

Draft Meeting Notes Hayden Lake Watershed Association Inc.
January 26, 2021 6:30 PM Meeting Held In Zoom Platform

Board members present: Geoff Harvey, President; Jan Wilkins, Vice President; Barb Neal, Treasurer; Will Neal, Digital Communications Officer; Gil Rossner and Todd Walker. Members attending, Mary Ann Stoll, Steve Meyer, Kristine Regele, Byron Anderson and Susan Stiger. Guests David James Avista, Marshall Law, Avista, Rebecca Stevens and Elaine Cernera. In our response to the COVID-19 health emergency and an abundance of caution, the meeting was conducted as a teleconference using the Zoom Platform arranged by Will Neal, the Association's Communications Officer. A means was provided on the web-site to include public participation.

Meeting called to order at 6:34 PM

- Additions/Deletion to agenda: None

Public Input:

Powerline Vulnerability

David James and Marshall Law of Avista Utilities attended at the request of the HLWA Board to address power line vulnerability. A brief presentation was made on Avista's response to the wildfire threat. Company responding to liability concerns. Fire different than windstorm and requires different response. Avista has several prong approach. Strengthening infrastructure (i.e. replaced all wood transmission lines with steel), looking for vulnerable areas, operate system different on dry summer-fall days (dry mode) using incident response approach when fires occur. Have five year plan that is expected to lower risk 8 to 16 times.

Issue was raised that more numerous windstorms are causing power outages most not related to fire, but wind caused tree fall. Given climate warming we can only expect more and more severe wind storms. Seems the current power distribution system is vulnerable to such storms and only become more vulnerable in the future.

Point made that undergrounding is expensive, however, it has been completed country wide in Europe and has been standard procedure in new subdivisions for many years. Undergrounding existing lines is more difficult, suitable routes must be found where geology or other infrastructure does not prohibit. A further question is whether rate payers are willing to fund such a costly undertaking. The idea of targeting habitual problem areas and undergrounding or upgrading these was suggested. Avista is doing this primarily as it relates to fire. It was pointed out there would be a priority based on severity of problems and there are many in the system. The possibility of wiring circuits on branches that dead end was discussed. This is possible in some locations, but in many outlying locations, Avista service ends and another provider's begins and such circuit development is not possible. Considerable discussion followed.

It was determined this is a wide ranging and developing topic of concern and all the many questions could not be answered in a single night. If members or others have questions we suggest these be directed to dave.james@avistacorp.com.

Report on the Hayden Lake Watershed Improvement District Meeting District:

The District carried out its usual business in a rather short meeting. The District did decide to have an independent attorney determine the exact enforcement authority and capability the county has to enforce its land development ordinances. Once determined the District's Board believed it would be better for the HLWA to pursue any issues with the county. Question later in the agenda whether the Board wants to take on any follow up.

Honeysuckle Boat Ramp Safety Issue:

Rebecca Stevens and Elaine Cernera attended to address the issue of driving accidents involving the Honeysuckle Boat Ramp. Yet another fatality occurred when a woman recently drove down the ramp into the water. This has occurred some nine plus times over the years resulting in three fatalities. This seems to occur with greater regularity at this ramp rather than at any other of the many boat ramps in the area. There is a straight path to the ramp even though it is necessary to drive in the wrong lane for quite a distance. A better solution is sought.

The issue was discussed with Hayden City Councilman Dick Panabaker. Even though the city has tried numerous schemes, warning signs, flashing lights, rearranging traffic pattern, these incidents persist. The city knows it has a problems and would like input from the public including the HLWA. City Manager Brett Boyer is leading a group to come up with solutions. The councilman was informed Todd Walker would be a good contact to include.

Ideas like crossing arms and fences actuated only from the ramp side only were suggested. None of these are foolproof and might only keep any accident onshore at some damage expense to the city. It was observed that not everyone can be protected from their own miss-steps. The Board resolved to write a letter to the city manager suggesting that Rebecca Stevens and/or Elaine Cernera be included in the group addressing the problem.

Recognition of the Service to Hayden Lake by the late Gloria Lund

Gloria Lund was a steward of and advocate for Hayden Lake and its surrounding area for fifty years. She served of at least two public interest groups protective of the lake, before her service on the HLWA Board. For sixteen of the eighteen year history of the HLWA she was the treasurer. Several approaches to honoring Gloria were discussed including an article in the Press and replicated on the websites and face book sites. The idea of dedicating a bench at Honeysuckle Bay Park would be the best permanent recognition of Gloria's service. The idea was extended to recognizing other late pillars of the long term stewardship of the lake to include Gerry House and Lee Shellman. The Association and District will explore establishing this facility both monetarily and with the City of Hayden.

Regular Business:

Treasurer's Report: Barb Neal provided all the Board members financial summary reports and these were inspected by the Board. The post office box renewal was the only financial business. The proper annual forms have been filed with the IRS and State of Idaho.

Recorders Report: None

Technology and Communications: Will reported on changes to the website. As a result a few links are currently missing. All photo forms are active. Barb Neal asked about posting wildlife pictures as discussed at the last meeting. The Board approved a "Wildlife in the Watershed" page development. The page will be set up for website users.

Old Business:

Biannual Newsletter: The draft has a lot of content perhaps too long. Barb's edits made. Mary Ann suggested that the longest pieces be summarized and then a link provided to a webpage which would have the entire text. Majority of Board was ok with length, demonstrates all the issues the Association is addressing. Length is not a problem because newsletter will be a pdf e-mail attachment. Suggest a list of topics at start with hyperlinks. This approach will allow readers to choose the updates they wish to review. Although no additional Honey-Badger documents posted by the Forest Service, should retain in newsletter and reference earlier discussions in newsletter.

Plan an update based on result of Sewer District meeting. Most of the content is there. Mary Ann's edits will be made and then the newsletter will be sent out for additional review. Hope to have out to membership by early to mid-February.

Boat Wake Follow Up: The camera platforms (planters) for wake monitoring are finished. Todd will work on mounting cameras. Mary Ann noted that after discussion with Commissioner Filios data on boat wakes is needed to further persuade any needed changes to wake rules.

Airbnb outreach content (poster and list) are complete. Group will have meeting in February to discuss packaging and distribution plan.

Dock sign work will progress. Working on logistics and stabilization. Planning to have ready near May 1st.

Honeysuckle Bay No Wake Zone: Will Neal will deliver our pitch to the Waterways Advisory Group backed up by petition and graphics at their February meeting. Todd will attend to assist. Craig Ely has lined up Sheriff deputy support. Unfortunately our piece must be given in person because no zoom supplied and the group largely does not use masks. Craig Ely will be informed so he can attend.

Mary Ann is working on a blog post on wakes. She is looking for North Arm residents to attest to more traffic and wakes in that area of Hayden Lake. Gil and others suggest contacting Mike and Cary Lawrence and Merlyn Thykeson. Gil can provide insight as well.

Honey-Badger Forest Planning: No new activity as of 1/26/2021. Will speak with District Ranger.

Association leadership/membership development: Need additional Board members. Will is developing list of those repeatedly wishing to attend Board meetings via zoom. Asked if he should automatically provide them links each month. Board answered yes. Also this may be a place to find additional Board members.

East Shore Open Range Issue: A copy of the conservation easement held by Fish & Game for the Vanderbelt Ranch was provided by IDFG and distributed to the Board. It is clear that when the Vanderbelts leave the ranch grazing will end. Chris DeForest of the Inland Northwest Land Trust was involved in the discussion. He suggested that the residents of the east shore affected by the Vanderbelt

cows on open range might want to buy the herd and remove it. The easement and the suggestion were forwarded to the Ellingsons. Todd has been unable to make contact with Karen Hayes and Bud Vanderbelt.

New Business:

Honeysuckle Boat Ramp Issue: Dealt with in public input section of the meeting.

Kootenai County Enforcement Capabilities: Earlier discussion under Watershed Improvement District update of the initiative to have a third party assessment of the county's enforcement authority. Question of the HLWA doing the work if necessary to lobby for better enforcement or change. Board in agreement to follow up if necessary,

Any Current/Emerging Issues: Jan addressed potential new application for the Steele Property. Potential buyer met with county planners doing due diligence before purchase. County told potential buyer the requirements including a new one, a trip generation analysis. Barb Neal related that there currently is no "will-serve" request before the Hayden Lake Sewer Board. Comment triggered considerable discussion on whether Barb and Gil have conflict of interest be. Conflict of interest generally interpreted that some financial stake, which neither Barb nor Gil has. Based on this discussion Gil opted to sign out while Barb remained for the discussion.

Special Business:

Hayden Lake Sewer District Name Change: Testimony prepared for delivery at the January 13th meeting that was cancelled due to the windstorm. Board helped develop that testimony that has not changed. Testimony reviewed for meeting participants who had not seen the testimony. Based on faulty information in the Verification of Motion item 3 the HLWA is asking the District revert back to the Recreational Sewer District. Todd going to deliver the testimony, but has a family conflict. We have shied from Will doing it. Geoff will deliver via a zoom link. Will and Forrest Walker will assure the Board members attending (three) get copies.

Although not stated in the testimony by design the HLWA intends to do the hard work to attempt to change the enabling legislation to allow recreational districts to address the undesirable outcomes of sewer development. In our case this is storm water. Geoff will try to get a meeting with Senator Vick in Boise to start this process.

The testimony alludes to the HLWA seeking other remedies but does not use the word legal. Nonetheless Jan has been looking for legal representation in the case the Board does not agree with the HLWA name change request. One attorney consulted had a conflict of interest. Many were favorably impressed by Johnathan France's work on the SDA Church issue. Jan will make preliminary contacts with his office. Jan also believes there would be financial supporters to help cover legal costs. Jan will go ahead but we do not want to actually create billable hours until we have a response from the Sewer District Board.

Hearing no other business, a motion to adjourn was made by Jan Wilkins and seconded by Barb Neal. Board passed. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.