

APPROVED

**City of Tumwater
Barnes Lake Management District**

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 12, 2005
Main Conference Room, City Hall

I. Call to order

City staff representative, Dan Smith, called to order the regular meeting of the Barnes Lake Management District Steering Committee (BLMD-SC) at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 12th in the main conference room at City Hall.

II. Roll call

City staff representative Dan Smith conducted a roll call. The following persons were present: Rosemary Walsh, Ronald Lumaguip, Bob Hayes, Bill Baxter, Kathy Peterson, Paul Strawn, and John Swander. Judith Loft notified the group she would be out of town and unable to attend.

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting

The BLMD-SC reviewed the minutes from the last meeting. The minutes were approved as amended below:

- Question to whether a “claim” was truly made asserting that prior to 1946, Barnes Lakes was dry. Ms. Peterson suggested language be revised to read, “Anecdotal evidence and aerial photos dating to 1946 suggest Barnes Lake may have been dry, referring to the claim by a member of the Management District that prior to 1946, Barnes Lake was actually an orchard before being dug out and impounded by area homeowners to create the lake. It is difficult to discern given the quality of the aerial photos as to whether this is a valid claim.”
- Bill Baxter provided two narratives, “The History of Tumwater: The Train Stops Here”, by Don Trosper and “Postmarked Washington: Thurston County” by Guy Ramsey, that suggest Barnes Lake has historically been a lake. The narratives (attached) date mid to late 1800’s.
- BLMD-SC member(?) stated that a photograph exists of Barnes Lake (c.1946) taken by a local artist that shows no lilies. Member will attempt to track down the photograph.

IV. Lake Management Organization and Operation

Jim Bachmeier, Thurston County Water & Waste Management, presented to the BLMD-SC his experiences working with two lake management districts in Thurston County – Long Lake and Lake Lawrence. The following is a brief summation of the characteristics of the two LMDs

- Long Lake – very formal organization.
 - LMD since mid-1980's organized to treat Long Lake with Allum, Sonar, and provide for manual eradication of the invasives.
 - 8 Subdivisions, 12 neighborhoods, 22 representatives on the group with ~\$190,000/year budget with a 5-year planning horizon. Only representatives make decisions.
 - The formal structure of the organization has the potential to delay timely decisions. Long discussions spent dealing with the rules of the organization as opposed to managing the lake.
- Lake Lawrence – evolved into the LMD it is today from a highly structured group to a more casual oversight committee.
 - Early organization, very labor intensive. Evolved to an Ad-Hoc committee, but struggled with continuity and membership. Decision making somewhat tenuous for staff.
 - Documenting the decision-making process is very important as members change.
 - Elected Chairman/Facilitator of Meetings & Group Response. Good format for the group, as it provided staff with a contact point and freed staff resources to begin active vegetation management.
 - 700 parcels, 6 distinct neighborhoods, 15 active members operating a budget of ~\$66,000.

V. Open discussion

- a) Real Estate History - Paul Strawn provided the group with a disc containing deeds of property ownership dating back to 1911.
- b) Paul Strawn posed the question regarding LMD assessments establishing view easements. The response from City Attorney Todd is as follows:

The Council has broad authority under state law to set, alter, regulate and control the rates and charges and may classify them by any reasonable factor. Should any future litigation arise between individual property owners as to building or development, the City Attorney feels it is unlikely that such litigation would hinge on classification of the roll of rates and charges for purposes of creation of a lake management district, which is essentially a taxing decision - not a determination of property rights or interests.

- c) Vegetation Management History – Ron Lumaguip stated that the Barnes Lake Condo Assn applied for a permit to treat the lake. A licensed applicator was onsite and applied a Rodeo® treatment once. There was no follow-through and a second application never happened.
- d) Vegetation Management Issues – Staff representative Smith provided the following to the group:
 - The BLMD-SC will need to consider each step before any treatment can be applied to Barnes Lake to control invasive and native pest vegetation. The first and most important step is the development of an Integrated

Aquatic Vegetation Management Plan (IAVMP). Currently, the WA Department of Ecology will not approve a permit without a plan.

- Rodeo® is the most commonly used treatment for invasive aquatic plants. At least two treatments will be needed during the active growing season (May through July). The herbicide will translocate to the root system, potentially causing “floating islands” of root mats. The group will need to consider a method for handling this issue. Rodeo® can be applied for approximately \$260-\$300 an acre, including the advertising, application, and notification. Ecology confirmed that Rodeo® is demonstrated to have little or no effect on groundwater if properly handled and applied. Monitoring water quality will still be a factor in a successful program.
 - Currently, the lilies may be shading out other aquatic plants. As the lilies die, there may be native pondweeds that bloom. Removal of these may or may not be permitted.
 - Other permits will potentially be needed, including Shorelines, Water Quality Standard Modification (Ecology), and Natural Heritage Program.
- e) Budget – the BLMD budget is ~\$18,000. An initial budget itemizing proposed expenses include \$10,000 for IAVMP development and \$8,000 for vegetation management. Monies may be reallocated as necessary for completion of prioritized work plan.

VI. New business

- a) Website – Paul Strawn asked if the group would like to develop a website, or use one that currently exists for the Barnes Lake Conservancy (www.barneslake.org, currently run by Tom Oliva), to archive BLMD-SC communications, data, research, photos, minutes, and other pertinent information.
- Paul is familiar with website management and will contact Tom Oliva to see what may need to be done to utilize the site already developed.
 - **Staff representative Smith will review City policy regarding Internet use to determine if the BLMD-SC can host a site outside of the City purview.**
- b) Combine BLMD-SC & Barnes Lake Conservancy – Paul Strawn suggested that the BLMD-SC consider the possibility of joining forces with the Barnes Lake Conservancy, as interests and goals are generally the same.
- Kathy Peterson explained that the Conservancy currently has problems with resources (administrative, financial, etc) and that an official collaboration may also be a conflict with ownership issues.
 - John Swander stated that there should be no ownership issues, as the members of the Conservancy should all be members of the LMD. John suggested the Conservancy might be a good vehicle for communication and distribution of materials with the greater LMD community.

c) Assignments for Staff/Group

- Staff
 - Prepare RFQ for consideration by group.
 - Invite Kathy Hamel (WA Dept. of Ecology) to next meeting for discussion on Integrated Aquatic Vegetation Management Plans.
 - Discuss website policy with City Clerk.
 - Contact Ken Lake HOA to request information on how they deal with management issues. Bill Baxter stated he believes Ken Lake had an issue with invasive lilies during the 1970's.
- Group – review Long Lake Management District Steering Committee Charter, Article 1, for consideration of developing governance of BLMD-SC.

VII. Adjournment

Staff representative Smith adjourned the meeting at **7:55 p.m.**