

City of Tumwater
Barnes Lake Management District
Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

August 12, 2009
6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Barnes Lake Condo Tennis Courts
1500 Lake Park Drive SW
Tumwater, WA 98501

I. Call to order

Chair Peterson called to order the “Lake Walk” meeting of the Barnes Lake Steering Committee (BLMD-SC) at 6:10 p.m. on August 12, 2009 at the Barnes Lake Condo tennis courts.

II. Roll call

The following members were present: Chair Kathy Peterson, Vice-Chair Ron Lumaguip, Gary Bodeutsch, Dana Day, Bob Hayes, and Judith Loft. Bill Baxter and Staff Representative Smith were excused; John Swander was unexcused. Doug Dorling and Raul Sanchez also attended.

III. “Lake Walk”

Steering Committee members and guests walked around the lake to gather perspectives of treatment effectiveness in the neighborhoods surrounding Barnes Lake. Doug Dorling (NWA) provided information on various treatment strategies that were used and discussed some of the obstacles that made treatment difficult in some areas. While access to open water has improved for a number of lakefront parcels, additional floating mats continue to emerge as water levels drop during the hot weather.

Questions were raised about whether the LMD boundary was at the high water line or the low water level, as this would affect treatment responsibilities. This topic needs to be researched in the IAVMP in preparation for the September all-LMD meeting.

Doug pointed out one area in front of the Linwood properties where microbes have been used successfully.

At the Day parcel, the rock placement project to stabilize the shoreline to allow better NWA boat access was discussed. Permits are needed, and it would be good to move quickly to take advantage of the low water levels we are experiencing this year. The Steering Committee would like to see the project move forward, based on the discussion at the July meeting where Smith stated that he would know more about the planning needs (permits), associated engineering costs (drawings and plan

developments) and construction costs after meeting with the City planning department to discuss project needs.

Kathy Peterson pointed out the Yellow Flag Iris infestation along the banks at the Hoa residence on Lark Street.

IV. Meeting discussion

Following the walking tour, the BLMD-SC held a short meeting at the Peterson home on Lark Street.

a) Approval of minutes from last meeting

The minutes of the July 8, 2009 meeting were reviewed and approved unanimously as written.

b) Lake Treatment Update

Dan Smith submitted an email update on July 16 as follows:

"Yesterday, I had an opportunity to sit down with Doug to discuss some of the issues that arose at the last meeting and review the invoice we recently received from NWA in the amount of \$10,686.25.

On the issue of mat removal, there is really no new news. We reviewed the use of the "high-pressure hose" to break up the mats - the process was attempted; however, it was ineffective due to the overall thickness of the mats. Doug reminded us that each lake is different and requires flexibility in the approach used to address "emergent issues". The current methodology of using a rototiller is, per his opinion, the best method available given the conditions on the lake, including access and water level (probably the two biggest issues with the lake). Doug offered two suggestions:

1. Create a network of volunteers to help with the removal of the mats. This is a tough one, as the reality of the lake conditions and the size of the mats will create severe difficulty for volunteers without the proper equipment (sturdy boats and professional-grade rototillers) to mobilize the mats and break them up. Using row boats are likely not sufficient for the job and both Doug and I are uncomfortable with this approach for safety reasons.
2. Wait for the possibility of a "cookie cutter". This equipment has a 75% chance of coming to the area for use on other projects, and if it becomes available, seems that it would take care of all the concerns within a few days. It comes at a price, though, approximately \$8 - \$10,000/day. There would also be a need to secure additional SEPA and HPA permits for its use, since it could effectively create a channel in the Daisy Lane and Lake Park Drive shallow areas to increase water depths. This machines "chews" up everything in its path, discharging the remains to each side of the unit. A crane would be needed to deploy the equipment into the lake. If the equipment does not come to the area, it is likely the overall expense of bringing it up independently would require a review of the current assessments.

We also discussed the potential for sub-contracting with a crew, or hiring an additional crew to help with the clean-up. Again, equipment is an issue, as most laborers will not have access to the type of equipment that will be necessary to conduct the clean-up nor is the timing right to do this now with water levels dropping rapidly. At this point, a boat necessary to haul the heavy materials to the shoreline cannot successfully launch or move around the lake to bring the mats to the shoreline where a crew can break-up and dispose of the material. Doug is completely willing to be flexible and try new approaches, but again, given the current lake conditions, the options are very limited.

So while the outlook may appear dim, hope is not lost by any stretch of the imagination. Doug will return as water levels rise to continue the manual removal of the mats. His approach may take some time to restore the lake, but it has shown to be effective. The mats seen out in the lake were expected early on in this process, and everything appears to be going according to plan. NWA, the City, and Ecology all stated early on that what Barnes Lake is experiencing was to be expected (if not worse!). The Steering Committee has done an excellent job responding to the requests for a conservative approach, and we will take some additional time at the public meeting to address any concerns from the general membership in regards to the mats and any options that exist for their removal.

Finally, I reviewed the invoice with Doug and he sufficiently answered all my questions. A copy of the invoice is attached. If there is concurrence, I will process the invoice for payment. Also, I have received the final draft of the Barnes Lake Characterization and will be reviewing it. I will pass it along as soon as our review is complete. Thank you for your patience.”

Doug Dorling reported that he had sprayed recently in response to Purple Loosestrife being reported on some of the floating mats. He is planning to continue to walk about to spray more areas, including the Yellow Flag Iris infestation.

Questions were raised about the “cookie cutter” equipment that can be used to remove floating mats, that was described in Dan Smith’s July 16 email. Doug replied that Grays Harbor is considering using this equipment to dig channels in their waterways. The equipment would be rented from a company in California, and could be available for use in Barnes Lake as well. This would require a hydraulics permit as well as location of a staging area for a big crane to load the equipment onto the lake. The equipment chomps the top two feet of mats, which is then it is spewed onto a truck on the shore. Questions were raised about the cost, and Doug said that the equipment itself rents for about \$1,500 per day. A motion was made, seconded and passed to move forward on obtaining access to this equipment as soon as possible. Doug will discuss this topic at the September LMD meeting also.

c) Budget and Assessment Update

As of 8/12/2009, \$14,761.00 has been received to date from the collection of LMD assessments, which is unchanged from the previous report.

The only invoice received by the City of Tumwater was \$397 for permitting costs. The available balance of LMD funds as of August 12 is \$36,680.00.

d) Work Plan Review

Dan Smith submitted written information on the status of the work plan, as follows: the review of the effectiveness of treatment applications is continuing; fact sheets on invasive weeds and a large map of the lake are being prepared for the September 9 meeting. Upon discussion, all current members who were present agreed to continue to serve on the Steering Committee; however, there was a request to construct the 2010 work plan so that fewer meetings would be needed.

e) September Public Meeting agenda

The Steering Committee discussed the agenda for the September public meeting and it was approved as written with a minor correction to the date. The notice will be mailed next week, and will also be sent out electronically as a reminder just prior to the meeting. Doug Dorling will discuss treatment effectiveness and alternatives for cleaning up the floating mats. Dan Smith will lead discussion on noxious and invasive weed identification and education.

V. Adjourn

Chair Peterson adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m. The next steering committee meeting will be the Barnes LMD Public Meeting on September 9, 2009, at the Tumwater United Methodist Church on Lake Park Drive SW.

Minutes submitted by: Kathy Peterson, Chair

Minutes approved by: Barnes Lake Management District Steering Committee