal mats present



Far N.E. corner (near culvert): less plant debris present than last month. Duckweed nearly gone.

5. **Beaver Pond** - 6/26/26. This water body receives flow from higher ground located north of Birch Point Rd. It is one of the only locations in Birch Bay Village still presenting as a natural, unaltered riparian zone. It is not impacted by BBV Maintenance, and there is no attempt to control algae.



6/26/26- Beaver Pond, lower (south) end, viewed from Chinook Way. Conditions similar to last month.



Upper inlet to Beaver Pond ("Beaver Creek"); significant in-channel plant growth; algae is prevalent.

SUMMARY

BBV's primary water bodies started this season almost entirely free of surface-level algae. UV-blocking dye was added early in the season to Kwann Lake and Thunderbird Lake. Fortunately there has been no significant "outbreak" of filamentous algae as might have been anticipated, even though no phosphate-locking treatments [EutroSorb-G] were applied in April as originally planned. A new Department of Ecology sampling and testing program for Lanthanum-based treatment compounds has caused a multi-month delay.

Since the committee's last meeting, Birch Bay Village was successful in convincing the Washington State Department of Ecology to remove our lakes ("stormwater impoundment ponds") from their list of water bodies that require a general permit for Aquatic Plant and Algae Management. Based on a thoughtful and comprehensive memorandum authored by Bill Reilly, the Department of Ecology agreed that Kwann and Thunderbird Lakes on the Birch Bay Village site are performing stormwater treatment for the development, and our bathymetric measurements showed that they do have adequate volume to meet the "Large Wet Pond" design criteria. In short, BBV is "exempt" from this new and costly program.

This decision now enables BBV Maintenance to move forward with a planned seasonal application of Eutrosorb-G.

Photos will be taken again at the same locations next month, for the August meeting report.

<< END >>