



**MINUTES
DEVILS LAKE WATER IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING**

**Oregon Coast Community College
October 1, 2015
6:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Kent Norris, chairman
Tina French, vice chairman
Bill Sexton, treasurer
Brian Green
David Skirvin

STAFF: Lake Manager absent

(Audio: 0:0:50)

Chairman Kent Norris convened the meeting at 6:05 p.m., noting that the date of the regular monthly meeting was changed from October 8 to October 1.

ROLL CALL

All directors were present at the start of the meeting.

I. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

a. Shoreline Restoration Presentation – Liza Ehle

Liza Ehle, owner of By-The-Sea-Gardens in Bandon, OR, spoke about shoreline preservation and showed a PowerPoint presentation, making the following points:

- She has 35 years of experience;
- To stabilize the bank on a lake, you can create a garden under water;
- Harmful algal blooms in the lake are caused by an imbalance, with more nitrogen entering the lake than leaving;
- A few decades will be needed to fix HABs;
- The nitrogen balance is off partly due to the presence of grass carp, hundreds of homes on septic systems, and a golf course;
- The lake needs to have higher water flows or vegetation, but the carp eat the vegetation;
- An opportunity exists now to add vegetation while the carp are dying off;
- Vegetation must be added to return lake to balance;

- Need cooperation from Army Corps of Engineers, Division of State Lands, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, National Marine Fisheries, NOAA;
- Lake is recognized as salmon habitat because coho are there;
- To get along with these organizations, develop a streamlined approach;
- Described sample project at Norris-Luebke homes to stabilize bank, keeping in mind requirements of government agencies;
- Shoreline damaged by upland drainage, wave and wake erosion;
- Restoring vegetation around lake is key;
- Currently property owners act on their own without permits;
- Only naturalized vegetation on lake shoreline is at parks; Similar solutions needed around lake;
- Can organize permit process through DLWID. Pattern all permits the same based on successful projects. Can ask agencies to sign off on future permits, streamlining the process.
- DLWID can create a joint permit application with a county zoning affidavit, flood plain information, wetland and archaeological info specific to Devils Lake; can use standardized letters from the Siletz Tribe regarding archaeology; can create a list of plants and wildlife; can create a list of native and not invasive plants; can create a reproducible list of parameters required in permit process; can educate golf course and homeowners about preferred fertilizer choices;
- Described sample project, including terracing to place vegetation as a nutrient sponge; use of a fence to keep carp away from subwater vegetation; create new habitat and wave displacement structures; use vegetation that hangs into the lake; add stumps, woody debris for coho habitat; add margin plantings, underwater plants that prevent erosion and thrive above and below lake levels; use deep-rooted plants at margins with fencing to keep carp away;
- Vegetation filters out nutrients, reducing HABs;
- Terracing protects homeowners' view of lake;
- Recommended standardization methods to accommodate desires of homeowners and requirements of permitting agencies; agencies favor coordinated approach;
- DLWID can be a clearinghouse for educating homeowners about workable solutions, monitoring compliance, showing government agencies that the shoreline is improving;
- Since most of shoreline is privately owned, restoration will have to be done one property at a time; plants will take a long time to be established and affect lake quality;
- Federal and state grants are available.

Board and audience member questions referred to:

- Working in the lake (permits required for work in the lake but not for work on shore, including wall removal);
- Adding fencing (can be curved to shore to give access to swimmers);
- Coho habitat (Devils Lake is a coho waterway but it is not salmon habitat; coho designation restricts period of time when work is allowed);
- Grass carp application (lake has too many carp per acre; a smaller number can help control vegetation; "chicken coops" can be used to hold carp; they can be moved around lake to control vegetation in specific areas).

- Plants that can be used above the shoreline (DLWID has lists of suggested plants).

NORRIS: Main purpose of this presentation is to suggest a way to go through the permit process, making it easier for others around Devils Lake to replicate process.

b. Devils Lake Dash Presentation – Bill Cox

Bill Cox was unavailable because of illness. He might appear at the December meeting.

(Audio: 1:01:00)

II. CONSENT AGENDA

David Skirvin moved to approve the consent agenda, including the minutes and financial report of the September 2015 meeting. Brian Green seconded. Unanimous vote in favor.

III. COMMENTS from CITIZENS on NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Norris outlined the public comment policy. Comments were limited to 5 minutes apiece.

No citizens offered comments.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. The Devils Lake Plan

i. Septic/Sewer

SEE STAFF REPORT re: pre-design sewer report summary, including consideration of adding Park Lane, particularly the KOA campground.

The board discussed comments that DLWID should submit to Lincoln City regarding the sewer report, noting that a prospective Urban Growth Management Agreement could be used to limit the total number of homes that will be able to connect to the future sewer system; DLWID's concern is protecting the quality of lake water; the capacity of the sewer system should match the UGMA projections for growth while accommodating all homes east of East Devils Lake Road that are reasonably close to the sewer line.

(Audio: 1:29:00)

ii. Save our Shoreline (SOS)

SEE STAFF REPORT: re: request from specific property.

FRENCH: Suggested adding permit process to website for homeowners' reference.

iii. Vegetation Management

SEE STAFF REPORT re: no update

b. Communications Report

SEE STAFF REPORT re: strategies for public outreach (Internet, Channel 4, social media (YouTube, Facebook), AM radio 1610 broadcasts, radio interviews, Clearwater E-Newsletter, 100 Years on the Lake presentations, Know Your Lake column ad in News Guard).

c. Safety Report

SEE STAFF REPORT re: no incidents or updates.

d. MidCoast TMDL

SEE STAFF REPORT re: no update

e. East Devils Lake Road

SEE STAFF REPORT re: no update

f. Harmful Algal Blooms

SEE STAFF REPORT re: no update

g. Goal Prioritization

SEE STAFF REPORT re: report of current district priorities.

Board generally agreed with goals and priorities as listed, suggested moving nutrient data higher.

Board discussed septic system inspections, with emphasis on a voluntary inspection program now and a three-year window before mandatory inspections take place in order to see how sewer project proceeds.

Board discussed grass carp application and the term “reenergize.” Members saw value in having permit in hand as a tool to use to control vegetation.

EHLE: ODFW may be slowing application process because they want to know that the lake is using a more comprehensive approach (sewers, aeration, vegetation) to fix lake rather than relying on fish.

SKIRVIN: Another hurdle is ODFW would have to change its rules because of the size of the lake and its public access; we have a strategy from Joe Eilers that includes adding vegetation.

Norris moved to accept the eight goals as priorities as listed in the staff report, with changes discussed. French seconded. Unanimous vote in favor.

Board noted that language in priority #2 should reflect that the scope of the sewer project should match the Urban Growth Boundary.

(Audio: 1:45:00)

h. D River Dredging

SEE STAFF REPORT re: French and Skirvin will attend pre-application meeting October 21, 2015, at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers office in Portland. Several pertinent agencies will be present.

SKIRVIN: Anyone who is interested could ask about attending.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Personal Services Contracting Policy

SEE STAFF REPORT re: policy updated to reflect new dollar amounts according to state statute and including “scientists” and “researchers” in the personal services definition.

French moved to approve the draft of the personal services contract policy. Green seconded. Unanimous vote in favor.

VI. NON-AGENDA ITEMS

GREEN: Suggested that proposed aeration contract reduce line item for permitting assistance from \$22,000 to \$6,000. Otherwise Dr. Horne should seek another engineer.

SKIRVIN: Suggested discussing this with Dr. Horne at the November meeting, so board can respond in December.

GREEN: We will probably need an engineering design before seeking grants; we will need to provide matching funds based on a design.

NORRIS: At Monday’s meeting with Tia Cavender, we will ask what percentage of the aeration project can realistically be funded through grants.

EHLE: Grant providers will want to see a multifaceted approach backed by science; the sewer project will work together with aeration.

VII. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS from CITIZENS on NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Board members thanked Liza Ehle for her presentation.

VIII. BOARD COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The board will meet here at OCCC on Monday, October 5, 2015, with Chase Park Grants to discuss grant opportunities.

- a. Senior Fair – Chinook Winds Casino – Oct. 6, 10 am-4 pm
- b. Devils Lake Severe Event Training – Taft Fire Station – Oct. 10, 10 am
- c. NALMS – Saratoga Springs, NY – Nov. 17-20

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Norris adjourned the meeting at 8:04 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be November 12, 2015, at 6:00 p.m.

| Respectfully submitted,
Rick Mark