

Annual Lake Spokane Association General Membership Meeting 2016

The Lake Spokane Association 2016 General Membership Meeting was called to order by Greg Weeks board president at 6:30 pm, Thursday March 17. The first order of business was election of Board Officers. The two year terms for President and Treasurer were complete. Greg called Jan Jenne forward to conduct the election process.

Jan requested nominations for the office of president. Greg Weeks was nominated by Galen Buterbaugh. It was moved and seconded to accept this nomination. Further nominations were called for and no further nominations for president were made. An oral vote was held and the ayes prevailed with no nays heard. Greg will continue as president for another two year term.

Jan then opened nominations for treasurer. Ken Carmichael was nominated by Bunny Cardon. A motion was made and seconded to accept this nomination. Further nominations were called for and no further nominations for treasurer were made. An oral vote was held and the ayes prevailed with no nays heard. Ken will continue as treasurer for another two year term.

Following the elections Greg made a brief introduction of the special guests that will be available after the formal meeting for one on one questions and answers. The expert guests introduced were Speed Fitzhugh, Megan Lunney, David Armes, Charlie Kessler, Fred Mashtare, Marlene Feist, Jerry White, Dave Klutz, and Tim Vorhee. Greg then announced the next scheduled board meeting to be held on May 18th at the Avista construction office conference room at 6:30 pm. He reminded members that they are always welcome at the bimonthly board meetings.

Speed then gave a short slide presentation on Avista's many projects involving the dams, waterways, and Lake Spokane. Topics covered were shoreline stabilization for water quality, farmland and wetland restoration, the Hangman Creek preserve, Little Spokane River, water quality in Lake Spokane, Carp fish removal, and the Bald Eagle/Raptor monitoring. Additionally, he described the Long Lake Dam changes being made in an effort to balance the levels of oxygen and nitrogen. This construction process will begin around July 8 and last until about November 15. He explained that low dissolved oxygen levels were caused by the manner in which the water plunges into a deep pool at the bottom of the dam. Reshaping the plunge pool and installing deflectors on the dam will help, as well as, adding an inflow of air. All must be in balance to avoid increased nitrogen levels and attain optimum dissolved oxygen levels. As a result of the work being done the Lake levels may fluctuate some during the construction process.

Additionally, Speed highlighted Avista's community education and tours, the Muley Canyon wild fire site logging and reseeded, lake weed control efforts, Rainbow trout stocking in Lake Spokane and he encouraged fishermen to participate in the 2016 creel survey if they are asked to do so. He summarized the recreational improvements that Avista has done: improvements to the Nine Mile Recreation site, the Centennial Trail, and the ten Lake Spokane boat in only camp sites.

Greg then introduced Jack Nisbet the featured speaker. Mr. Nisbet is a well known local author and historian. His slide presentation entitled "Reshaping a River-Lake Spokane" related the geographical and cultural history of the area that became Lake Spokane after the dams were constructed. In the century between the building of the Spokane House in 1810 and the construction of the Little Falls, Long Lake and Nine Mile dams the lower Spokane River underwent drastic changes while somehow retaining much of its basic character. His slides depicted fur trade journals, maps and period artwork to compare how that river relates to where we are today.

Greg adjourned the formal meeting after Mr. Nisbet's presentation at 7:20 pm. He invited all to move to the conference room for refreshments and the informal "one on one" question and answer period with Jack Nisbet and the experts whom he had introduced earlier.