

**City of Tumwater  
Barnes Lake Management District**

**Meeting Minutes**

March 9, 2006

**Main Conference Room, City Hall**

**I. Call to order**

Kathy Peterson called to order the regular meeting of the Barnes Lake Steering Committee (BLMD-SC) at 6:00 p.m. on March 9, 2006 in the Main Conference Room at City Hall.

**II. Roll call**

Kathy Peterson conducted a roll call. The following persons were present: Rosemary Walsh, Judith Loft, Bob Hayes, Bill Baxter, John Swander, and Dan Smith. Ron Lumaguip was excused.

**III. Approval of minutes from last meeting**

The BLMD-SC reviewed the minutes from the last meeting. The minutes were approved as written.

**IV. Open issues**

- a) **Finalization of draft documents – 2006 Work Plan, Operating Budget, and IAVMP Problem Statement:** The Steering Committee reviewed the documents and approved them with minor changes. Kathy Peterson stated she will attend the Public Works Committee review of the documents.

John Swander asked whether it was possible to move items on the work plan ahead to ensure that an herbicide treatment can be applied in August. Staff Representative Smith suggested that the work plan is as tight as it can be for this first year. Realistically, the tasks presented in the work plan can be achieved and the treatments should be able to be completed late-August, early-September, but unforeseen complications may exist. The permit covers five years, so once the permit makes its way through the regulatory process, future treatments should not be an issue. The Steering Committee is moving forward with a late summer treatment as the goal.

Bill Baxter expressed concern over the future intent of 2 herbicide treatments per year as part of an on-going program. He stated that the wildlife inhabiting Barnes Lake may suffer from such frequent treatments. Staff Representative Smith suggested that the BLMD-SC collect the most current information on Rodeo™ and any associated impacts for inclusion in the IAVMP. Smith also suggested contacting a WA Department of Fish & Wildlife biologist to speak

with the group and identify any items for consideration, such as timing of application(s) and negative impacts on wildlife, in planning the IAVMP.

Rosemary Walsh commented that the group really needs to identify all the requirements needed to accomplish the goals of the LMD, and that this planning process will help the SC to understand the nuances of lake management. Until the underlying requirements are understood and addressed in the plan, there is no need to discuss actions necessary for future years.

Judith Loft questioned how vegetation within Barnes Lake but above the high water mark (i.e. islands of sedge) can be managed. Staff Representative Smith stated that the vegetation survey from Ecology will help answer many of the vegetation questions, since we need to know what it is that needs managing before we can discuss options for control. Once DOE completes the survey, we can then look at the various management options and the regulatory requirements that may be involved.

Bob Hayes stated that a major concern of the Condo Assn. members is that the populations of dragonflies will be harmed. He advised that the group should review the potential for herbicide applications to damage the existing populations and that any spraying should be done to reduce any impact.

Bill Baxter reviewed his comments for inclusion in the problem statement. The revisions were noted and captured in the draft problem statement for Council consideration. John Swander asked what it would take for the SC to develop a septic system review program. Staff Representative Smith responded that Thurston County Environmental Health could be asked to implement a program that would review the condition of the tanks and perform tightness tests. Kathy Peterson requested that the potential for failing septic systems to add nutrients to the lake be added to the problem statement.

- b) Assessment Update:** Staff reviewed the assessment collection with the SC. To date, 77 assessments have been paid, totaling \$12,765. 32 assessments remain to be paid. MuniFinancial will be sending out notices soon, which will also include penalties for untimely payment. Staff Representative Smith reiterated that legal counsel advised the City to use a third-party for assessment collection to avoid the appearance of the assessment as a tax. Kathy Peterson requested that the Steering Committee be informed as soon as possible if this information is to change in the future.

The BLMD-SC discussed the potential for funds to be used for projects exceeding the scope of the collected assessments. Staff Representative Smith reviewed the Charter, stating that LMD funds can only be applied toward projects within the anticipated operating budget. Changes to the Charter could be discussed in the future. Smith further stated that the BMLD-SC will be reviewing the assessments annually and may request an increase to assessed

funds as necessary to accomplish activities currently outside of the budget. The review process for annual assessments begins in October.

- c) **TMC 16.28, Wetlands Ordinance** – the BLMD-SC requested that the ordinance be kept on file for review as needed. Distribution to all SC members is not necessary at this time.
- d) **Other issues:** Judith Loft asked whether outside funds could be used to augment activities funded by the LMD. As Treasurer of the Barnes Lake Conservancy, Ms. Loft stated that there are funds potentially available for use on lake projects. Kathy Peterson stated that the permit from Ecology lasts for 5 years, and so there was plenty of time to determine how and when the Conservancy funds could be used, but that in theory, Conservancy funds could be used for purposes in support of LMD activities.
- e) Staff was directed to bring extra copies of the agenda and minutes to each meeting, as opposed to sending hardcopies to the group each month.

#### V. New business

- a) **Report on Barnes Lake Conservancy Meeting:** Kathy Peterson reported on the successful Conservancy meeting held on February 28, 2006. A majority of Steering Committee members and Staff Representative Smith attended the meeting intended to introduce the LMD membership and other interested parties to the draft work plan and operating budget. Tom Oliva, president of the Conservancy, facilitated the meeting. Debbie Smith, Stream Team Coordinator for the City of Tumwater discussed an event to install storm drain markers around the lake on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, Earth Day. Kathy Peterson reviewed the problem statement and discussed Steering Committee activities to date. Staff Representative Smith reviewed the details of the annual work plan and operating budget, fielding many questions from the Conservancy attendance. Ms. Peterson commended Staff Representative Smith for a job well done. Ms. Peterson also suggested that the Conservancy would be a good vehicle for educational outreach among lake residents.
- b) **Phase I IAVMP Preparation:** The Steering Committee discussed the next four steps of Phase I – Management Goals, Public Involvement Methods, Unique Features, and Beneficial Uses. Discussion focused on identification of management goals. Due to time constraints, Ms. Peterson requested that the BLMD-SC review the IAVMP Planning Manual and prepare statements for inclusion in the plan. Highlights of the discussion are included below:
  - **Management Goals**
    - Dock areas and shorelines – complete removal of invasive vegetation and management of native, nuisance weeds to enhance access and fishing uses.
    - Vegetation removal near the dock at the Condo Assn.
    - Preserve vegetation along School District and Department of Transportation properties.

- Vegetation Management Priorities:
  - Lilies
  - Other nuisance and/or invasive aquatic plants (i.e. parrotfeather)
  - Above surface herbaceous plants (i.e. sedge)
  - Shoreline vegetation
  - Wetland vegetation
  - Shoreline “dangerous tree” identification
- **Public Involvement Methods**
  - Barnes Lake Conservancy
    - Primary method to distribute educational materials and updates
    - Informational updates can be presented by the Steering Committee twice per year, or as needed to cover critical issues.
  - Recognized Stakeholders:
    - LMD Membership
      - Homeowners
      - Renters
    - Non-LMD members, yet lake-area residents
    - City of Tumwater
    - Commercial interests (Megafoods)
    - WA Department of Transportation
    - Tumwater School District
    - Puget Sound Energy (power station)
    - WA Department of Fish & Wildlife
    - WA Department of Ecology
    - Students
    - Religious groups
    - Wildbirds Unlimited
- c) **Wildlife Survey:** Staff will contact Debbie Carnevalli, WDFW Habitat Biologist, and invite her to the April meeting for discussion on BLMD-SC lake management activities above the high water mark.
- d) **Ecology Permit Revisions:** Staff Representative Smith reviewed information collected during a recent phone conversation with Kathy Hamil, DOE. The highlights include:
  - Advertise application in the newspaper, 30-day public comment period
  - 5-year coverage
  - SEPA checklist review, 14-day comment period
  - Apply for coverage 60 days prior to start of treatment
  - \$345 permit fee (costs may rise due to local permitting requirements). Initial fee is \$345, annual rate to increase based on fiscal growth factor. Permit coverage may be cancelled at any time – need to weigh pros and cons if continued treatments are necessary.

- Noxious, invasive plants – 100% eradication
  - Native, nuisance plants – 60% removal. Development of an IAVMP will help identify total area (40%) that will remain intact for entire period of permit coverage. Does not need to be managed on a parcel basis.
  - An IAVMP is not required, but highly recommended
  - If application is submitted for coverage prior to June 30, multiple fees will be assessed as per Ecology regulations (state law). It is recommended to submit application after May 1 for coverage beginning after June 30<sup>th</sup>.
- e) **Meeting Schedule Adjustments:** Adjustment to the meeting schedule was considered to ensure materials needing Council consideration would be approved by the SC prior to the deadline necessary for staff to prepare documents. Meetings will continue to be held on the second Thursday of each month. The August meeting will be rescheduled at a future meeting.
- f) **Staff Assignments**
- Prepare draft language for Phase I IAVMP completion
  - Inquire with the Finance Dept. re: Conservancy Funds
  - Request DFW attendance at the April meeting
  - Initiate process for contract with Thurston County for water quality monitoring
- g) **BLMD-SC Assignments**
- Review needs for Phase I IAVMP completion and submit comments to City staff. Please refer to the Citizen's Manual for Developing Integrated Aquatic Vegetation Management Plans, pages 4-1, 5-1, 6-1, & 7-1. The Manual can also be accessed online at:  
<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/plants/management/manual/index.html>

## **VI. Adjournment**

Kathy Peterson adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Dan Smith, Staff Representative

Minutes approved by: Barnes Lake Management District Steering Committee