

City of Tumwater
Barnes Lake Management District

Meeting Minutes

August 2, 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 6:05 p.m. on August 2, 2006 in the Main Conference Room at City Hall.

II. Roll call

Kathy Peterson conducted a roll call. The following Steering Committee members were present: Ron Lumaguip, Bill Baxter, Bob Hayes, Judith Loft, Paul Strawn, and Staff Representative Smith. Committee members John Swander and Rosemary Walsh were excused.

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Chair Peterson recommended we add “approval of minutes” to this month’s agenda. The Committee reviewed minutes prepared for the regular meetings conducted on June 8th and July 11th, as well as minutes prepared for the June 28th public meeting. The June 8th and July 11th meeting minutes were approved as written, while the June 28th minutes need refinement prior to final approval. Chair Peterson will work with Staff Rep Smith to ensure minutes accurately reflect the members attending, opinions and discussions expressed at the meeting. Chair Peterson requested that a list of attendee’s be attached to the minutes from the 28th.

IV. Public Comment Period

No comments.

V. Additions to Meeting Agenda

No additions.

VI. Open issues

a) Neighborhood Maps

Staff Rep Smith handed out copies of maps detailing neighborhood representation at the parcel level. These maps are helpful to understand which LMD members are represented by which Committee members. Additionally, mailing lists have been generated for each neighborhood represented and will be provided to committee members upon request. Staff Rep Smith reported that the maps were developed using Thurston County’s GeoData system and despite the large geographical appearance of the represented areas, they are all similar in size of population, or living units. Chair Peterson requested that

neighborhood mailing lists be sent to each SC member so that each is fully aware of who they represent. Paul Strawn requested that an additional mailing list be developed encompassing all residents and commercial interests within the Barnes Lake watershed for educational purposes.

b) Review of SEPA and DOE Application

Staff Rep Smith provided the BLMD-SC with copies of the State Environmental Policy Act Checklist and the application for chemical treatment on lakes for the Department of Ecology. The Committee reviewed the documents and had no further comments.

c) Next Steps

The following is a list of items the Steering Committee identified as necessary for continuing the momentum of BLMD activities.

1. Continue review of Thurston County water quality results.
2. Consider budgetary considerations for 2007
3. Solicit bids from interested contractors for herbicide treatments and clean-up activities.
4. Contact WA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife for possible outreach to LMD and SC members on Hydraulic Project Approval permits and regulated activities around Barnes Lake.
5. Consider development of an educational outreach program for LMD members.

VII. New business

a) Discussion on Public Participation at BLMD-SC Meetings

At the last meeting of the BLMD-SC, a number of LMD members participated in the discussions before the Steering Committee. Bill Baxter requested that the SC develop participation guidelines so that LMD members and the SC can interact efficiently and business before the SC can continue to move forward expeditiously. In response to Baxter's comments prior to the meeting, Staff Rep Smith prepared a guidance document for review by the SC. Baxter also recommended that when public notifications are released, all LMD members should be notified by the process set forth by the SC. Chair Peterson responded that she was unaware that there were LMD members not receiving notification, as all materials were hand delivered by SC members and/or "block captains" to their respective neighborhood contacts. Staff Rep Smith stated that in the future, the mailing lists developed as part of the neighborhood mapping could be used to send a simple postcard notification of upcoming events.

The BLMD-SC reviewed the guidance prepared by staff. SC members recommended that public participation be modeled similar to that of the Tumwater City Council, where comments are solicited at the beginning of the meeting for items not contained on the meeting agenda, and that those interested in addressing the Steering Committee on items on the agenda; sign

in prior to the start of the meeting. As the SC reaches the agenda item of interest, the public would have a brief moment to state their issue. The SC recommended that once a public participation policy is developed, the guidance is posted on the City's LMD website. SC requested that staff develop a sign in sheet for public participation for future meetings.

b) Exemption for LMD's under the Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO)

Staff Rep Smith stated that the City is currently undergoing a review and update of the Critical Area Ordinance. As the ordinance stands, LMD activities above the ordinary high water mark would be prohibited due to the entire lake falling within a wetland buffer area. Staff Rep Smith discussed the possibility of future LMD activities with planning staff at the City and reviewed options to exempt the LMD from prohibitions outlined in the CAO. The exemption agreed upon by both Staff Rep Smith and Planning Director Matlock requires any activity to be performed within the designated wetland buffers to comply with the following criteria:

1. The application for exemption must be made by an approved Lake Management District
2. The management activities must be reviewed by a third-party habitat biologist, conforming to the requirements set forth by the CAO, including:
 - a. Natural shoreline processes will be maintained. The project will not result in increased beach erosion or alterations to, or loss of, shoreline substrate within ¼ mile of the project area.
 - b. The vegetation management activity will not degrade fish or wildlife habitat conservation areas or associated wetlands.
 - c. A minimum of 40% of the native vegetation must be retained within the area proposed for treatment.
 - d. Adequate mitigation measures are in place to ensure that there is no net loss of the functions or values of riparian habitat as a result of the proposed management activities.

c) Yellow Flag Iris

Chair Peterson spoke about the Yellow Flag Iris noxious weed, reminding the Steering Committee to keep an eye out for the plant on their properties. In future treatment campaigns, the LMD may wish to contract for the eradication of this species. Staff Rep Smith handed out an informational brochure on the subject.

d) Charter Update Discussion

Chair Peterson recommended the Steering Committee revisit the Charter in the winter months to address issues relating to membership participation and Steering Committee alternates. The SC agreed to move this item to the winter for discussion during slower times.

e) Future Meeting Date Adjustments

The Steering Committee reviewed upcoming dates for regular committee meetings. Due to scheduling conflicts, a request was made to change the next meeting date from the 14th to the 13th of September.

f) Other Business

SC members discussed “absentee” landlords within the Barnes LMD area. This discussion was prompted due to the current delivery method of materials to LMD area residents and homeowners, where SC members and/or “Block Captains” hand deliver upcoming meeting materials to interested parties. Judith Loft stated that mail is an excellent way to ensure involvement of those that own properties at Barnes Lake, but who do not live in the area. Paul Strawn stated that while mail is necessary in some regards, the personal communication from SC members garners better support and commitment than impersonal mailings. Chair Peterson stated that she has always received positive comments from neighbors that she has communicated with through the personal delivery of meeting materials.

Bob Hayes reported on an educational outreach program developed in Seattle that may be of interest to the Barnes Lake community. Hayes stated that the program was designed to create backyard habitats to support wildlife. Hayes stated that he will look into the program and bring materials for review at a future meeting. Staff Rep Smith stated that one program in the local area that could also be used as a model for Barnes Lake is the “Pesticide-Free Neighborhood” program developed at Thurston County. Chair Peterson requested that the SC follow up with Thurston County to see what would be necessary to get such a program up and running. Judith Loft agreed with the idea of developing an educational program to promote environmental responsibility from the neighborhoods surrounding Barnes Lake.

VIII. Adjournment

Chair Peterson adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Dan Smith, Staff Representative

Minutes approved by: Barnes Lake Management District Steering Committee