

Friends of Spanaway Lake Board Meeting Minutes - Draft

Thursday, December 5th, 2019- 7-9PM

Location: Spanaway Elementary Library – Use Door on North of Building, go upstairs to Library

1) Call to Order-Sandy

Meeting started at 7:00pm

2) Roll Call-Sandy

Board Attendees: Sandy Williamson, Jim Overway, Ed Larson. Absent: Elizabeth Iselin, Scott Munson.

Other Attendees: Linda Heade, Mel Oleson, Kathy Creso, Jim Utterback, Jessie Richards, Sue Thompson, Kim Long.

3) Approval of the agenda-Sandy

Approved.

4) Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes-Board

Approved.

5) Guest Speaker: Dr. Joan Wu, WSU Puyallup researcher with questions for FOSL

Ecology Grant was submitted the afternoon of December 5th, 2019. It was put together by grant specialists at the WSU Research Center in Puyallup.

Questions to FOSL from Dr. Joan Wu:

1. What is the history of the lake, and how did it get to this point?

Jim Utterback – more than 40 years on the lake: At that time, the lake was beautifully clean, and the family was swimming every afternoon. They played in it for years. Now around Jim's home in the channel, there's a foot of water and 3 feet of sediment.

Mel Oleson – more than 40 years on the lake: The dead plant material rides the prevailing current into the cove. Each of the coves have a similar issue with the deep sediment. The sediment is largely organic, not brought into the lake from the marsh at Coffee Creek.

2. If the lake's phosphorus is coming from primarily leaves and organic material, it shouldn't be worse than it was, is this the case?

The increase of phosphorus is from increase of invasive plants. More stuff grows in the lake than in the past. For instance, the lake didn't used to have any lily pads.

3. Has Growth and Development played a major role, causing change and run-off?

The golf course used to use a phosphorus fertilizer. Now they have a filtration process and pervious pavement.

Many houses were built in the 70s and 80s on septic systems. The ground water is now reaching the lakes from more and more septic systems than were reaching the lake years ago. Today most of the homes built are in developments with a sewer system in place.

Jessie Richards – more than 40 years on the lake: In 1957, the lake was poisoned to kill the bottom fish and enhance fishing. The weeds became so thick, you couldn't swim in it so copper sulfate was added to the lake to kill the weeds, but it's never returned to its original state.

4. Could the weather be impacting the lake?

The lake stratifies at about 17 feet all over the lake. This starts around May, about when the boats show up. Wake surfing boats move slowly at steep angles with the prop wash going deeper and stirring up the lake.

Linda Heade – more than 40 years on the lake: Linda vividly recalls going around the island without the weeds and the grass at the bottom of the lake. The lake used to freeze enough to ice skate – back in the 80's. The clarity was significantly better. The water travels around the island clockwise and it's shallower now than it used to be.

Kathy Creso – more than 40 years on the lake: The southern part of the lake is shallower with more muck. Where Kathy lives, it was beautiful with no grass, no lily pads, no yellow iris. About 20 years ago, the growth started coming up. The lake is higher and has done some eroding. Kathy's husband used to fish and catch very large trout but now the fish are significantly smaller.

5. Do they still stock trout in the lake?

Yes. With about 20K trout each year May-June.

Per Dr. Wu, there are 3 parts of study for grads and undergrads:

Part 1:

1. In depth synthesis related to freshwater algae compared to other lakes and other studies.
2. What do we need to know quickly.
3. What are the limitations of the studies.
4. The Brown & Caldwell study didn't include all the weather station information and only included 1 year. We should want to see this information over many years – 50+ years are available from the McMillian Weather station since 1940's.
5. Study in eastern Washington for other weather stations in the Spokane area.
6. Will research for trends.

Part 2:

1. Sediment trap measurements and resuspension by boats.

2. Testing of the iron. Near the vents and it will be exploratory and anchored.
3. Field and lab tests.

Part 3:

1. Dr. Wu's training on a series of hypothesis that the algae blooms are not caused solely by the nutrients.
2. Algae versus Toxic Algae species and their implications.
3. After testing the hypothesis, they will see the correlations and help drive a better solution.

Jessie: Dr. Hobbs team pulled the equipment from Jessie's dock last Tuesday and they're working on writing up their findings. Dr. Wu will connect with Dr. Hobbs.

6) Plans for Science on the lake in 2020 Grant updates – Sandy

Timeline:

Feb – Scuba to locate Ground Water vents. Max temp differences will be in Feb. Lake water should be about 38-40 degrees. Groundwater is about 50 degrees.

April – May: Fe small scale tests through Oct.

June – Fe Medium Scale tests treat areas through Oct.

July – Fe Potential Treatment of larger areas on South and East sides where Ground Water vents have been found... treatment through Oct.

August – Fe Lake Wide Lite Treatment to strip Phosphorus from water column.

Legislative Ask funds – FOSL might not see this year due to slow speed through county agencies, looking for a faster way (could be as late as 2022).

There are 4 Agencies that could partner with FOSL – Avenue for the \$150k we could get from the legislature:

Surface Water Management, (focus is on surface water measurement).

Tacoma Pierce County Health Dept (TPCHD).

Conservation District (Isabel Raglund) - Is mix of Federal, State and Local. – For Conservation, all grants are on an annual basis.

Parks, (Jessica Stone) - New director started a month ago. Jessie Richards will send out name.

Chambers Clover Creek Watershed – not possible.

7) Old Business

a. Annual Meeting Planning:

Annual Meeting Planning Committee: Jessie, Linda, Kathy, Jim

Planning for annual meeting and election – All

FOSL annual meeting will be Thursday, January 23rd, 2020 from 7:00-8:30 pm, doors open 6:30, at Sprinker.

moved upstairs – Rainier Room Reserved – thanks Amy Cruver – not Alder Main entrance of Sprinker, then upstairs (elevator),

Notices need to be out.

Postcards – do only once in January

Post information about the upcoming board meeting, Date, Time, Location in Rainier Room– Elizabeth. To Include talking points that are going to the legislature.

- In TNT
- Sr. Scene (Sue will provide contact information)
- South Prairie newspaper – Sandy emailed Marianne Lincoln

Kim will add to Linda's email and send out on Dec 5th. "The membership fee is \$20 and only members can vote."

Agenda items to include:

- 7:10 – Aquatic Plant study Aqua Technics Terry McNabb
- State of the Lake report from FOSL board.
- Election Committee – Jessie, Sue, Linda
 - Electing 2 board positions at the annual meeting – Region 2, currently held by Scott, At Large currently held by Ed.
- Come hear about our lake and participate.
At the Annual Meeting, FOSL to do a better job of collecting information on citizens that want to be engaged with FOSL.

b. Meetings with Reps Kirby & Conway – Ed & Jim & Sandy

Jim: met with Steve Conway this week. He's convinced to facilitate any funds; FOSL needs to realign with the county as it's a missing link. He may be able to help us. He said it's so important to realign with the county and the county should tap into some emergency funds to help FOSL.

- All 3 are sympathetic to our cause. Kirby seemed very supportive and didn't push the county relationship as much. The Morgan meeting is still to come.
- The timing of the funds would be about 2 years.

c. Forums on Lakes overview. Jessie

Jessie provided summary of the forum.

d. Business Cards Update: Sandy/Elizabeth

Elizabeth was unable to attend.

e. Fund Raising – Appeal to Lakeside Property Owners – done - Jim O. & Jim U. response

Jim will create an updated letter to include information on FOSL's annual meeting.

~~Kim will send again the Monday after Thanksgiving~~ to the broader email group.

Jim/committee to determine when this email should be sent.

8) Committee Reports

a) Aquatic Plant & Phosphorus Fractionization update (Cost \$20,000) – Ed

Aquatechnics were on the lake in October, took core samples.

Depth and Density Maps in progress. All plant data and core samples have been collected.

Also collecting plant samples. **Ed will contact them to gather information for the annual meeting.**

Aquatechnics will be the first item at the Annual Meeting. It will be our first public meeting for the plant study. Ed must write a quarterly report for the county which will be sent to the board by Ed as soon as it's done.

A public notice about Aquatechnics presenting at the annual meeting must be sent out timely for it to count as their first meeting.

b) Treasurer Report - Balance of Funds – On December 5th: \$6549.69

9) New Business

- a. Sandy - Testing of vent by Kim's dock showed very high phosphorus and is showing us that we're on the right track. Money was well spent to test the phosphorus.
- b. Almost at end of the canal, Jim U has a vent, toward the south. It didn't freeze last year.
- c. Kathy has a spring off her dock. Straight out (Northeast) about 20 Feet.

10) FOSL Member Open Forum-Sandy

11) Good of The Order Adjournment Sandy

Next Meeting: Still to be determined 7:00-9:00pm at Location TBA.