

Board Meeting Minutes  
Lake Spokane Association  
November 9, 2016

The November board meeting was called to order by board president Greg Weeks at 6:30 pm Wednesday November 9, 2016 at the Avista cottage meeting room. Other board members present were Sean Bunnis, Ken Carmichael, Galen Buterbaugh, Speed Fitzhugh and Bunny Cardon. Also present was Heidi Evans from Avista.

Agenda item 1: Membership update: Becky: No report on new and renewing memberships due to Becky's absence.

Agenda item 2: Opportunities to collaborate with Avista in order to increase membership: There was a lengthy discussion regarding the many challenges that LSA has faced in recruitment and retaining members. Heidi proposed a change in focus from a membership based model to a communication and involvement model of those interested in using and protecting Lake Spokane now and into the future. She cited the need for LSA to be a source of information to lake users for education and immediate issues of importance to them. An example being the recent atypical changes in lake levels necessary for the construction at Long Lake Dam. This Fall people needed to be informed in advance so that they could remove their boats from the lake before the water level dropped.

Heidi suggested utilizing grants or donations from Avista to cover most LSA operating expenses and to request donations from individuals, as well. By removing the paid membership requirement for receiving information, the group can expand its contacts and perhaps better serve the community. With a communication model our focus would shift to obtaining contact information for as many lake users as possible. Target user groups would include the Bass club, skiing associations, lake homeowner groups, WDFW, and ecology groups interested in the current bird studies i.e.: eagles and Western Grebes.

With this model in mind the board agreed that the general meeting in March should be an important place to test this approach. All agreed that one of the goals for this annual meeting is to increase attendance over previous years. Many things were discussed to achieve this. We have secured an interesting speaker in Chris Donley from the Eastern Region Fish and Game Department, this coupled with our usual group of experts for questions and answers should be an attractive venue for many lake users. With this in place, advertising and incentives to attend were deemed to be our most important task.

The board discussed many inexpensive ways to promote the meeting. A critique of what did or did not work last year was included in the discussion. It was felt the most effective advertizing tools were those with no cost: Facebook, e-newsletters and email. US Mail was also discussed by using a "tag line" added to an Avista mailer. Flier placement in local businesses was mentioned as good last year so should be used. Sean suggested sending notices home with the school children, a common mode of communication in the schools. Ken added that door prizes donated by sporting goods stores such as REI are very effective. He volunteered to contact local businesses to solicit their participation. Also suggested as prizes were guided fishing trips, Sean volunteered his services for this, and boating lake tours.

Agenda item 3: Avista Lake Spokane projects update: Speed: Avista has a new fisheries employee who will be overseeing the carp removal by netting.

The Long Lake Dam revision is nearing completion. The lake water level will begin a slow rise to full pool on Wednesday. Avista sends email and post card notices to lake residents, as well as, public notices to inform interested parties that water levels will be changing. Those were sent before the drawdown and will be sent again now with the return to full pool. The plunge pool filling work below the dam will be complete this Friday. The restoration work is all that is left. The road will remain for power line access with growth allowed to fill in. The downstream water nitrogen levels will be periodically measured to determine the best operation of the spillway gates.

The Nine Mile Dam work continues and will be ongoing for years.

Agenda item 4: Minutes approval: Bunny: Minutes from the September board meeting were approved as per email sent earlier for review. After email approval, minutes were posted to the web site for the general membership.

Agenda item 5: Treasurer's report: Ken: Weed fund total: \$2396.40 and operating fund total: \$2971.47. With 2 new paid members.

Agenda item 6: Facebook: Gail: In her absence Greg reports that we have 422 likes.

Agenda item 7: Water quality and Blue Green algae monitoring: Galen: The last week in September there was a light Blue Green Algae surface bloom. Galen adds that every year he sees a decrease in this type of algae since the phosphate removal efforts began. He noted an increase in the harmless Filamentous Algae in September.

Agenda item 8: Spokane River Toxic Task Force update: Galen: Galen reports that the PCB work is slowly progressing. Currently they are studying the "heritage sources" which are previous manufacturing sites. They are researching where these old sources are getting into the water. The TMDL lawsuit is still in progress, however, the Task Force continues to process samples.

Agenda item 8: Aquatic weed abatement: Galen/Sean: Galen reports that the Willow Bay treatment had good results. Sean also reported that he observed good results.

Agenda item 9: 2017 Calendar planning: Greg: Next meeting January 11, 2016. All board meetings every other month on the second Wednesday at 6:30 pm in the Avista cottage meeting room. General membership meeting will be March 22, 2017, 6-8:30 pm at the Lakeside Middle School auditorium. Keynote speaker will be Chris Donley the Regional Fishery Chief for Eastern Washington.

Agenda item 10: New business: Next Newsletter: Greg will write. Suggested topics: article on carp removal, the story of the 2009 carp die off, Avista pictures of the recent dam work, announcement of March meeting, and encouragement to be on our mailing list to keep up to date on things concerning the lake especially weed abatement and algae control.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.