

Board Meeting Minutes
Lake Spokane Association
November 14, 2018

The November board meeting was called to order by President, Greg Weeks at 6:30 pm on Wednesday November 14 at the Avista cottage meeting room. Other Board members present were Ken Carmichael, Galen Buterbaugh, Sean Bunnis, Gail Dede, Becky Cresswell, Jan Jenne, Bunny Cardon and Avista representative Meghan Lunney.

Greg congratulated Meghan on her recent promotion to Spokane River License Manager for Avista. Meghan provided the board with an overview of her new responsibilities. She will oversee all aspects of the management for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) compliance requirements for Avista's hydroelectric license. Avista operates a complex system of waterways and dams in Idaho and Washington under their current 50 year license. Additionally, she will be attending LSA board meetings replacing recently retired Speed Fitzhugh.

Agenda item 1: Minutes: Bunny reports minutes of the August 24, 2018 meeting were approved as per previous email distribution.

Agenda item 2: Treasury report: Ken reports new income since the last meeting is bank interest and one membership. There were no expenses. Balance in account \$3729.49 and weed account of \$2398.40 for a total of \$6127.89.

Agenda item 3: Becky will retire as membership coordinator. She will continue to support the mission of LSA and assist when needed. The board is grateful for her years of service as membership chair and the countless hours she has spent promoting and managing all aspects of membership. As well as, email distribution of numerous announcements, newsletters and information of interest to lake users. A heartfelt thank you for her invaluable contribution to LSA.

Agenda item 4: Lake Spokane algae: Galen reports that currently there is no visible algae growth in Lake Spokane. There was growth noted through the end of October of the variety of blue green algae that was first identified in the lake in 2017.

Agenda item 5: Lake weed report: Sean reports that along his lake frontage a heavier than usual spray was applied over a large area which was very effective. The weed growth was extensive so there was a subsequent large amount of dead organic material resulting in a malodorous surface scum followed by a significant blue green algae bloom. The expectation is that this will diminish future weed growth.

Agenda item 6: Stevens County Parks: Jan reports no new activity since last meeting.

Agenda item 7: Facebook: Gail reports that there have been 550 "likes". She has posted several items of interest including information from the Department of Ecology and Spokane River Forum. On Wednesday November 14 she posted an article from Washington Lakes Protection Association (WALPA). This article addresses the impact of pharmaceutical pollution in waste water from many sources. These pollutants have been detected in stream insects in some cases at toxic levels. Insects are part of the food chain for many aquatic species, birds and animals.

Gail reports that she recently attended a Social Media Collaborative Workshop which is a subcommittee of the Toxic Task Force. The committee coordinates and reports information that affects water quality in order to inform and educate the public.

Agenda item 8: Avista: Meghan explained the Lake Spokane drawdown goal for this winter is 14 feet with an unknown duration due to weather variables. There are two anticipated projects that require the lowered lake level for completion. One is the construction of an emergency access boat ramp at Suncrest Park. The other is an individual who will be removing a fixed bulkhead and installing a natural shoreline in its place. Their goal is to maintain the drawdown long enough for completion of these projects.

Agenda item 9: Continuation of the discussion from the previous meeting regarding the structure, goals and viability of LSA: Ken and Greg have met to review the existing Bylaws and Standing Rules in order to evaluate elements that may require a change. They present to the board possible changes in the structure and function of the board. In view of previous discussions of the decline in membership and the lack of members interested in leadership roles allowing for board members to retire the board believes that changes must be made. There was a good pro and con discussion of these proposals.

The proposed changes include the reclassification of membership to those on the board only. The number of board members would be 7 to 15 with 4 Officers and the balance to be defined as Directors. The board would elect itself and then elect the Officers. This approach reflects in actuality how the election process has been. This would eliminate the need for an annual membership meeting for elections. This meeting is labor intensive and costly for the board.

There was also a discussion of the purpose and goals of LSA. It is the board's view that we currently serve as a conduit of information to those we serve on the Lake. Our Facebook page has been a good way to educate and communicate with those who use Facebook. We also use email for the same purpose. The second important function is to serve as the signatory for the individuals who wish to utilize the services of the entity holding the State of Washington permit to chemically treat lake weeds. State law does not allow for individual land owners to hire weed treatment for their lake frontage. Loss of this could affect lake use due to heavy weed growth in swim areas and boat dock accesses of private lakefront residences. Public and homeowner group accesses are treated annually, if needed, as required by the Avista FERC license requirement.

Economic impact was also discussed. If we leave the general membership model dues will end. Monetary needs with the changes are uncertain. With the elimination of the general meeting this expense would end and we could use social media to query the readers as to interests. There is some question of the need for D&O insurance with this model which is our largest annual expense. There is an unknown liability with the role of signatory for weed abatement. The board was unsure of what other entity might be able to assume this role. Meghan will investigate the signatory role and report back possible options at the next meeting. Future funding would be by donation only.

Ken has provided a copy of the Bylaws for all present. He has arranged the printout with the current wording in italics and the proposed changes in bold. The board is to evaluate these and suggest changes and/or make comments. He will also send a working email format for each to enter suggested changes. The board agreed to review the Bylaws and be prepared to discuss and vote on the changes at the next meeting.

In addition to the Bylaws review the board will provide information of interest to Gail for Facebook postings. It was decided that self-posting wouldn't be as efficient as having one individual organize the posts. Each will provide information about their area of interest. For example, Ken will provide a post pertaining to State Parks, Sean a fish related topic, Galen-SRRTTF, and Jan-Tall Pines Park.

The next board meeting will be Wednesday January 9, 2019 12:30-2:30pm at the Avista cottage meeting room. The time change was to accommodate those members who don't drive at night.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Bunny Cardon
Secretary