

Lake Spokane Association  
General Membership Meeting  
March 28, 2018

The meeting was called to order by Greg Weeks, board president at 6:30 pm with approximately 100 in attendance at the Lakeside Middle School auditorium. Members were greeted at the entrance with a membership table offering an opportunity to renew their membership and obtain informational materials about LSA and Lake Spokane.

Agenda Item 1: Greg: Introduction of board members present. President: Greg Weeks, Treasurer: Ken Carmichael, Membership: Becky Cresswell, Technical advisor: Galen Buterbaugh, Secretary: Bunny Cardon, and Jan Jenne.

Agenda Item 2: Election of officers: Jan Jenne opened nominations from the floor for President and Treasurer, two year terms each. Greg Weeks was nominated and re-elected by a majority oral vote to continue as President. Ken Carmichael was nominated and re-elected by a majority oral vote to continue as Treasurer. There were no other nominations from the floor for either office. There were no nays.

Agenda Item 3: Marlene Feist representing the City of Spokane provided an in depth presentation of the Combined Sewer Outflow Project currently under construction throughout the City of Spokane. She provided numerous slides of the many sites for this project which was determined to be the best to achieve the goal of "an affordable way to a clean river faster". This project when complete will manage storm water runoff during heavy rain events through a system of storage tanks that will hold storm water until it can be processed through the sewage treatment plants. Thus preventing runoff flowing untreated directly into the rivers during these rain and/or snow-melt events. The project has an added benefit of providing beautiful green space over many of the buried storage tanks. Six project sites are completed with several more under construction, some near completion and some yet to be started. There is annual charting of water quality testing to document progress and effectiveness of the project.

Agenda Item 4: Carp reduction and rainbow trout projects: Avista's Chris Moan reports that the Carp in Lake Spokane are non-native fish that harm the lake habitat for native species and contribute to algae growth. Their spawning activities occur in late May to June. Carp spawning and feeding cause increased sediment movement from the lake bottom into the water column. This results in increased release of phosphorus and nitrogen into the water. Their large size requires large oxygen consumption, as well as, increased carbon dioxide release into the water. These factors are detrimental to the native species that must compete for oxygen and are harmed by the increased carbon dioxide levels. These same factors contribute to algae blooms. Due to these detrimental factors it was deemed necessary to remove carp from Lake Spokane. This was begun in 2017 with the removal of 371 mature females and a total of 10,000 pounds of Carp. Gil nets and electro-fishing were techniques employed for carp removal. It is done during spawning when the fish are close to the surface. This facilitates carp access and results in fewer other species netted. The plan is to continue in 2018.

Chris also explained the Rainbow Trout study of habitat utilization through acoustic tagging to track their location. He reports that the creel surveys indicate there were 633 trout caught in 2017. They plan to continue the tracking and creel survey in 2018 to assess habitat quality, growth, and natural mortality. There will be another Rainbow Trout release of 150,000 again in 2018.

Agenda Item 5: Avista Update on Long Lake Dam project: Meghan Lunney provided a brief overview of the dam spillway revision project aimed at increasing the dissolved oxygen levels needed to support aquatic life. The project is complete and testing indicates the changes have been successful. Testing will be ongoing.

Agenda Item 6: Greg introduced Dave Klutz of Lakeland Restoration the company who will do the Lake Spokane weed abatement again this season. He encouraged attendees to meet with Dave after the formal meeting to discuss any concerns or questions they may have regarding the 2018 weed program.

At intervals through the formal meeting there were drawings for prizes. Each attendee was given tickets for chances to win. This year's prizes were arranged by Ken Carmichael and Galen Buterbaugh. Contributors were: Hot Toddies Coffee, Avista (\$50 off customer bill, and boater baskets filled with safety and other useful items for the lake), Suncrest Subway, REI and Mountain Gear (discounts and free Kayak rentals).

Greg adjourned the formal meeting at 7:30pm after all agenda items were completed. Attendees were invited to enjoy refreshments and the opportunity to meet with the local experts from State Parks, Department of Ecology, Sheriff's department, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Avista representatives, animal trappers from Trapping by Dan, and the featured speakers.