

Lake Spokane Association

Meeting Minutes

February 11, 2020

Attendees - Greg Weeks, Ken Carmichael, Galen Buterbaugh, Rob Stephens, Mac Mikkelsen, Jan Jenne, Becky Cresswell

Pizza by Mac. Thanks Mac.

Mac introduced Rob Stephens, Avista's Restoration Biologist.

Finance report – Becky checked the report for accuracy, comparing the bank statement to Ken's statement. A-OK.

Minutes – Last meeting's minutes were written by Meghan Lunney. Galen will follow up with Jerry White on the idea brought up at the last meeting of Riverkeepers and LSA working more closely together and perhaps teaming with Avista on bottom barriers.

Bottom barriers and shoreline management - We watched Avista's short videos on bottom barriers and shoreline management. Both are available on YouTube. Avista plans to put links to both videos on its website with a materials list for the bottom barriers. The materials for the 10' x 10' barrier on the video cost about \$75. As soon as Avista has all the information on their website, LSA will post those links on our website and Facebook page. Avista also would like to make bottom barrier workshops available to homeowners. Greg will check with the West Shore Homeowners Association to see if the workshop can be held at their boat launch and can be coordinated with the key pick-up or their annual cleanup day. He will also check with Fred Mashtare to see if the workshop can be held at Suncrest Park. We reviewed the Department of Fish and Wildlife rules for bottom barriers. They are confusing!

Rob gave us a summary of the results of the 2019 Lake Spokane draw down.

- Drawdown Monitoring: January 4, 2019 – March 19, 2019
 - 76 days reduced from 1,536' (full pool) to 1,522'
 - Soil temperature monitors placed at full pool shoreline and water line at 3", 6", 9" and 12".
 - Nine Mile Recreation Area soil temperature – soil size class was silt/clay/mud
 - Shoreline site: The soil was frozen at the 3" depth for 41 straight days.
 - Waterline site: The soil was frozen at the 3" depth for five straight days.
 - Willow Bay Resort soil temperature – soil size class was sand/gravel.
 - Shoreline site: The soil frozen down to 12" for 14 days. At the 3" depth, the soil was frozen for 41 days.
 - Waterline site: The soil did not freeze here.

- Biovolume Percent (monitored since 2016) – collected pre-herbicide treatment on July 12, 2019 by Lakeland Restoration with Biobase software.

Aquatic weeds – Winter treatment wasn't done this year because there was not a full drawdown. Last year at Willow Bay the lake bottom was frozen 3" down at the full drawdown level. At Nine Mile the freezing only occurred at the full pool level. Lakeland has begun biobase monitoring. It measures the amount of the aquatic plants in the water column. In July 2018 the level was 61% and it decreased in 2019 to 45%. There was a general consensus that the freezing of aquatic plants during draw down is more effective than chemical control. Galen suggested putting the map of flowering rush in Lake Spokane on our website. We do have links to weed identification sites on our website. This summer Rob will be taking pictures of aquatic weeds to make weed identification easier.

Lakeland insurance cancellation – Dave Klutz said the insurance situation is being taken care of and LSA will be included as insured on all future policies.

Blue-green algae – Concern was expressed about children, dogs and blue-green algae. Galen explained that blue – green algae in Lake Spokane has changed over the years – different species that only lasts a few days and is easily dispersed by wind and waves. Ecology's signs imply that the whole lake is affected. Galen only uses signs that warn to keep dogs out of affected areas. Galen tests and reports the water quality only to Stevens County. He no longer sends samples to Ecology for testing because by the time it takes to get the test results back, the blue-green algae is long gone. Blue-green algae is not dangerous in the water column, only when it forms a scum on the surface of the water. When that happens, keep children and pets away.

Lake conference – The main take-away from the lake conference was the damage that invasive zebra mussels can do. We now have a couple of boat check stations in Washington; on I-90 entering the state from Idaho and on 395 above the Tri-Cities.

Toxic task force – Galen attends the meetings by telephone. They are in the process of obtaining funding from the state legislature.

Next meeting – March 31st @ 12:30 pm.