

Board Meeting Minutes/LSA  
January 13, 2016

The January board meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm at the Nine Mile Falls Avista construction office conference room. Present were board members Greg Weeks, Sean Bunnis, Galen Buterbaugh, Ken Carmichael, Bunny Cardon and Rene' Wiley (Avista), and members Doug Dede, and Jan Jenne. Also present was guest speaker Erik Johansen, director of Stevens County Land Services.

Eric presented an overview of the process for updating the Stevens County shoreline program. This update as of 2003 is required every 8 years. The last update was completed in 1991. The Washington State Administration Code (WAC) is the statewide code which governs the master planning done by each city and county to develop a Shoreline Master Plan (SMP) according to the goals set by the state. Each county or city can customize their plan according to their needs within the WAC parameters taking into consideration what is there today. That is they characterize the shorelines as they are today and apply environmental designations. These designations span a continuum of natural to urban (densely populated). Stevens County is the 5th largest county in the state. But, it has more miles of shoreline than any other county with 41 lakes and 14 streams encompassing rural and urban environments all with unique uses and needs. The initial assignment of designations to the many miles of shoreline will be a lengthy process. The shoreline jurisdiction is defined as the land within 200 feet of the high water mark of lakes greater than 20 acres, and rivers, as well as, wetlands, isolated wetlands, and floodways.

During this lengthy process they will be seeking input on the public's view of shoreline needs. Therefore, public awareness will be important in the development of a shoreline plan. Eric will speak to interested groups regarding this topic. And, they will be actively seeking input from those who have information or questions about shoreline issues.

Agenda item 1: Minutes from the last board meeting: Bunny has the minutes for the September meeting and Jan Jenne has the minutes for the November meeting. Jan had previously sent the November minutes per email to the board for approval. Two minor changes were suggested which will be made and final approval will be per email after these changes. The board requests that the September and January minutes be sent by email for approval at the same time. Bunny will do that.

Agenda item 2: Treasurer's report: Ken reports total operating funds: \$4511.21, weed fund total: \$1398.40, 2015 showed a Net loss: \$207.58.

Agenda item 3: Becky submitted a written report to Greg showing a current paid membership of 48. Ken noted that there has been a steady flow of new and renewed membership dues posted.

Agenda item 4: Facebook: Doug reports for Gail that there continues to be an active interest in the FB page with as many as 335 visits. It was suggested to post some of Galen's water fowl pictures, links to sites of interest, as well as, Lake Spokane levels and draw down information from Avista. Doug will pass this on to Gail. Galen agrees to provide some of the pictures that he has been taking with a telephoto lens during the Fall to Winter migration. There was a brief discussion of a suggestion to have a photo contest sponsored on the FB page as a means of promoting LSA and increasing interest. No definite plans for this were made.

Agenda item 5: Water quality and technical updates: Galen:

1. Spokane River Regional Toxic Task Force (SRRTTF): Currently a water analysis for PCB's in the Little Spokane River is underway. Areas of interest are the fish hatchery and the Meade area industrial sites.

2. The State fish hatcheries operate under a master permit from the Department of Ecology. The permit for the hatchery on the Little Spokane River was administratively extended beyond its August 1, 2015 expiration. It is now in the formal application process and the public has until January 15, 2016 to appeal the terms of the permit. Permits for commercial dischargers into the water system are required to meet certain levels for PCBs. This requires them to test, monitor and publish PCB levels in their discharges to the waterways as mandated by their permits. The permit for the

hatchery has no testing requirement for PCBs even though they are a known source of PCB discharge. A group of commercial dischargers have filed an appeal of the terms of the permit in an effort to require PCB testing with public disclosure for the hatchery. They have asked LSA and other environmental groups such as The Land Council and River Keepers to participate by adding their names to the draft of need for testing. It was agreed by all present that LSA should support the efforts to require testing for PCBs as part of the hatchery permit. However, we would not be able to offer any financial support. Galen will inform them of our approval to add the LSA name to the appeal.

3. Suncrest ground water sampling is complete. Results have not been published. A meeting is planned in early Spring 2016.

4. Suncrest erosion control floating barrier project is underway. Suncrest members have been assessed fees to finance a portion of this project. Additionally, there has been a grant application submitted to help fund the project.

5. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW): Results of the June fishery survey of Lake Spokane has not been published to date. There has been a job posting by an Avista contractor for a position to conduct the creel survey on Lake Spokane. It was suggested that we post that information to our Facebook page. Doug will follow up on that.

Agenda item 6: Stevens County Lake Spokane Park District update: Jan reports that they will have a general meeting February 1st at Lake Spokane Middle School to discuss the water and sewer project. She states that these are the first priority along with installation of electric power. They are also planning a bluff property naming contest.

Agenda item 7: Avista Updates:

1. Rene' reports that the Lake Spokane annual draw down is in progress. Daily levels are available on the Avista web site and by calling the water flow information line. The goal is to draw down to a level of 13-14 feet below the normal summer elevation. However, she cautions that this can change at any time based on run off. The goal is to maintain the draw down into March if possible to allow for permitted construction and repairs of docks. It also allows for freezing of the noxious weeds which is helpful for reduction of weed growth during the summer months.

2. The weed project is underway. David Armes will have a meeting with LSA board members. He has suggested February 16, 17, or 18th as available days for him. It was decided that the 17th would be the best day for most of the board. Rene' will convey this message to David and a final date and time will be set.

3. WDFW Carp removal project continues to be evaluated. The Avista findings have been sent to them. The methodology for removal has not been decided.

Agenda item 8: Aquatic weed control objectives: A brief discussion of the goals for 2016 in light of the 2015 plan and outcomes was held. The general consensus was that the 2015 year was a heavy weed year but, not the worst. In most cases the weed treatment by Lakeland Restoration was effective. Doug expressed that the Heron Way treatment had minimal if any weed kill. It was also noted that the usual later treatment of the Yellow Floating Heart was not done. The plan for 2016 will be formulated according to the needs as the season progresses. LSA will coordinate with Lakeland and Avista. The projected cost to LSA will be similar to 2015 which was \$1250.00. As in previous years we will seek financial donations from lake organizations.

Agenda item 9: By Laws revision: Ken: The proposed By Laws revision was emailed earlier to the board along with the text of the current By Laws for comparison. The board voted unanimously to accept the new By Laws with one change. The election of board officers will be done annually for two of the four officers as we have done in the past. Thus, there will always be two experienced officers on the board. The revision would have held elections every two years for all officers. Last year Vice President and Secretary were elected. Therefore, this year President and Treasurer will be up for election at the general membership meeting.

Agenda item 10: LSA general membership meeting plan:

1. Doug Dede completed a grant proposal to Avista Corp. for LSA outreach to promote membership. LSA was awarded \$600 which can be used for publicity and to procure a speaker for the March meeting. Several suggestions were made for potential speakers. It was decided that Jack Nesbit, a local historian, who is known for his excellent presentations should be invited to speak. Greg will contact him.

2. A format for the general meeting was discussed. It was decided that we will have elections of officers, the specific procedure to be decided. In addition to the main speaker we may have one or two brief presentations on topics of interest to members. Suggestions included Avista update on the Nine Mile Dam reconstruction progress or Lakeland on the weed program. This will depend on the length of time the main speaker will need. It was agreed by all to follow the main meeting with a social gathering where representatives from Avista, Lakeland, Ecology, Fisheries and others will be available for one on one Q and A. Greg will contact potential participants and he and Becky will reserve Lakeside Middle School.

Agenda item 11: The 2016 event calendar was reviewed. Upcoming March 9 board meeting and March 16 general membership meeting were set. Saturday April 9 will be the annual HOA meeting and weed fund drive kick-off which will span April-June. The Pizza Factory is under new ownership. Greg will contact them to inquire about the availability of the meeting room and their policy for group gatherings. May 25 will be the Long Lake Dam Tour. June 11-13, exact day to be decided, LSA will host a booth at the Spokane House during their annual reenactment encampment. June 26 was scheduled as the date for a membership boat-in picnic. It was noted that this is the same weekend as the Iron Man and the Three on Three Basketball tournament. Consensus was a new date will need to be chosen. July 24 will be the Little Spokane River kayaking event. August 6 will be the Nine Mile Dam Days. Remaining board meeting dates are March 9, May 18, July 13, September 14, and November 9.

There are two upcoming meetings of interest. The Annual Regional Lakes Conference February 6 from 9am to 2pm at Spokane Community College. The event is free. Greg, Galen and Sean will attend. There will be a Spokane River Regional Toxic Task Force technical meeting on February 6. Galen will represent LSA at this meeting. The board voted unanimously to pay the \$50 fee for this conference.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 pm.