



Devils Lake Water Improvement District
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Quick Look:

- Budget Available Online:
www.DLWID.org
- New goals

AGENDA

Regular Meeting

2010 May 6 at 6 pm. in the DLWID Office.

- I. Minutes of the Previous Meeting** 6:00
- II. Financial Report**
- III. Public Comment** (Agenda Items, Please limit comments to 5 minutes per person)
- IV. Unfinished Business** (Agenda Support Item A)
- a. Lake Level
 - b. The Devils Lake Plan
 - i. DEQ 319 Grant
 - ii. Native Vegetation
 - iii. Septic Tank Revitalization Program (Seth Lenaerts)
 - iv. Save our Shoreline Campaign (Seth Lenaerts)
 - c. Financial Oversight Committee Report (Randy Weldon)
 - d. Communications Report
 - e. Safety Report
- V. New Business** (Agenda Support Item B)
- a. Grass Carp
 - b. Thompson Creek
 - c. Sewer
- VI. Non-agenda Items**
- VII. Public Comment** (Non-agenda Items, Please limit comments to 5 minutes per person)
- VIII. Board Comments & Announcements**
- IX. Adjournment**

Meetings of DLWID are handicapped accessible under the ADA.
If special accommodations are needed, please contact the District Office at (541) 994-5330 prior to the meeting.

I. Unfinished Business

(Agenda Support Item A)

- a. **Lake Level:** The Lake Contractor installed the most of dam on April 19, 2010, raising the lake to 9.1. We have been receiving a great deal of rain, so this may be why he did not install the additional .4' worth of boards. I have an email into him describing the 9.3-9.5' requirements. Other than that the dam installation seems top have gone well. There will be some sandbagging required on the south shore and the lining of the dam with plastic, to reduce the overall leakage. Rain is in the forecast through Saturday May 1st. Through May we will strive to keep the lake at 9.3-9.5' with pulsing beginning mid month through until the end of May.
- b. **The Devils Lake Plan**
 - i. **DEQ 319 Grant:** Now that the budget is done, the immediate priority for me is to complete and finalize the QAPP and SAP. Given that an RFP can be drafted for the database creation.
 - ii. **Native Vegetation:** I have provided Tetra Tech some feedback on concerns raised about including aquatic plants in the guide. I have asked that we finalize this project before fiscal year end. I may have the opportunity to meet with Dr. Pennington while on vacation, which if possible I will do to finalize this project.

Concerns have been voiced about that it is a large risk to be encouraging and/or facilitating the placement of aquatic plants in the lake that might take over the lake without a means for control. Dr. Pennington did provide the extra data about the top out level to try an address this, which doesn't fully. Other than deleting most of the aquatic plants I am not sure how else we would proceed. It seems the coastal native plants tend to be able to utilize most of the depths at which many of our coastal lakes are. When we originally began this project we were mostly going to look at the aquatic plants. We built on that to include wetland plants and shoreline /upland plants as this is where homeowners could play a role in improving the lake shore. We have sought the aquatic plants though as a solid list of plants to use should the District seek to re apply for a separate DSL permit.

I have suggested that the section on Environmental Requirements be increased to demonstrate the needs and requirements of placing plants in the lake as well as concerns that might arise by doing so. I also provide some feedback regarding increasing the use of icons and categories of plants for ease of use. This will be incorporated into the final.

No other comments suggesting change were received, so if we can incorporate some of the additions and barring no objections, I am going to ask for printed copies and full bill by our June meeting if not before.

iii. **Septic Tank Revitalization Program** (Seth Lenaerts)

Ordinance:

City staff contacted us mid-month to let us know that the City Attorney would soon be able to begin work on a draft ordinance. As of 4/27/2010, we do not have an estimated date that it will be complete.

One of the differences that the City and District had regarding an ordinance was which properties would be included. The District board stated that they want to pursue a program that includes all properties in the watershed that are served by City water but use a septic system. City staff proposed a program that would only include properties that border the lake or tributaries to Devils Lake. However, City staff did say that they were open to a watershed wide program if the District could justify including all properties in the watershed.

DLWID staff prepared a report in favor of a watershed wide program and submitted it to City staff on Wednesday April 21. DLWID staff focused on four watershed issues that warrant a watershed wide approach. Those are:

- The nature of a watershed.
- Soil characteristics and limitations of soils in the watershed for septic systems.
- Risks of high density septic system development.
- Nutrient and disease abatement.

City staff has yet to provide feedback on that report. I will update the board at the meeting.

The other aspect that City staff has asked the District to help clarify or organize is how to prioritize the systems for inspection. The District board has done some work on that thus far. Parameters that were discussed included: systems without a record, age of system, tank material and proximity to the lake. For the board meeting, I will try to come up with some possible ways to determine priority of inspections.

GIS Database:

The GIS database which now includes about 650 properties will be complete by the next board meeting. Thus far we have information on about 625 systems, keeping in mind that for about half of those systems the “information” is that they have no record.

iv. **Save our Shoreline Campaign** (Seth Lenaerts)

Our first planting day was cold, rainy and windy but overall a success. We had about 15 volunteers and were able to plant two of the three properties that we hoped to. Thanks to Kenny’s IGA and Starbucks who donated snacks to keep the volunteers motivated.

The planting and light landscaping that we did look great and I think the two properties that we completed will be good demo sites for other property owners in the district who are interested in shoreline plantings. Right now I have a list of about 8 property owners who are interested in doing something similar on their property.

I have yet to get the invoice from Spirow landscapes for labor and plant materials. Once, we have the invoice, we can then evaluate and determine how best to move forward with available resources and interested property owners.

I have been impressed by the number of people who have expressed interest in this program. I think that there is a real demand by property owners who are interested in doing shoreline plantings on their property. Especially, landscaping that will decrease erosion, and be low maintenance. The great thing about native shoreline plantings is that it helps the landowners with less maintenance costs and protects their shoreline while helping the lake by decreasing nutrients and erosion.

I think this program has a lot of potential and I will now focus on ways to bolster this program.

c. **Financial Oversight Committee Report** (Randy Weldon)

d. **Communications Report:**

Robertson: I have placed a number of funding suggestions into the budget for consideration. These include \$2,000 towards publication of additional water billings, the funding of the listserv, website, the SOLV event Get the Lead out and much more. These are part of the General Fund while an additional \$10,000 has been suggested to fund an educational video that could be distributed on small DVDs. This non-reoccurring item has been recommended for funding through the Improvement Fund. Providing any additional details would be premature as the Budget Committee is the body to move on or delete all such recommendations, but wanted to provide this introduction as part of the goal of increased communications which have merged into this agenda item for simplicity. Another suggestion I had is the idea of creating a waterproof map and informational sheet about the District which could be handed out while on the lake. By having a map and being on waterproof paper it would have the benefit of having duplicate use and thus may be kept as a reference as oppose to a mailer which would eventually be discarded.

Lenaerts: The water bill mailing was sent out in the April water bill. It was sent out to over 5,800 homes. The District had 6,200 of the mailers printed, so there are extras that can be distributed through local businesses, at events and at other public buildings.

Since the mailing went out we've had 12 new members sign up for the email list.

e. **Safety Report:** No incidents to report.

- f. **Grass Carp:** The top priority of the District for FY 2010-2011 is to seek approval for the additional use of sterile Chinese Grass Carp (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*) in the lake for vegetation management. Current rules prohibit the use of these fish in Devils Lake, and the only way of approving the restocking of grass carp is through a variance of the rules by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Commission. To initiate that process the District has previously made application for the carp knowing that its application would be denied. This denial can then be appealed, which is the District's next intent. Should the District's appeal for additional carp be granted, a placeholder of \$100,000 has been provided in the budget which is recently become available for public comment. The last stocking took place in 1993 and 5,000 fish were added. Should a similar sized planting take place, one estimate shows that currently 8-10' sterile fish can be purchased for \$12.50 per fish. Transportation cost could increase this significantly, so \$20 per fish is being used in this estimate. As the lake is currently devoid of most vegetation, the actual purchase of these fish would not be anticipated in the upcoming year. Estimates would be refined in future budget years, but for the current year the placeholder of \$100,000 of these reserve funds was suggested.

I have spoken with Bob Buckman, Fish Biologist at ODFW Newport regarding the Districts' interest in pursuing additional grass carp. This conversation was brief, but it was clear that he would help support the District's pursuit, but suggested that it would be incumbent on the District to really strategize its approach. To simply seek an appeal to the ruling would not likely be successful. A well thought out proposal would at least provide a "50-50 shot" at the appeal. The appeal strategy would be for us to develop, but may include watershed wide approaches to reducing nutrients which lead to vegetation growth. It was suggested that additional support of a grass carp replanting might be garnished with the creation of boat wash stations at the major points of entry to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species as well as other prevention strategies. All of these and more might be part of a Integrated Aquatic Vegetation Management Plan (See Center For Lakes and Reservoir: <http://www.clr.pdx.edu/docs/iavmp.pdf>) which is something Mr. Buckman suggested we consider. We used this IAVMP document in our own vegetation management strategy prioritization in 2006-2207 (DLWID Website: [Vegetation Management Strategies](#)), as well as other resources developed for Washington State.

While a vegetation management strategy would be a certain benefit to at grass carp appeal, a more comprehensive watershed approach to lake management would be undeniably stronger. The District has already began such a plan, (DLWID Website: [Devils Lake Plan](#)) which in fact has a section to be developed specifically on Grass Carp. ODFW has been part of that plan development, and encourage the completion of such a plan for not only grass carp, but for any other management strategy such as Native Vegetation, or otherwise. What the plan would show is contextually how things are linked, providing for a specific set of priorities to obtain the overall goals of the District. The watershed plan would incorporate an IAVMP, but also demonstrate that the District is more than just concerned about weeds, and that more importantly the District is and has been actively working on such projects. By completing the Devils Lake Plan, the District would certainly highlight its collaboration with the City of Lincoln City on a Septic tank Revitalization Program and the newly instituted Save our Shoreline campaign. The Plan could also highlight roles of other entities such as PADL or the Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District with issues of Rain Garden development and nutrient abatement with agricultural lands in the watershed that they have been

independently working on. All such projects existing or planned would have a significant persuasive impact in the appeal process.

Staff recommendation: Complete the Devils Lake Plan incorporating all the major intentions of the District which can then be used as support for the appeal for grass carp. We may have just one shot at this, and preparation is key to the approach.

- g. **Thompson Creek:** I have contacted Dr. Field of OSU a specialist in DNA bacterial fingerprinting. As I will be in Corvallis at the end of May, I have asked if we might be able to meet, should her schedule allow. She has agreed to try to meet and to work with the District in the DNA analysis. I have placed into the budget additional monies for increased monitoring as will be required for this program.

- h. **Sewer:** As I have mentioned before, sewerage a lake is either a life saver for a lake or a death sentence. Yes it will reduce nutrients from septic tanks, but if it opens up development to otherwise undeveloped land, sewers can indirectly increase the flow of nutrients, sediment and habitat loss. This is where the District needs to consider how best to proceed. One step beyond identifying who is a stakeholder in this would be identify which parcel would likely be impacted by adding a sewer to which areas, and then seek to prioritize which areas might be worth sewerage first. The other proactive thing we could be investigating is moving to create a natural resource planning overlay for the watershed. This would be fundamental in protecting water quality. Such an overlay would limit development certainly, but for the mutual benefit of watershed and water quality protection. What I might imagine is an ordinance at the county and city level that would require a significant vegetated shoreline buffer as condition of extended sewer (e.g. 25') in order to help protect the lake. Obviously there is the issue of annexation which can be widely unpopular. These are some of the difficult things we need to be discussing and up front with as we work in this very noble goal of sewerage the lake.