

Minutes for Cocolalla Lake Association Board of Directors Meeting
April 28, 2016

The next CLA-BOD meeting will be held on Thursday, May 26, 2016, at the
Cocolalla Community Club House at 7:00 PM.

Board Members Present:

Fred Vincent – President
Larry Erickson – Vice President
Sonia Gladish - Secretary
Vern Newby – Vice President
Chuck Gladish
Janet Conlin

CLA Members Present:

Herman Collins
Peggy Erickson
Shelley Vincent
Bob Brimmer – New member

Guest:

Miles Benker – Regional Wildlife Habitat Biologist, Idaho Department of Fish and Game

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

· At the April 2013, CLA-BOD meeting, Jim Derrig manager for the Pend Orielle Wildlife Management Area (WMA), spoke to us about plans for management of the wetlands at the south end of Lake Cocolalla. This area receives its water mostly from Cocolalla and Fish Creek. He told us that the establishment of a number of small ponds and berms would enhance wildlife and help to control pollutants which enter the lake. At the time, the plan sounded almost too good to be true, considering the expected cost. At the April, 2016, CLA-BOD meeting our guest from Idaho Fish and Game, Miles Benker, presented a plan which IDF&G and the WMA have already started to implement to accomplish this. In October 2015, construction began on this project. Two ponds have been constructed and five more are planned. These ponds are constructed to mimic natural wetlands. On higher banks around the ponds, straw will be used to enhance stability and shrubs and trees, native to the area will be planted around each pond. Grass will also be planted, being very careful that no noxious weeds such as Reed Canary Grass are introduced in the process. The goal is to attract migratory shorebirds and wildlife, as well as help to halt and reverse the eutrophication process in the lake. There are eight acres of surface water in these wetlands and the ponds should hold water throughout the year. 1,400 feet of Fish Creek was restored; the meandering water is directed to the various ponds by channeling the creek flow. This project is being done by appropriate professionals. The CLA-BOD members were very impressed with Mr. Benkers presentation.

- A copy of the treasurers' report is attached to these minutes. There is no change from last month other than the deposit of member dues renewals
- Membership Report – Sonia Gladish

There are now 76 paid members. This is slightly below the number we had last year at this time, however we are still getting occasional renewals. Previous members who have not paid annual dues since 2013 are being removed from the membership list.

- New Business –

April water quality was not available, due to Janet not being able to get a reading.

The Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) treatment is expected to begin on June 3, 2016. There will be signs announcing the beginning of the treatment posted around the affected areas of the lake. Fishing and swimming is not affected by the treatment but domestic water use from the lake and garden and lawn irrigation should be discontinued until the area is declared free from residual effects of the treatment.

Boat launch at Sportsman Access – IDF&G controls this and Fred was told that the campsites there have been “rocked off” so that no vehicles are allowed to park at the sites. At present, our camp host, Isabelle, will be planning to be present only on one day per weekend to inspect watercraft, otherwise there will be no host. This is very unfortunate and all lake users are asked to be particularly careful about introducing any foreign or noxious organisms upon entering the lake.

Water levels – Herman has been taking water level measurements and the high water so far this year was on March 1, 2016. The reading at the north end bridge was 7.2 feet at that time. The recent low was taken on April 23, 2016, and was 5.3 feet. That is almost a two foot drop. Rainfall is barely above normal so far this year and the recent warm weather and mountain snow melt indicates that we may have another lower than usual water level on the lake.

- Old Business – Elections of BOD officers and members

At the June 2016 meeting it will be time to elect officers and BOD members. We really need some CLA members to step forward and be available to assume board positions that will be vacated at that time. Chuck and Sonia are going to “retire” from secretary and membership chairman. They have been members and officers for nearly 20 years. Additionally, Larry Erickson, due to personal reasons, would like not to be considered for a new term. Also, Fred's term as president will be up at that time. This is a very important job and also can be very interesting. The presidents' interaction with IDF&G and IDEQ is very important and maintaining contact with them is vital, especially since IDF&G has taken over many of our previous responsibilities. Boards terms are for two years. Being able to attend a majority of the meetings, which are held March through October is necessary. Previous experience or lake issue knowledge is not. If you have an

interest in any position on the BOD or know of anyone who would be willing to step up, please call Fred at (206) 427-1698 to let him know. The CLA has been in existence since 1986. The results of their efforts is the current quality of the lake water we all now enjoy. Let's not drop the ball now.

Bob Brimmer suggested that the 3 large maps of Cocolalla Lake which we saw at the last meeting in March, 2016, could, perhaps, be made on a smaller scale and made available for purchase. The maps show lake vegetation, bottom contour and lake level. These could also be remade in 3-D for a wall display.

A motion was made to adjourn at 8:15 PM. Motion seconded and passed.

Respectfully submitted
Sonia Gladish
Secretary and membership Chairman