

Board Meeting Minutes  
Lake Spokane Association  
September 6, 2017

The September board meeting was called to order by president, Greg Weeks at 6:30 pm Wednesday September 6, 2017 at the Avista cottage meeting room. Other board members present were Ken Carmichael, Galen Buterbaugh, Gail Dede, Jan Jenne, Rene Wiley for Avista, and Bunny Cardon.

Agenda item 1: Bunny: Minutes for July meeting were approved as per email sent earlier for review.

Agenda item 2: Membership update: Becky: Absent, no report.

Agenda item 3: Treasurer report: Ken: Current balance total (weed plus operating fund): \$5,522.58. Weed account balance \$3124.18. Net income loss year to date: \$217.00. D & O insurance payment 8/9/2017 \$568.00 The only income since last report \$.25 interest posted to account 7/31/2017. A brief discussion followed regarding ways to sustain financial viability without assessing membership dues. It was mentioned that we might look to the Washington State Lake Association for ideas on funding. It was agreed that the board must be proactive in addressing financial issues.

Agenda item 4: Parks and CAMP update, Fisk property: Ken and Greg: The State Parks Commission is expected to be in Spokane in September. Ken will obtain the details for their next meeting. Ken and Greg visited the Fisk property. The plan for improvements to this property have been published. And, both permits and funding for the project are in place.

Washington State Parks has developed an outdoor recreation survey titled "What's important to you". This survey can be found at [www.parks.wa.gov](http://www.parks.wa.gov). Their latest newsletter published August 2017 encourages everyone interested in outdoor recreation to complete the survey.

Agenda item 5: Noxious weed control: Sean: In Sean's absence the board discussed the scheduled chemical application by Lakeland Restoration planned for August 6th and 7th to treat emergent weeds such as Yellow Floating Heart. Homeowners were contacted by Lakeland both to offer the treatment and to serve as notification of the plan to treat on these days. Additionally, the board discussed the option to treat in the winter for submerged weed control if the weather conditions are favorable for this. Greg will ask Sean to contact Lakeland to discuss a winter treatment plan.

The possibility of obtaining a weed control grant for Lake Spokane was also discussed. Stevens County has recently received a weed control grant. Grants for Lake Spokane weed control present an added challenge due to the lake being within two counties, Stevens and Spokane. Jan will investigate the process that Stevens County used to obtain their weed grant and report her findings at the next board meeting.

Agenda item 6: Technical Update: Galen Buterbaugh: The SRRTTF continues to collect water samples to be tested for PCB's from the Spokane River particularly at the "heritage" sites where commercial dischargers were once located but have closed down and are no longer operating at these sites.

Galen highly recommended the "You and Your Lake" article as a must read for everyone. It was published by the North American Lake Management Society. He noted that Washington State Lake Protection Association (WALPA) which publishes a quarterly newsletter, belongs to the North American

Lake Management Society. And, both are excellent organizations. The board discussed the many benefits that membership in the WALPA might have for LSA, such as, publicity for LSA, information on projects, and fund raising. It was unanimously decided to join. The cost for membership is \$40 per year. Gail volunteered to complete an application for membership in WALPA and request that LSA be added to their lake maps.

Galen also mentioned that he had read an interesting article about the effect on the housing market in the Midwest after published reports of a blue green algae bloom in Lake Erie. The article indicated that housing prices fell as much as 20 per cent. He notes that this summer the algae bloom in Lake Spokane has been minimal and that he has not seen or had reports of any thick mats to date. He did not send any samples for analysis so far this season. He did receive one call to check on an area noted as "foamy". He found a mixture of foam and organic debris that was trapped. It had no foul odor and was deemed a harmless accumulation of floating material in a low flow area.

Agenda item 7: Stevens County Lake Spokane Parks and Recreation District/Suncrest Chamber of Commerce: Jan reports that on August 19 there was a Music Fest held at Tall Pines Park along with a BBQ complete with ice cream that was well attended and deemed a success.

Jan attended the August Suncrest Chamber of Commerce meeting. She reports a low attendance at this meeting. There will be a Town Hall Meeting September 19 at Lakeside Middle School at 7 pm which will feature a panel discussion with Stevens County leaders on the panel. Greg and Jan plan to attend.

Agenda item 8: Avista: Rene Wiley: There will be a Nine Mile Reservoir draw down for scheduled work on the Nine Mile Dam this Fall. Lake Spokane is down 4 inches at this time.

Scheduling a date for an LSA sponsored dam tour will be done by Speed. All agreed this is a popular event and should be continued. April 2018 is the target month for the tour when the water flows are high.

Agenda item 9: Facebook: Gail reports that there are 479 followers, 67 percent female and 33 percent male. She notes there are several active users. Her goal is to post at least once each week interesting information on Lake Spokane. She requests that the board send her the information we have for posting. Thus, she can arrange the material added to the site by content and interval which will provide a good balance and timing of information.

Gail provided written material on shoreline buffers that was published in 2015 by the Stevens County Conservation District along with a letter from Charlie Kessler the then Water Quality Coordinator for the county. There was a brief discussion of this topic and it was decided that Jan would make contacts with Mr. Kessler and or Stevens County to discover what is currently available to lake frontage owners for developing natural shoreline buffers.

Agenda item 10: Opportunities to serve, participate, and educate: A discussion of ideas on this topic followed. All agreed on the importance of promoting participation and education of lake users. The e-newsletter and Facebook are good for informing members of opportunities to be involved and for educating. Among the suggestions were participation in the upcoming Spokane River cleanup September 16, and attending the Spokane River Forum November 15-16.

There was a discussion of building hiking trails along the lake where the land is not privately owned especially near the Long Lake Dam area. It was thought that we should begin by formulating a draft plan and explore groups to partner with for this project. Ken and Greg will consider a long term plan. It was suggested that the March general membership meeting would be a good forum to introduce this idea to the membership.

Planning a tour of the Combined Sewer Overflow project as community outreach and education was discussed. Jan will contact Marlene Feist to set a date and place for the tour. Once that is determined the transportation needs can be made.

Agenda item 11: LSA general membership meeting: Greg asks for suggestions for a featured speaker that would be of interest to the members. Suggestions included someone involved in the Combined Sewer Overflow project, a fishing specialist was also suggested as that topic was very well received last year. The board will continue to explore possible speakers.

Agenda item 12: Sponsorship of homeowners summit: The cost benefit ratio of the annual homeowners meeting regarding weed abatement which LSA has offered each Spring was discussed. Many felt that fewer groups are being represented each year at this meeting and the cost to LSA is greater than the benefit. This year we received no donations from homeowner groups for weed abatement as a result of this meeting. It was discussed that we should explore other avenues of informing homeowners of available weed treatment plans. If we continue to have the meeting which also provides lunch then perhaps we should suggest that Lakeland Restoration share or cover the cost. Greg will talk with Sean about this option.

With all business completed the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.