

Minutes for Cocolalla Lake Association Board of Directors - March Board Meeting
March 27, 2014

The Next CLA- BOD meeting will be held Thursday, April 24, 2014 at the Cocolalla Community Club House at 7:00 PM

Board Members Present:

Fred Vincent – President	Dave Crow – BOD Member
Larry Erickson – Vice President	Janet Conlin – BOD Member
Sonia Gladish – Secretary	Chuck Gladish – BOD member
Cinda Crow – Treasurer	

CLA Members Present:

Dale Sprecher	Jeremy Conlin
Peggy Erickson	Kirsten Anderson
Shelley Vincent	

Guests

Tom Herron	Regional Water Quality Program Manager Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
Marc Kalbaugh	Site Remediation Manager Idaho Department of Environment Quality
Glen Bailey –	County Commissioner, District 1
Victoria Zeischegg	Candidate for County Commissioner, District 2
Marcia Phillips	Candidate for County Commissioner District 1
Daryl Wheeler	Bonner County Sheriff
Barney Phillips	Chief, Sagle Fire Department
Shannon Thornton	Transportation Technician Principal Idaho Transportation Department
Junior Williams	Idaho Transportation Department
Thomas Morehouse	Vice President, Clean Lakes Inc.
Bob Howard	Bonner County Emergency Management
Hope Kalbaugh	

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Fred Vincent.

- In response to invitations from the Cocolalla Lake Association, all of the first responders (Bonner County Sheriff, Sagle Fire Department, Idaho Department of Transportation, DEQ and Bonner County Emergency Management) and our District 1 Bonner County commissioner agreed to attend and review the response to the tragic accident and chemical spill on February 2nd. The focus of the discussion was to be on the response itself the impact to Cocolalla Creek and Lake, and the continuing future risks to our area. The discussion format was to be a panel discussion, with those parties best suited to discuss or answer questions responding. However, Marc Kalbaugh of DEQ had prepared a very comprehensive power point slide presentation and we agreed to use that as a factual recap of the event and actions taken, with questions coming afterwards.

Summarizing Marc's presentation, a tanker truck carrying liquid Ammonium Nitrate (AN) overturned approximately 1.8 miles south of Cocolalla Loop Road into the ditch on the east side. The ditch eventually feeds into Cocolalla Creek which feeds into the Lake. When the truck overturned a valve was sheared and approximately 1066 gallons (10,176 lbs) of AN spilled into the ditch. The first responders were able to construct several berms down the ditch to prevent the bulk of the spill from escaping. This material is extremely volatile under the right conditions and can cause serious damage from explosion as well as being harmful to the environment. DEQ began their testing of water and soil as soon as the area was safe. In the end, over 60,000 gallons of contaminated water was removed from the ditch along with approximately 284 cubic yards of contaminated soil, which was taken to Washington State for remediation. By February 14th, there was no nitrate present in the soil samples and the level of ammonia was below background levels. Due to the collection of water in the hole made by soil removal and a second accident occurring in the same spot (concerns about drowning and road erosion), IDT removed the berms and backfilled the hole to prevent any further road erosion.

In response to questions, it was determined that while the response to this accident was very good there were lessons learned about the issues related to the transport of this product and the response guide book will be updated accordingly. The costs related to removal of the contaminated water and soil was borne by the transport company's insurance company and related agency costs for personel on site will also be recovered. It was noted that the order of priority for an accident like this is: human life, property and then the environment. Our major concern is the ongoing 6-10 trucks a day that go by our lake, the accident prone area where this last accident occurred, known as Cocolalla Flats, and the current discussion of increased speed limits now taking place in Boise.

At this point, the CLA can only continue to bring our concerns to the community and local elected officials in hopes that increased awareness will bring actions to help mitigate future events such as the last one.

The Cocolalla Lake Association wishes to express our thanks to all of the responders to this accident. We were very lucky and owe a debt of appreciation to those who prevented a major catastrophe from occurring in our neighborhood.

We want to thank Marc for his very informative presentation regarding the response to this accident and the safeguards which are in place to keep our highways and surroundings safe.

Sheriff Wheeler informed us of service through the sheriffs' department, where you can voluntarily sign up to be notified of critical road closures and other emergencies. This can be found on the following website: www.nixle.com.

- **Business Meeting:**

- Fred called for the approval of the minutes for the October 24, 2013 meeting as presented by e-mail. Chuck so moved and Janet seconded. The motion carried.

- **Treasurer's report - Cinda Crow-**

See attachment for the report.

Chuck requested \$96.40 for stamps for membership dues notices.

- **Membership report – Sonia Gladish**

Sonia reported that we have 81 paid members for 2014.

- **New Business –**

Tom Herron and Janet Conlin reported on the March Water Quality tests. They were good and the lake is in good condition at this time. The trophic status of the lake is minimal nitrogen and no detection was evident from the spill. The tests were made at the south end of the lake near Weatherly's. The aesthetics of the lake are good and Oxygen content is good. The lake has recently been stocked with Cutthroat Trout.

Tom Woolf gave a report on Eurasian Water Milfoil. In July 2013 a couple of plants were found and they were hand pulled. In August, it was found that there are about 20 acres in the south end of the lake which are contaminated with EWM. These escaped from the herbicide treatment done last year because of an abundance of underwater springs which kept the herbicide from reaching the roots. Another treatment is planned for early June 2014 with a solution of 2,4D and endotal. This should control the spread of the EWM. A report of the results will be available this summer.

Our Lake Host and watercraft inspector– Joe Boscarino is not going to be retuning this year to work at the Sportsman Access. Dave Ross, with Fish and Game is now looking into finding a new volunteer for the Lake Host position. The position involves light duties at the park and boat inspection. The individual(s) would need to go through a one day orientation to learn how to properly inspect and clean watercraft. As in the past the individual would be given space at the park to bring in their RV for the season (Memorial Day - Labor Day). If you are aware of anyone who may be interested in this should contact Fred Vincent at (208) 255-2570 or Chuck Gladish at (208) 263-6515.

- The Cocolalla Lake Association wishes to acknowledge the time and effort that Shelley Vincent has done for her publication of the Newsletter. Thank you Shelley.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sonia Gladish
Secretary and Membership Chairman