

# Lake Marcel November 2014 Special Membership Meeting

November 16, 2014 2:30 PM

**Directors Present:** Jon Hoyer, Dan Giluck, Allan Culverwell, Rachel Beckett, Russell Adelson.

**Directors Absent:** None.

**Voting lots represented:** 55 lots in attendance (including board members) + 75 proxies = 130 lots total

The meeting was called to order at 2:35 pm.

## 1) Chair Opening Remarks and Rules of Order

## 2) Approve Meeting Agenda

- i. Doug Lapchis makes a motion to approve the agenda as written.
- ii. Chuck Willis seconds the motion.
- iii. Passes unanimously.

## 3) Approve May 2014 General Membership Meeting Minutes

- i. Chair allows 3 minutes to look over the minutes.
- ii. CM Lapchis requests point of clarification about posting meeting note policy.
  - i. Board responds that on advice of our attorney or policy is to post them online.
- iii. No further questions from the community.
- iv. Bert Mills makes motion to approve the minutes.
- v. Don Mossman seconds the motion.
- vi. Motion passes unanimously.

## 4) Guest Speaker: Sally Abella on Toxic Blue-Green Algae in Lake Marcel

- i. Sally Abella with the Lake Stewardship Program of King County.
- ii. What is cyanobacteria or blue-green algae, how to recognize and how to test.
  - (1) Most algae are good for lakes and for fish; very high quantities can interfere with use of lake.
  - (2) There is a type of algae that can make toxins that are harmful to mammals: blue-green algae.
    - (a) Toxins produced by these organisms can be harmful.
    - (b) Harm is greatest to small children and pets.

- (c) Need nitrogen and phosphorous to grow.
  - (3) They tend to grow slowly and steadily. Not likely to see in May/June, more likely to be July/August.
  - (4) They don't all make toxins. You can't tell by looking at them. There are some lakes they do every year. Need to test.
  - (5) Symptoms of exposure
    - (a) Microcystin - Chronic vs. acute. Mild symptoms, but over time can do real damage. Can cause liver cancer and cancer.
    - (b) Anatoxin-a - acts quickly. Responsible for most of the dog deaths. Skin contact reaction. With a big bloom, can be aerosolized and you can breath it.
    - (c) Sally clarified that LMCC has tested positive for Anatoxin-a.
  - (6) Algae can regulate where it is in the water column, so you don't always know how much there is.
- iii. Community member asks, Is it possible to use water from the lake in the event of a disaster?
- (1) Sally: This is not a good idea.
  - (2) Can't kill toxins by boiling or filtration.
- iv. What does blue-green algae look like?
- (1) Can be flecks or cloudy.
  - (2) Can get large accumulations in grasses.
  - (3) Wind can cause bands on surface of lake.
  - (4) When it starts to break down, it can turn blue.
  - (5) Filamentous algae makes clumps and you can pick it up (harmless). Blue-green algae you can't pick up.
  - (6) Filamentous makes good fertilizer/compost for the garden.
- v. Ideas for what to do if we think we have a bloom.
- (1) Send sample to King County. They will submit to the state lab to test. No Fee.
  - (2) Refer to <https://www.nwtoxicalgae.org/> (results are posted on this page).
- vi. What reduces the toxin level?
- (1) Dilution.
  - (2) Toxins are denatured by sunlight
- vii. Community member: "Would UV light work to clean it?"
- (1) Sally: not sure.
  - (2) Sunlight works but the UV light may or may not be the effective wavelength.
- viii. Community member: "I've read that straw bales can be used to remove toxic algae?"
- (1) Straw contains a chemical that slows algae from growing, but this only works early in the season.

- (2) Since we have toxic build up in the late summer it's not certain straw would help.
- ix. Can we filter our lake?
- (1) If the toxin is in the water, there is nothing that will filter it out.
  - (2) If it is in the algae cell, it can be filtered.
- x. Is this new?
- (1) We may have less than we did in the past, reviewing old photos. We may be monitoring better now.
  - (2) With climate change, we may have more toxic algae problems in the future.
- xi. Are the blooms toxic to fish?
- (1) We don't think so, but the toxins will accumulate in fish livers.
  - (2) Guidance is to clean fish really well.
  - (3) WA Dept of Health may issue a fish advisory next year.
- xii. Protocol
- (1) State DOH only has guidance.
  - (2) King County can shut down lakes.
  - (3) Vets and others can report suspected cases directly to the WA Dept of Health
- xiii. 3 levels of Warning Signs
- (1) Caution- keep pets & kids away
  - (2) Warning- if toxin level is higher, lake closes for swimming; caution with pets.
  - (3) Danger- if DOH receives a report of death or severe illness in a pet or human.
- xiv. Do Grass Carp contribute to the toxic load in the lake?
- (1) There could be a linkage, but no actual studies.
  - (2) Plants that are eaten by grass carp recycle nutrients into the lake.
  - (3) Additionally, if you don't remove milfoil after treatment, it released nutrients into the lake and can cause algae blooms.
- xv. What can we do as community members to minimize the problem?
- (1) *The Living Well at Lake Marcel* booklet has many suggestions.
  - (2) Booklet download is available on the Lake Marcel website.
  - (3) Cars should not be washed in the neighborhood; all water drains to the lake. If you must wash your car, don't use soap. Make sure that water doesn't go straight to the lake. Put car where water will go into grass.
  - (4) Landscaping—minimize chemical usage. Put a hose on it and see where water goes. Keep water from going right into lake. Better to have it filter through soil.
  - (5) Everyone in the neighborhood, not just waterfront lots, impacts the lake. All water in the community will go in the lake.

xvi. Blue-green algae are not good at competing with phosphorous, so phosphorous is key for controlling it.

- (1) Main sources of phosphorus are fertilizers and soaps.
- (2) Whatever we can to get less phosphorous in the lake, rather than treating. Expensive to treat and must continue it forever.

xvii. Are there any studies of septic systems in communities our size?

- (1) Yes – rural lakes like ours are higher in nutrients than suburban lakes, they think because they are on sewer.
- (2) We are more at risk. Septic & tank are sized for household. Septic systems should be serviced regularly.
- (3) Newer systems are put in between house and road, rather than house and lake.
- (4) Storm water is a big issue. When there is no treatment, unfiltered water floods the lake. King County recommends rain garden.

xviii. Would oil booms keep algae out?

- (1) Demonstration at Green Lake showed they did a pretty good job.
- (2) LMCC could consider using oil booms to protect small children and pets from toxins at Beach 1.

xix. Chair – thank you to Sally Abella for taking the time to talk with us.

## 5) Budget Ratification for 2015

- i. CM Lapchis recommends that we go through current expenses before we ratify the budget and would like to see previous year information on the balance sheet. Lapchis expresses concerns about the reserve funds
  - a. Board responds that during the previous general meeting, we rejected a motion to perform an audit this year. If the community is concerned about the finances, we should vote on performing an audit next year.
- ii. Various discussions about specific line items, including Fireworks, LMCC coordinator.
- iii. Confusion from Community Members about the budget ratification process.
  - a. Board responds that the proposed budget is published in the fall community newsletter and explains budget ratification process - we first need a motion to approve the budget as written; then discussion can take place.
    - (1) Abram Jackson moves to approve the budget as written.
    - (2) Michael Schein seconds the motion.

iii. Vote

- (1) Ayes... Most of room (Chuck Willis has 42 proxies).
- (2) Nays (with 12 proxies)
- (3) Budget is ratified with more than 2/3 of votes.

## (6) Committee Reports

i. Community Events - Rachel Becket

- (1) 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebrations almost didn't happen due to lack of volunteers.
- (2) Lynn Hoyer was instrumental in pulling off the events and Summer Hopkins took responsibility for the parade.
- (3) We cannot continue to offer community events without many more volunteers.
- (4) New community member suggests organizing a Halloween- trick or treat event.
- (5) The LMCC board welcomes suggestions and community involvement.

ii. Architectural Committee – Allan Culverwell

- (1) Reminder need to get a permit for any tree >24 inches in circumference @ 5ft above the ground.
- (2) If you live in a critical area (e.g. near the lake) you have to get a permit with King County before you can apply for LMCC

iii. Maintenance – Dan Giluck

- (1) Our major maintenance problem is the earthen dam.
  - (a) We found a professional diver who did maintenance and corrosion resistance to the dam valve, which is 50 years old and corroded.
  - (b) We hope this will allow the gate valve to function for another 5-10 years.
- (2) We lost our maintenance manager after 28 years of service.
  - (a) Many thanks to Chuck Willis and Art Grabb for keeping things running smoothly.
  - (b) Long term solution to contract out maintenance.
- (3) We have a problem with unregistered boats parked at both parks.
  - (a) Any boat on the lake needs a sticker.
  - (b) Our website has the forms to apply for a boat registration sticker.

iv. Aquatic Weeds – Allan Culverwell

- (1) Milfoil treatment- missed this year due to issues with contractor; will be done next year
- (2) Weed Policy for Yellow Flag Iris-- can opt out of having picked/pulled on your property, but you are responsible for making sure they don't spread.

- (3) Stocked larger (but fewer) trout this year than in the past. We may want to adjust our numbers based on community feedback.
- (4) Investigating adding additional grass carp in the next year. A lot to consider.

v. Community relations – Jon Hoyer

- (1) Nothing major to report; loose dogs are the major issue.
- (2) Keep dogs under control.

## (7) Nominations for new board members

i. Rachel Becket is leaving soon, which brings us down below the level that we can vote. We need 5 active board members to vote.

ii. Nominations:

- (a) Jeff Ramirez nominates Robert Lee. John Held seconds.
- (b) Chuck Willis nominates John Held. Kristin Connors seconds.
- (c) Lee Culverwell nominates Laura Davis. Lynn Hoyer seconds
- (d) Angie Ward nominates John Gorman. Lee Culverwell seconds.

iii. Community member motions to approve all new members. Lynn Hoyer seconds to vote them as a group.

- (a) All Ayes. No nays.
- (b) New board members are on board.

## (8) New Motions

- i. Jon Held makes a motion to set up a committee to investigate and report findings on potential incidence of extortion at a recent board meeting.
  - a. Following community discussion, the motion is withdrawn
- ii. CM Abram makes a motion to include last year's budget information in the balance sheet.
  - a. Following community discussion Mike Masters seconds the motion
    - i. Ayes- most of community including Chuck Willis (42 proxies), 8 Nays.
    - ii. The motion passes.
- iii. Jon Hoyer closes the floor for new motions.

## (9) Meeting closes

- i. Jeff Ramirez moves to adjourn the meeting.
- ii. Ignacio Delgadillo seconds the motion.
- iv. Meeting adjourns at 6:35pm.

FENVAAL