

# **Friends of Spanaway Lake Annual Meeting January 23, 2020; 7-9 PM Sprinker Recreation Center**

## **AGENDA**

### **Welcome/Introductions**                      **Linda Heade, Volunteer**

Welcome and encouragement for resident involvement with FOSL and with the government representatives to support FOSL agenda.

Attendees. 54 (Rainy weather)

Sandy introduced the board members. Jim, Elizabeth, Ed and noted positions that will be up for a vote later in the meeting.

### **FOSL Update**                                      **Ed Larson, Board Member**

Ed reviewed his presentation with the audience.

### **Spanaway Lake Flow & Chemistry**   **Sandy Williamson, Chair**

Sandy reviewed his presentation with the audience.

### **Aquatic Plant Study**                              **Terry McNabb, Aquatic Technex**

Aqua Technex is in the business of lake restoration with 8 offices border to border. They work with US Army Corp of Engineers.

They're in attendance at today's meeting because they've been asked to:

- Help FOSL create Lake Management Plan
- Help FOSL mitigate Algae Blooms
- Work with FOSL to obtain a permit in case there are residents that want to address the plants in the lake, just in case it's needed.

Terry reviewed his presentation with the audience, including some maps that Aqua Technex has created:

- Hydro-acoustic mapping work.
- Heat mapping work.
- Red – Plants at surface
- Blue – No plants detected – deeper water. (Later in the summer)

Maps define boundaries of where the plants are.

Aqua Technex then Mapped Plants by Species:

GIS file with locations of all the plant locations. He mentioned there are a lot of nuisance plants and some noxious weeds.

Control options – to be decided upon by the community.

- Biological – No good options in WA state. There's a fish nationally, that's native to Northern China that eats plants all day. Very few used, i.e. 6 fish per vegetative acre. But this is NOT an option in Spanaway lake.
- Mechanical – There are tools homeowners can use for aquatic plant harvesting. There are contractors FOSL or homeowners could hire. Or FOSL could buy a harvester, but then would need to operate, maintain and store the machine. Our species in the lake don't grow back as fast as other lakes Terry's aware of. The difficulty is where to dispose the plant life off the harvester. Disposal should be close to the operational site.
- Herbicidal – This is a cost-effective option. Regulated by Dept of Ecology. Herbicides disrupt the photo synthesis of plants. Regulated lake by lake through permits. Application Techniques – Granular or liquids. Most of the herbicides are different for different plants thus the reason residents may be aware of an application, but not see any results. In Spanaway lake, application of herbicides may also be regulated based on other factors, like salmon runs.

Measuring Algae Blooms: Plants need nitrogen and phosphorus. The lower the nutrients, the less the algae can grow. Aqua Technex took surface and deep, water samples to calculate the phosphorus in the lake and took samples in the soil to test as well. The plants use the phosphorus and they take the hydrogen they need from the atmosphere.

Nutrient Inactivation:

- Aluminum Sulfate application creates a high positive charge and captures anything with negative charge like algae cells or phosphorus. Alum is harder to use in Western WA because we have soft water over here.
- PHOSLock – From Australia, combines really tightly with the phosphorus to make it biologically unavailable forever. It has

been used in Southern California. Phosphorus and Toxic Algae were reduced to eliminate issues, but algae for the food chain remained. It's quite expensive to treat the Phosphorus when it's expected to re-occur every 10 -12 years, but because of the environment, might re-occur in less than 5 years.

On Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020, Aqua Technex will bring a drone with a thermal camera out to find the warmer areas on the lake that might designate spring locations.

**Pierce County Council Support**

**Amy Cruver, Asst. to Jim McCune  
Pierce Cty Council, Dist. #3**

Amy discussed her involvement with FOSL, the prior issue with the low lake waterflow out the creek, Shoreline management and more recently bridge jumpers. She stated that Jim McCune's office has been and continues to be supportive of work done to improve life on and around Spanaway Lake.

**FOSL Business:**

**By-Laws  
Financial Report  
Election**

**Jim Overway, Board Member  
Jim Utterback, Finance Officer  
Jessie Richards, Sue Thompson,  
Linda Heade, Election Committee**

**Region 1/Position 1 (north rep.): one year  
At Large Position 2: three years**

By-Laws:

Vote for change:

Article IV, section 1F: Change the wording from "The Board shall establish standing or temporary committees and task forces with a majority vote; standing committees shall be:" to "The Board may establish standing or temporary committees and task forces with a majority vote; standing committees may be:"

Point of Order:

Discussion:

Mel Oleson came to the front of the meeting to speak to the audience:

Mel introduced himself as father of FOSL and he's worked on this for about 6 years now. The By-Laws were written based on other

organizations. FOSL is supposed to be a community organization that involves everyone that uses the lake. The very last lines in the By-Laws state FOSL will work with other individuals and committees. FOSL Needs: 1. Finance, Audit committees, 2. Engagement, they need to engage the community. 3. Projects like what Ed is working on and many more that can be done. We need a Projects committee. We need a government committee. These are not an option. The board has ignored everything except the Finance and Audit Committees. I believe that by leaving that in the By-Laws, we are better set up to actually make progress on what we're doing.

Jim Overway:

Called for a voice vote of the membership. The ayes outnumbered the nays so the change in the in bylaws was approved by the membership and the change will be made.

The Financial Budget Update:

As of today, at 7:59pm, the FOSL budget balance is \$8,379.59. At year-end, it was \$2,141.93. In the Basic Revenues and Expenditures, we gained \$5,307 for the year, last year.

Membership: 28 last year. 7 new tonight.

Sponsors – 15 last year. 2020: 16 Sponsors

## **Voting**

Jessie Richards, Sue Thompson, Linda Heade

Linda described positions that are up for vote.

Position 1, north end of the lake, resident or property owner can self-nominate for the position.

Position 2, At Large, open to any resident in Pierce County to self-nominate for the position.

All nominees will have 3 minutes to talk about themselves.

North End, Position 1:

Penny Cooper-Howard self-nominated to the board:

Penny came to the front of the meeting to speak to the audience:

Parents built first home on the island. Her mom still lives there. She has lots of family on the lake. Very interested in the lake. Concerned about the Algae. They only had weeds growing up that they raked out, it wasn't like the weeds they have now.

At Large, Position 2:

Incumbent Ed Larson self-nominated and is interested in re-election.  
Mel Oleson was nominated.

Mel came to the front of the meeting to speak to the audience:

I will take on greatly increasing the communications, newsletters, improved website, personal communications. Want to work with volunteers who want to do work on the lake. Want to have a coactive system with the government entities. Brought in funding. Opposed to turning FOSL into a taxing district, it should remain a 501(c)3.  
Engineer, Specialist in Water Quality, living on the lake for 22 years.

Ed came to the front of the meeting to speak to the audience:

On the board for the first 2 years. Our main goal as it has been, is water quality. Once we get the water quality fixed, then we can start doing a lot of these other things. Want to move forward to fix the lake. We have continued to meet with the legislature and the county, and doesn't see a problem with the relationships.

Members are voting. (Ballots have been distributed to members by Treasurer, Jim Utterback, prior to the meeting.) Voting is anonymous.

Tally Results from the election committee:

- North End, Position 1:  
Penny Howard had 36 votes.  
Penny Howard was announced to be the next board member in Position 1, North End.
- At Large, Position 2:  
Ed Larson had 26 votes.  
Mel Oleson had 10 votes.  
Ed Larson was announced to be the next board member in Position 2, At Large.

## **Q & A**

**Sandy Williamson, Chair**

Public input per the development of the integrated vegetation aquatic management plan.

**This makes your attendance at this meeting especially important.**

As you all know, our lake is in TROUBLE. Over the last several years the water quality has deteriorated steadily. **During the summer of 2019, this deterioration became and level of toxicity resulted in a total lake closure from mid-August to mid-November 2019.**

If we do not mitigate this trend, our lake will lose its value as a recreational, residential resource and habitat for wildlife. Remediation is possible if **WE COLLECTIVELY ACT NOW!**

- FOSL (a non-profit 501-3-C) is working very hard for the lake's restoration.
- FOSL Board of Directors & Community Volunteers are **NOT** paid positions.
- Data indicates that the underlying problem challenging the health of Spanaway Lake is the accumulation of **phosphorous (P)** in the lake. The fix will depend on identifying the source(s) of this excess phosphorous and how it gains access to the lake. Several mechanisms are responsible; therefore, we are researching multiple strategies to address the lake's restoration.
- FOSL has applied for multiple grants from county and state sources with little success to date. Additionally, FOSL board members have sent multiple written communication to our state representatives, Rep. Steve Kirby, Senator Steve Conway and Rep. Melanie Morgan., for the purpose of educating each to the critical concerns affecting the lake's quality, as well as requesting state funding support. FOSL received assurance of financial backing from State Representative Steve Kirby and Senator Steve Conway. However, no specific dollar amount has been confirmed to date. Additionally, each shared that FOSL should not depend upon county resources due to limited financial funds. FOSL will continue to be proactive in funding.
- In addition to whatever county and/or state financial support FOSL may receive, local financial support is critical to our success in lake restoration.

**LEARN MORE AT ...[spanawaylake.org](http://spanawaylake.org)**

**Active Member:** If you wish to participate in the voting for new board members, you must be an active member of FOSL. Membership dues are \$20 a year and payable in cash or check at the annual board meeting, or by mail. You may also wish to consider a \$300 tax deductible donation to become a FOSL sponsor/active member and receive 2 yard signs announcing your Sponsorship status-one for the street side of your property and one for your dock.

#### **TAX DEDUCTABLE DONATION OPTIONS**

<b>Membership</b>	<b>\$20 yearly</b>
<b>Sponsorship</b>	<b>\$300 yearly</b>

Sponsors get a pair of classy-looking plates; one of which can be attached on the street side of your property and the other can go on the end of your dock.

**Checks for Membership & Sponsorship**

**Mail to: Jim Utterback, Financial Officer  
P.O. Box 341  
Spanaway, WA 98387**

**Amazon Smile** Direct your Amazon business through “smile.amazon.com” and select “Friends of Spanaway Lake” as your preferred non-profit organization. You may have to enter “Friends of Spanaway Lake” as it is not preloaded as a selection.

**DONATIONS....**[spanawaylake.org](http://spanawaylake.org)

Sincerely,  
Sandy Williamson, Chair  
Jim Overway, Vice-Chair  
Ed Larson, Project Manager  
Elizabeth Iselin, Board Member  
Jim Utterback, Financial Officer  
Kim Long, Secretary

**THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING**

**MEETING NOTES:**