

Minutes for Cocolalla Lake Association Meeting, September 24, 2020

**Next CLA BOD Meeting will be held Thursday, October 22, 2020
Cocolalla Community Club House at 7:00PM**

Guest :

Bob Steed, DEQ

Board Members:

Fred Vincent, President
Vern Newby, Vice President
Kathie McGonigle, Secretary
Tom Herron
Sonia Gladish
Gary Suppiger

Members:

Bob Brimmer
Cary Poston
Chuck Gladish
Kevin Brown
Dale and Marie Sprecher
Shelley Vincent

Visitors:

Floyd and Brenda McLaughlin
Dennis and Candy James

The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM

It was moved by Sonia Gladish to accept the August 27th meeting minutes sent out by e-mail to be approved. Vern Newby 2nd the motion.

Fred Vincent gave the treasurer's report. We have a total of \$51,322.94 in our account. See attached balance sheet. This past month \$2,160 for August payment to Bob Brimmer and his final payment of \$684 for September and a reimbursement of \$8.00 for supplies was paid out.

Cinda and Dave noticed the signage at the north end of the Loop road was fading. Cinda contacted Mountain Sky, who made the sign, and they will refresh the sign and add a vinyl layering for \$268.80. The original cost of the sign was \$295.75 in 2014.

Cinda and Dave have offered to donate the cost to refresh the sign. Thank you Dave and Cinda.

Fred Vincent gave the Membership report. Our membership has increased to 81 paid members. Cinda is sending out a renewal letter via email to some slow responders.

We have 2 new members:

Andrew and Colleen Beier

David and Cheri Tilford

Welcome and Thank You for Joining!

New Business:

- **Discussion of Labor Day Weekend Algae Bloom-Bob Steed, DEQ: Samples were taken of the water and the results were:**
- **The prevalent organism (Lyngbya sp.) is also a cyanobacteria. There was a high density of Lyngbya sp. along the shoreline near the boat ramp and public access area, extremely high in those areas that were forming a scum and floating on the surface. This is different from the aphanizomenon that we typically see in Cocolalla this time of year. There are also minor amounts of Dolichospermum sp. and Woronichinia sp which can also be toxin producers. There can be areas of the lake that are clear and have little to no risk of having cyanotoxins present. Recreating in these clear waters would pose little risk to health. Areas where a dark green to yellow scum has formed have potential cyanotoxins. These areas smell bad to humans but good to dogs. I would be sure to keep an eye on my dog and thoroughly wash her off if she got into one of these scums.** Animals could be affected if they lick their hair or drink the water. This could even cause death to animals. Humans could be affected by the toxins with rashes, skin tumors and problems with their nervous systems based on the toxicity levels present, however there has been no documented case of human death. The circumstances leading up to one of these blooms is complex. Something similar to a “death by 1000 cuts”. Significant factors can include, quiet weather (no wind to little wind), hot/dry extended conditions, high levels of phosphorus and low levels of nitrogen, clear water (light into the water column), and the long standing internal loading of nutrients (result of decades a agricultural activity particularly along Cocolalla Creek) that exist at the south end of the lake. All conditions we experienced this summer. It should be noted that we normally do experience a fall algae bloom. This one came early. At this point we are going to develop a plan based on science and fact to deal with those factors we (CLA) can control. Much of this will also depend on getting lakefront owners, and lake user

support to follow best practices in bank erosion, shoreline development, lawn fertilizing without phosphorus (ones that are phosphorus free or low phosphorus which have a 0 in the middle number such as 16-0-8), septic control etc. There are now ways that we can survey the lake for optical brighteners found in laundry detergents which can indicate that phosphorus is leaching into the water table from lakefront septic systems.

The ice will stop the growth of the algae but toxins may still be present. Toxins will be measured at a later date. The Health Advisory will be taken down when Panhandle Health verifies 2 weeks of clear water.

- Tom Herron was not able to get out on the lake for the water quality test but will do so before the next meeting
- September water level by Vern Newby was 4.71. The normal water level is around 4.15 for this time of year.
- Bob Brimmer gave the Lake Host report this year he inspected 1,414 boats. Last year was 1,017. Candy James commented on how delightful Bob was when she went down to the boat launch to meet him. We are very lucky to have Bob who has so much knowledge about the fish and invasive species in our lake. **Thank you Bob for another successful season at the boat launch.**
- Review of By-Laws by Vern Newby: Vern had reviewed the by-laws about auditing the association and stated that it does not need to be amended. We will review the by-laws prior to the next annual meeting and recommend needed amendments for member approval.
- IDSA Fall Lake Survey-Our survey will be in October. Primarily surveying for Curly Leaf but will also determine how we fared for EWM.

Old Business:

We revisited the concern of the Beavers and Dam in the creek. Bob Steed felt the higher minimum lake elevations (winter lake levels) allow for lily pad expansion which do not function as well as rush and sedges for reducing phosphorus concentrations. Collectively all sources of phosphorus contribute to algae blooms, sometimes cyanobacteria, however, as noted above, there are many factors. Our steps are as follows:

1. We were given several names of people who can Trap and Relocate the Beavers. Fred will contact those names.
2. Revisit the Beaver dam situation with the Department of Water Resources in light of the effect of the algae bloom to the local lakefront community and community lake users.
3. Develop fact based rational on how to work with landowners adjacent to beaver dam on how to insure lake levels can remain at more normal historic levels.

Other Business:

We have an update on our fundraising items.

Jerry Simchuk (Simchuks Laser Engraving) and his partner Mark Richardson (Second Chance Creations) are both involved in making these beautiful wood projects. If you go to www.simchuklaser.com and click on the Wood or Wine Barrel options you can see samplings of their work. They have the silhouette of Cocolalla in their systems and it can be customized with your name and location on the lake.

They already have an order from a CLA member resulting in a donation to the CLA. Thank you for your support!

These are great gifts for Christmas or for your own enjoyment and will benefit CLA!

The meeting was moved to be adjourned at 8:47pm by Vern Newby and 2nd by Cary Poston.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathie McGonigle
Secretary