

**Barnes Lake Management District  
Steering Committee Minutes**

**June 28, 2006, 7:00 p.m.  
Tumwater United Methodist Church**

Chair Peterson called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Tom Oliva conducted introductions. Steering Committee members were introduced, stating names and the areas they represent. City of Tumwater Staff Representative Smith was introduced to the larger group, as well as Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE) staff Kathy Hamil and Kelly McLain.

**Dan Smith:** Staff Representative Smith presented to the group on the activities of the Steering Committee to date and reviewed discussions on conservancy areas. Smith stated that Ecology recognizes the Barnes Lake littoral zone, the shallowest portion of a lake ecosystem, as the entire 30-acre lake. Therefore, 40% of the lake surface must be preserved for conservancy areas. This amounts to 11.7 acres to remain for the growth of native plant species. All invasive and non-native plants in these conservancy areas will be treated.

Review of Options 1-4 that were circulated. Options 1-4 were presented as background to reflect the thought process behind where the Steering Committee was at the present moment.

Option 5 – This option was presented to DOE for initial comment. Based on the comments and feedback from DOE staff, the Steering Committee and City staff revised the conservancy areas to equate 11.9 acres of water surface for locations where native vegetation would be preserved.

Option 6 – Based on input from Ecology, Option 6 was further revised to facilitate approval from the agency.

Option 7 – In this option, conservancy areas are more contiguous with the shoreline – a determination made via further comments from Ecology and members of the Steering Committee. This option presents a consensus between Ecology, the Steering Committee, and City staff.

Question about why island #3 has to remain.

Answer: All invasive vegetation will be removed. Permit is only for treating lilies, other vegetation will be treated at a later time once the lilies are taken care of.

Q: What is considered “native”?

A: Plants considered native to Western Washington are those that must be preserved according to DOE guidelines. Plants currently listed on state noxious weed lists will also be treated according to DOE guidelines, with treatments focusing on the fragrant water lily during the initial treatments. Emerging natives and noxious/invasive plants found after the initial treatments will be dealt with under the permit at a later date.

**Jim Peterson:** What about moving the conservancy area in front of DOT more to left, closer to condos?

Staff Rep Smith responded that the conservancy areas will be revised based on the comments received at this meeting, as long as DOE concurs with the adjustments.

**Dana Day:** Clear in front of her house.

Staff Rep Smith stated that he will review the parcel boundaries and work to adjust the conservancy areas to correlate with those boundaries.

**Kelly McLain (DOE Staff):** Ms. McLain recommended that the conservancy area boundaries be smooth extensions into the lake. Staff Rep Smith stated the boundaries will be revised to be consistent. This revision will also aide the contractor for compliance with the permit.

**Tom Oliva:** Island conservancy areas will turn into peninsulas and dogs etc. will go out on the islands.

**Kelly McLain (Ecology Staff):** Ms. McLain responded that all conservancy areas must be linked to shoreline, therefore, the LMD could not cut a clear path behind the islands.

Q: Can we choose a different option next year?

A: Yes, Staff Rep Smith is preparing the permit so that there is a certain amount of flexibility in handling emergent vegetation. The implementation portion of the Integrated Aquatic Vegetation Management Plan (IAVMP) will outline the Lake Management Districts approach for treating new species of invasive plants and/or nuisance native vegetation. The permit being applied for is valid for five years. Additionally, while this discussion is centered around the removal and management of lily species on Barnes Lake, the City will apply for treatment of other known species, so that flexibility can be covered under the permit.

Q: What if the [native] yellow lilies take over?

A: The native spatterdock will be removed from all areas outside of the conservancy areas. Within the conservancy areas, they will be maintained and permitted to continue developing habitat for the lake. Also, within the conservancy areas, all invasive/noxious lilies will be eradicated.

Q: If conservancy area turns into land, will the conservancy area need to be made up elsewhere?

A: No, once the permit is approved, those conservancy areas must be maintained for the duration of permit coverage.

**Kathy Hamel:** We need to be prepared to deal with the dead lily rhizomes by the truckload. We need to plan for this in the IAVMP.

**Ken Thompson:** Where does 40% rule come from?

**Kelly McLain (Ecology Staff):** Original goal was to keep 60% in conservancy and treat 40%. For lakes up to 50 acres, keep 40%, treat 60%. It varies by the size of the lake. This is being appealed. The arguments will be heard in November.

**Paul Strawn:** Barnes Lake is becoming an urban lake, will it be treated differently than rural lakes?

**Kelly McLain (Ecology Staff):** This is not a consideration at this time, perhaps a factor in the future.

**Jim Peterson:** What about the oxygen level in the lake?

**Dan Smith:** Thurston County recently submitted results showing a water quality level baseline of 4 ppm at the surface. In lakes considered in optimal health, a baseline of 9 ppm at the surface is ideal. It is the expectation that these vegetation management activities will improve this situation. The LMD has contracted with Thurston County to continue on-going monitoring throughout the program and those results will be conveyed to the Steering Committee when available.

Dan reviewed handout on treatment options, advantages and disadvantages.

**\*Ken Thompson:** What about harvesting other plants that take over after the lilies are gone? Lake Lawrence

**Dan Smith:** As stated earlier, the City has applied for the permit with flexibility to treat emergent vegetation in the 5-year permit window. The Steering Committee will develop an implementation portion of the IAVMP that will outline the LMD's response to emergent vegetation.

**Kathy Peterson:** I think we should add this option back in under the category of "not at this time".

Staff Rep Smith began a discussion of aquatic herbicide, glyphosate, chosen by the Steering Committee as the best alternative for treatment of the vegetation. Smith stated that a Material Safety Data Sheet handout on glyphosate was available for those interested in reviewing the specifics. Glyphosate is a powerful herbicide, but it is target specific and does not affect aquatic or terrestrial animals. Treatments are applied by hand to the targeted vegetation. The half-life of the chemical is less than 1 week and will not persist in the Barnes Lake environment. The LMD's plan is to complete an initial treatment this September/October once the permit is in place, and to follow-up with additional treatments the following year to catch those plants that were missed. After the first couple of treatments, applications will be made twice per year, spring and fall, for on-going management of the lilies.

**Brooke Bell:** Is this toxic to water fowl?

**Dan Smith:** No, per MSDS. Smith stated that glyphosate is the most innocuous of all the aquatic herbicides and the studies suggest that there is no real impact to any animal species living in the vicinity of the treatments.

**Jim Peterson:** Is there money left to cover the cost of removing the dead lilies? Staff Rep Smith stated that money would be available for the removal of the dead lilies as the need arises. In the event that the LMD does not have funds in their budget for the current year, the LMD would be permitted to "borrow" from future years so that the management activities could be completed.

Discussion began to look at options of where the contractor may access the lake for application of the herbicide.

**Wally/Richard:** Church would offer access to spray firm but not to the general public.

**Roger:** Other areas have access, such as neighbors with access to the lake. Staff Rep Smith stated that once an applicator was chosen, the City would coordinate access to the lake with the firm and the LMD.

**Jim Peterson:** Last time they came in through Weiks property. Staff Rep Smith stated that when the time comes, the City would review this as a potential access point.

Questions were raised relating to the permit issued by DOE.

**Kelly McLain (Ecology Staff):** This permit only covers herbicides. Other manual and mechanical control methods are approved by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW). Staff Rep Smith stated the LMD will pursue the herbicide management option first, followed by a review of options that would require oversight by DFW. If a permit is necessary to complete the management activities, this permit would be applied for at a later date.

**Roger:** What about silt control options? This severely affects the Daisy Lane. All the Tumwater Hill construction could have a severe impact. Trucks are leaving lots of dirt on the road.

**Dan Smith:** Please call the City with these observations. The City will respond and discuss options with the Contractor to ensure proper management of sediment and erosion control.

**Kelly McLain (Ecology Staff):** Also, please call Ecology with observations of excessive sediments leaving construction sites. DOE is the enforcing agency and is fully equipped to handle these types of complaints.

Chair Peterson redirected the conversation back to the Conservancy Area options. Chair Peterson requested a vote from the group to decide which option they would like the City and the Steering Committee to pursue with Ecology. Chair Peterson asked if there were any objections to pursuing Option #7. None were noted.

Congratulations and appreciation to BLMD-SC and Dan Smith for all the work they have dedicated to this project so far.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30