Cocolalla Lake Association

P.O. Box 133
Cocolalla, ID 83813

CLA Board Meeting Minutes for
March 23, 2023

Attendees:

Board Members:
Vern Newby
Tom Herron
Cinda Crow
Dale Sprecher
Fred Vincent

Members:
Marie Sprecher

Meeting was called to order at 7:06
Pledge of Allegiance

Treasurer's Report: Cinda Crow. Balance as of March 19, 2023 is $48,374.57 This includes $2006 in donations beyond dues. CLA has benefitted by the amount of $17,000.00 in donations since 2010. The donations are greatly appreciated and have funded significant opportunities to protect the lake. It was agreed that we should add an informational box to the Lake Host Cabin at the F&G boat launch and post information at the Cocolalla Post Office if that is allowed. Various members will explore possible sponsorship of the news letters/information to be placed at the Lake Host Cabin.

Membership report: Cinda Crow. CLA has 66 subscribed members at this time. As a reminder, please return your dues if you have not done so already.

Water Quality Report: Tom Herron.

We closed the 2022 monitoring season as described in the October/November Newsletter. Essentially we saw increased amounts of suspended algae after ice-out and during the late-season flooding that occurred. This equated to a balanced Nutrient-Shot-In-The-Arm to begin the recreation season last year.

The Blue-Green Algae Bloom (Harmful Algae Bloom/HAB - out of balance nutirents) extended beyond the September sampling event but it was not likely that it extended very far into October.

The season ended with exceptional rain amounts in October and November with some regional hill slope failures noted due to ground saturation. The lake has been covered in ice since mid-December and remains ice-covered in the last week of March. This extended covering allows increased concentrations of nutrients, particularly *phosphorus*, to be available for the wind mixing or turnover that will occur after ice leaves the lake and spring winds mix the water.

This is the spring nutrient spike that occurs a little after ice leaves the lake and it is what drives the Green Algae bloom. This is the bloom that is important to fisheries because it

is the forage for zooplankton, which provides forage for juvenile fish that are then better able to provide an essential link for the production of catchable size populations of fish in the lake as they grow more rapidly when they are young.

The upcoming year looks unremarkable in that there is about 85% snowpack at the end of winter. Combined with late ice-off there should be an adequate pulse through the system to flush accumulated nutrients through the system if there is a normal run-off compared to last year's late runoff and heavy rain.

Beyond our current conditions I anticipate that we will begin monitoring again in May and continue through September. Monitoring occurs once per month and can be delayed or cancelled based on weather on the scheduled day. Samples are taken to Silver Valley Laboratories, to the collection kiosk in Hayden the day of sampling or the next day.

Curly Leaf/EWM report: Vern Newby

Jeremy Varley from the Idaho State Department of Agriculture stated that the survey last September yielded no observable EWM or Curly Leaf Pond Weed turions. At this point it appears that we have those invasive species under control, but not likely eradicated. Please report any sighting as soon as possible so that we can keep these noxious weeds contained.

Water Level report: Vern Newby.

Water level was at 6.15 with a gentle flow at the bridge. Vern will continue to pursue authorization to return the beaver dam to its previous level as it impounds approximately 800 acre feet of water.

Lake Host Duties and expectations report: Fred Vincent

Fred forwarded an outline of duties for the lake host to Vern. This has not been discussed and will probably be submitted for review next month. Fred has been in communication with Nick Zurfluh (ISDA) regarding the roving inspection crews. Provided the ISDA can hire the personnel ISDA intendes to provide 2 roving crews for this area. Fred passed along our desire to supplement their schedule with a lake host.

Lake Host Funding: Fred Vincent

At this point we have several variables to determine. What possible support from ISDA is available? Are there opportunities from the IdF&G to allow a CLA lake host to utilize a space at the boat ramp? What are the likely stipends we would need to provide for a lake host? Once a goal is set we will prepare a letter requesting support for the lake host program.

Educational report: None

New Business:

EutroPhix Phosphate Mitigation/AquaRealTime: Tom Herron

AquaRealTime is a program using wireless monitoring buoys that would be deployed at several locations on Cocolalla Lake. Data monitored would include: Surface temperature, turbidity, phosphorus, chlorophyll-a, and options could include toxicity. The cost of implementing such a system would be high and the information would have to be interpreted with field observations, which is what we are currently using to implement sampling for determination of HABs conditions. The monitoring buoys are subject to theft, vandalism and mischief. They can also be a hazard to boaters on the lake.The cost of implementing this system of monitoring and treatment would be high and would not rate well in competition for grants. The poor rating is due to the fact that the supply of nutrients to the lake and sediments in the lake would not change.

There are numerous treatments that could act as algicides, or to lock up nutrients in the sediments, which sound good on the surface (no-pun intended) but this approach has drawbacks. Drawbacks include: extensive permitting and various agency approvals, extensive cost of annual treatments, and the necessity to reapply treatments every few years. The benefit of treatments do not eliminate or reduce sources of nutrients, it just masks the problem until treatments are not continued (expensive) or disrupted.

Regarding internal loading of phosphorus, important fish species present in Cocolalla Lake include brown, bullhead and channel catfish, which root and burrow in sediments. This would eventually reduce the effectiveness of any treatment that relied on a thin layer of phosphorus adsorption on the sediment surface. This would increase the expense considering that the only solution is to apply more adsorptive substance to the water. Previous evaluations of what shoreline residences, property owners, politicians and those that recreate on our lakes are willing to spend on these types of treatments show that the treatmernts are difficult to fund, particularly when HABs are occurring in Priest Lake, Pend Oreille River, sloughs of north Lake Pend Oreille, Hayden Lake, Twin Lakes, Spirit Lake, Fernan Lake and isolated ponds in North Idaho.

Association Board Member Retirements: Vern Newby

Cinda Crow will be retiring at the end of her term. She is currently the treasurer and maintains the membership roster. We have other board members that are ready to retire and/or have other family obligations to attend to. Please consider joining the CLA board of directors. We need to continue our voice to be effective for the reasons we enjoy Cocolalla Lake.

Meeting Adjourned approximately 8:34.

Next meeting: Thursday, April 27, 2023
7:00 at the Cocolalla Community Center