

LAKES COMMITTEE MINUTES

MARCH 30, 2022

Mission statement : To protect the integrity of the lakes by engaging the Lake Wynonah community in a positive campaign of stewardship for our streams and lakes and our connecting global tributaries

Present: Steve Boyer, Jan Crocker, Lee Daniels , Michelle Miller, Sylvia Nabholz, Barb Still.

Absent: Ryan Achenbach, Mike Borden, Scott Chivinski, Mike Mayberry, Michele Roman, Nena Geary (non-voting member),

Guest present: John Calzola, Dorrie Martinchek, Lisa Jones

CALL TO ORDER by Barb Still at 6:05 PM

1. **Welcome visitors:** Dorrie Martinchek and John Calzola attending their first meeting. We thanked John for allowing us to use his boat on Fawn Lake for monitoring during the 2022 season. Lisa Jones President of BOD thanked us for our work. She reviewed the new security company to begin this spring. She discussed that the BOD will request approved minutes of each committee's meeting to be sent to office where it will be posted online. Finally, she shared that a meeting is being set up to bring together a representative from each committee to share work and ideas.

2. **Acceptance of minutes** from last meeting of September 2021 emailed in October 2021 no additions or corrections received

3. **Update on Water Monitoring** successful completion 2021 and plan for 2022: Jan Crocker and Steve Boyer discussed the Water Monitoring: that began in April 2021, it has continued with our volunteers (Steve B,, Jan C, Sylvia N, Michele R, Barb S,) once a month in 9 sites in Lake Wynonah and 5 sites in Fawn Lake at 10 feet depth interval with 10 elements. (DO%, DOmg/L, AS SPC-uS/c, AS C-uS/cm, AS TDS mg/L, AS SAL ppt, pH, pHmV) along with a secchi dish depth number). This has been supplemented by our professional expert, Bill Kirkpatrick and his agency Aquatic Environmental Consultants (AEC) . This agency tests June

and September in the deepest part of both lakes. He also does additional tests of Phosphorus, Nitrate and Chlorophyll a.

All our data was compiled on spreadsheets and was sent to AEC in November 2021. Final analysis by AEC and all spreadsheets was sent to the committee and the Board in January 2022 email.

Steve B reminded us that this data is not a one year snapshot but is a longitudinal study for years to come. It is hoped this allows us to be proactive in picking up any changes early to correct a problem sooner than later.

Plan for 2022 testing will parallel the 2021 season. Steve suggested an open invitation to the community, first come first serve for joining the team on the boat ride to observe the testing procedures (2 per monitoring day). Barb to pursue this idea.

Steve discussed increasing our monitoring of streams per Wayne's suggestion perhaps through a local resource of the "retired senior volunteer program". Steve to follow up with this idea.

Once again a big thank you to our monitoring volunteers and especially Jan Crocker for being captain of the ship!

4. Contracts for 2022 Season with Aquatic Environment Consultants

2022 season finds AEC as our professional consultant company. A task force of Lakes Committee members will be organized to consider bids from other monitoring companies as well as AEC for both the Lake Treatment of Elodea as well as Lake Water Quality Monitoring for 2023. Two companies already on the radar are Bob Schindler from Solitude Lake Management and Ed Molesky from Aqua Link

It was discussed that perhaps we can have Bill Kirkpatrick on a zoom call or face to face at a future meeting to discuss the elodea treatment of 2021 and the plan for 2022 as well as the Lake Water Quality Monitoring. Barb to check with Bill for dates.

5. PALMS (PA Lakes Management Society) conference update attended February 2022 by Michele Roman, Barb Still and Patty Alercia <https://www.palakes.org/>

- a. Reinforced what we are doing: Monitor monitor monitor. Got kudos for our proactive approach.
- b. Wealth of information for our community at this once a year meeting. Importance of attending this meeting is paramount.
- c. Barb Still shared Lake Dredging information from the meeting . Barb encouraged anyone interested in more information about this topic to contact Jason Smith jesmith@hanovereng.com from Hanover Engineering a presenter at the conference. His company is located in the Bethlehem area.

6. Schuylkill Conservation District walk (March 29, 2022) with Wayne Lehman, County Natural Resource Specialist attended by Jan Crocker and Steve Boyer

Jan and Steve discussed the "walk" they took with Wayne. They relayed a message from Wayne that we have to get our soil and erosion mitigation on construction properties under control. At least 2 properties one at F dock and one at G dock he was very concerned about the lack of soil and erosion control present. Here is Wayne's summary of his meeting with Steve and Jan

Just to recap from the meeting today. The Lake Committee is on a good path with water quality sampling and projects and recommendations that are being made to the BOD. I think the **biggest threats to the lakes are still sediment and nutrients mainly from within the community itself**. The main threats for sediment would be from ongoing construction (make sure erosion and sediment best management practices are being implemented on new construction lots) and eroded swales and channels. Best way to reduce erosion of swales is to slow flow velocities, lessen water volume and stabilize when needed. The best ways to do this would be through infiltration or retention through raingarden, rain barrels etc. but also stabilization through "laying back swale sides to gentler slopes" and stabilizing with large rip-rap or better would be to plant with vegetation like tree, shrubs or even unmowed grasses Again for nutrients I feel the main sources would be from either failing septic/holding tanks and from lawn fertilizers. Larger sized sediment can also be capture through small retention basins (like the ones that current exist with the gabion baskets and rock weirs) where the various streams enter the lakes. Again the best approach is to address the problem area upstream

and at the source before they have a chance cause a problem for the lakes. Also I discussed the potential of creating a non-profit 501(c)3 organization that would have the potential to acquire public and private grants to fund some of the projects related to reducing sediment and nutrients. I know I probably haven't covered everything Jan, Steve and I discussed today but I'm sure they will fill in the gaps for me.

The following DCNR website brochure gives a good start for native plantings: https://elibrary.dcnr.pa.gov/GetDocument?docId=1742582&DocName=sf-Native_Plants_Landscaping-brochure.pdf

And from the Brandywine Conservancy: <https://www.brandywine.org/sites/default/files/media/BrandywineConservancy-RiparianBufferGuide.pdf>

Some ideas from walk:

- a. Take information from Wayne's concerns over soil and erosion at certain construction sites to the Schuylkill Conservation district soil and erosion representatives (see following link) <https://www.schuylkillcd.com/departments/erosion-sediment-control-program>
- b. Share with the Lake management the need to clean out sediment build up along various streams, rock formations and gabion baskets
- c. Jan and Steve to prioritize areas identified needing remediation for soil and erosion to "slow the flow" of eroding swales and channels and write up a list to share with the office and the BOD.
- d. Engage the community members with perhaps developing quadrants around the lake and having community members be responsible for a quadrant. Whether a member lives near a stream or swale or lake front, the water quality can be assessed monthly. Observing for clarity of the water , as well as any new activities that could impact the waterways. This could even include any unusual increase in the geese population etc. Brainstorming continues on this idea.
- e. Educating the community about environmentally friendly tools such as of rain gardens, rain barrels, native plant landscaping, lawn fertilizer use etc Engage outside resources to educate the community about living in a lake community. Use

various media outlets like email blasts, workshops, videos, live speakers, zoom etc.

f. Engage community members to learn about the water testing program by inviting them to ride on the boat during testing. (2 per month)

g. Investigate testing for phosphorus and nitrates in streams through a local resource (retires senior volunteer program) Steve to pursue

h. Create a 501(c)3 organization potential to acquire public and private grants to fund some of the projects related to reducing sediment and nutrients.

i. Meet with lake management and BOD representatives to share above ideas.

Barb will take the above information to Scott for a plan of action with BOD and management.

7. **Educational ideas** for the Lake through email blasts, speakers, workshops, videos, ideas for July since it is National Lakes appreciation Month. At this time we are seeking volunteers to take on the task of educating and communicating with our community in a variety of avenues. How do we get the community on board ??? How do we have our community take ownership of the health of the lakes? Sylvia Nabholz suggested we share info even on the unofficial facebook pages as members do utilize this more than the official websites.

IDEAS for the MONTHLY EMAIL BLAST IDEAS : APRIL? MAY? JUNE?

As mentioned in 6e above, Educating the community about environmentally friendly tools such as of rain gardens, rain barrels, native plant landscaping, lawn fertilizer use etc Engage outside resources to educate the community about living in a lake community. Use various media outlets like email blasts, workshops, videos, live speakers, zoom etc. Lee Daniels volunteered to write the April email blast reminder of keeping trash out of lake, and not feeding geese and ducks.

Barb talked about engaging speaker, Kate Harms for May or June from PALMS. Face to face or virtual? Talk can be called Lake 101. Barb also mentioned working with other committees to enhance our message. Barb to contact Kate and other potential speakers.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDING TO LEAD OUR EDUCATIONAL EFFORTS

8 Geese mitigation: Presently we have a permit for the Lake Wynonah community from the state of Pennsylvania to allow egg addling of goose eggs. One person in our community is egg addling with purpose to reduce geese population. Looking for others that may be willing to assist in this endeavor. <https://www.humanesociety.org/resources/limit-goose-flock-growth-addling-eggs>

9. Lake Safety handouts for members when obtaining stickers: The Lake office asked us to review for this year. Will share with Safety committee chairman Ted Hafer the boat safety handouts that were developed last year by the Lakes Committee and will be given out for 2022. Barb will have the handouts reviewed for 2023, contact the lake office and email Ted.

10. Lakes Management Plan: Develop a plan for Lake Wynonah This is an important plan to pursue so as volunteers come and go we have something written to continue our vision. Asking for volunteers to develop this.

11. OTHER? Dorrie Martinchek asked to be considered for the Lakes Committee . This was her first Lakes Committee she attended but she has been receiving the emails and meeting minutes for a year. She gave rave reviews for what she experienced and wants to join the team. She just recently retired and can now commit time to this endeavor. Her name will be given to the Board for consideration.

12. FINALLY...PRIORITIZE OUR PLAN FOR THE YEAR . Members were asked to identify a specific interest, idea, willingness to give time in a certain area. Do you know other community members you want to recruit???? Please let us know

DATE FOR NEXT MEETING. WEDNESDAY MAY 4 6PM LOCATION TO BE ANNOUNCED.

Meeting adjourned by Barb Still 8:06PM

Barb Still