

City of Tumwater
Barnes Lake Management District

Annual General Membership Meeting Minutes

September 9, 2009
6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Tumwater United Methodist Church
1401 Lake Park Drive SW, Tumwater, WA 98501

I. Call to order

Chair Peterson called to order the Annual General Membership meeting of the Barnes Lake Management District at approximately 6:30 p.m. on September 9, 2009.

II. Roll call

The following Steering Committee members were present: Chair Kathy Peterson, Vice-Chair Ron Lumaguip, Bill Baxter, Gary Bodeutsch, Dana Day, Bob Hayes, and Judith Loft. City of Tumwater representative Dan Smith and Northwest Aquatic Ecosystem's Doug Dorling were also in attendance. Steering Committee member John Swander was absent.

The following Lake Management District members were present: Raul Sanchez, Chuck Nordstrom, Norene Jenkins, Gwen Williams, Jim Peterson, Jonathan Swartz, Frank Hensley, Ed Loft, Richard Clark, and Tom Oliva.

III. Presentation on Vegetation Management

Northwest Aquatic Eco-System's (NWA) Doug Dorling provided an overview of the 2009 treatment season and discussed some of the challenges faced by the LMD throughout the year.

Obstacles of note include the numerous floating vegetative mats that have surfaced since the 2008 treatment season and the continuing challenge of access – for both LMD members and NWA.

In the coming three weeks, Doug would like to schedule an aerial fly-over to photo document the lake at the estimated lowest levels – sometime in October. Doug also stated that he recognizes there are concerns from the LMD members and he will address them as they come to his attention. He reminded everyone that he is always available to answer questions.

Chair Peterson asked about the “cookie cutter” equipment that has potential to alleviate the floating mat issue. Doug reported that the machinery will not be coming up to Washington as part of another project; the LMD would need to bring it up at their expense if desired. The equipment is generally cost prohibitive for small projects, running approximately \$2,000 - \$3,000 per day. Doug estimates that Barnes Lake would require approximately \$30,000 to achieve their goals with the equipment. The “cookie cutter”

has the potential to clear an 8' swath to a depth of 4'. Since permitting will take some time to gain approvals, there may be an opportunity to reserve funds for a treatment season.

Member Jim Peterson suggested the LMD borrow against future year's assessment from the City. Smith will look into funding alternatives.

Discussion followed on varied alternatives for removing the materials from the lake and progressing vegetation controls. Topics included hiring a crew to work from a barge supplied by NWA and dig mats out; however general membership feeling was that the current effort of hand/manual removal was taking too long. Smith responded that the progress of the lake restoration efforts are essentially right where they are expected to be at and reiterated the statements made early on in the project to expect a lot of floating mats given the lake sediments and vegetation issues.

Doug stated that his estimate, given no changes to current floating mat removal strategy (rototilling), would be 4-5 years for the complete removal of the mats. Member Jim Peterson stated that aggressive action is needed; his parcel is land-locked by mats and the condition is growing worse quickly. Peterson restated his recommendation the LMD consider borrowing against future year assessments.

Doug reported that earlier efforts to use pellets to address sediments in the mats were ineffective. Chair Peterson asked what North & Steel lakes do; Doug responded that they do not manage the floating mats at all, but they have a different situation on a larger lake.

NWA was able to complete two chemical treatments in 2009 so far, and was anticipating one more treatment in coming weeks. In July, NWA completed a shoreline treatment. Doug stated that there is not much more that can be completed in terms of chemical treatments and the focus needs to remain on mat removal. Doug estimates that the level of mats currently experienced in the lake is the most that will be seen. Emergent native *Brasenia* is expected to also become an issue for lake treatments.

IV. Noxious Weed Identification

Smith handed out copies of informational guides for the identification and removal of noxious weeds. The guides and fact sheets were provided by the Thurston County Noxious Weed Board.

V. Availability of Weed Rakes

Chair Peterson reminded the membership that weed cutters and rakes are available to LMD members for checkout from the City.

VI. Adjourn

Chair Peterson adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m. The next steering committee meeting will held on October 14, 2009, at Tumwater City Hall at 6:00pm.

Minutes submitted by: Dan Smith, City of Tumwater

Minutes approved by: Barnes Lake Management District Steering Committee