

**Meeting Notes Hayden Lake Watershed Association Inc.  
November 9, 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 and Shawn Hathaway. Gil Rossner, Leda Kobziar, Todd Walker absent. Members attending, Leo Simpson and Mary Ann Stoll

Meeting called to order at 6:34 PM

Additions/Deletion to agenda: Move update on water level issue to public input so Leo is not detained.

**Public Input:**

Since Gil Rossner was not in attendance the letter from Tom Yount was not read. Arrangements will be made for Gil to send the letter out to the Board.

Leo Simpson addressed the Board concerning low lake levels. Leo is working in a sub-committee on this subject with Jan Wilkins and Mary Ann Stoll. An update and an enhanced update (appended) were provided to the Board by Jan and Mary Ann. The sub-committee is currently gathering information fully aware that the low water levels observed may just be part of the variable nature of the lake and its watershed. Leo noted that lake level is product of supply from the watershed, discharge to the Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer and irrigation as well as domestic withdrawals. Nothing can be done about water yield to the lake. The water rights allowing withdrawals are governed by water rights, but these are highly protected in Idaho law. Entities with water rights do not and might be encouraged to monitor their water use. They also might be encouraged to go to other sources like the aquifer itself. Loss to the Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer may have changed with shifts in the bed or failure in the bottom. Several ideas of water loss have been collected. Some are local legend with some going back to legends of the First Nations. Some have been documented in family histories. These should be filtered based on the known geology of the lake and the aquifer. Sources for further information and testing were suggested. These included Dr. Ralston of the University of Idaho or his successor, and the USGS. The USGS may have technology that could measure water movement into the aquifer.

Hayden Lake Watershed Improvement District Update (appended) was provided to the Board. Notably the District's Board added a seventeenth buoy to its new request but turned down a second that would not address lake shore erosion. A list of projects associated with the FSR 437 corridor, fish passage and Yellowbanks Creek restoration was supplied with the update. The projects costs remain preliminary. Many of the projects might be financed in part or in full by KV funds developed from Honey-Badger timber sales. Others might be cost shared by the Watershed Improvement District. The district will have a workshop as part of its January meeting to consider what projects it might support.

**Regular Business:**

Treasurer's Report: The report was filed with and reviewed by the Board. No questions, only the comment that contributions continue and that we received a 'donor-advised grant in the amount of \$1,000 from the Innovia Foundation based on the Pardens recommendation. A thank you note was sent to the Pardens.

Recorder's Report: None

Technology-Communications Report: None

## Old Business:

**Leadership Change:** The Board put off leadership elections and change in August not wishing to change leadership while working with the Forest Service on the Honey-Badger Issue. The Honey-Badger issue will be completed by January and whatever the outcome (see below) will be manageable with new leadership. The Board resolved to elect new leadership at its January meeting. It is expected for there to be a new president and vice president with the current president still participating in an emeritus capacity.

**Return to Physical Meeting:** Board discussed prospect of going back to physical meetings. Currently, meeting rooms at night are not too available. The consensus of the Board was that zoom meetings are convenient for the Board members especially during the winter when some members reside elsewhere. However, it is important for the Board to be physically available to the members. Some physical meetings will be planned for next summer.

## Honey-Badger Update:

- The Forest Service found the Association's objection legally permitted and scheduled an Objection Meeting where the Association's issues could be discussed.
- Geoff Harvey, Will Neal and Shawn Hathaway attended the zoom meeting for the Association. The Forest Service had the District Ranger, Dan Scaife and many of the staff who worked on the Honey-badger Planning effort as well as Carl Petrick, the Forest Supervisor, who is the Forest Service Officer deciding the objection.
- The Association's position that the problems of the FSR 437 corridor must be addressed was made clear. The Association's spokesman made clear that although we want action it could be in a separate process (one other than Honey-Badger) as long as the process was scheduled and started in a timely manner.
- Forest Service personnel including Carl Petrick had viewed the video showing water pollution and recognized the contaminants uncontrolled shooting ranges can generate.
- The Forest Service explained again that they recognized the validity of the issues with the corridor but believed it would raise a controversy that would forestall the vegetation work planned in Honey-Badger.
- The Association participants left the meeting with the belief a field trip would soon be scheduled to view the issues in the field and shortly after that a process would be started.
- The Objection Resolution letter received from the Forest Service was far less specific with nothing put in writing. However, recent contact with the District Ranger indicated the agency's plans to schedule the field trip.
- If the Forest Service fails to act the Board concluded the Association has two options. We could file a legal challenge to the Decision Document or we could simply write a letter of complaint to EPA enumerating the documented and suspected violation of the Clean Water Act, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act and possibly CERCLA (Superfund).
- The Board agrees by consensus to allow the Forest Service some brief time to start a process that will productively address the problems along the FSR 437 corridor. If this does not occur our next appeal will be to EPA.
- It was noted to the Board that in response to complaints, the Hayden Creek Gun Range was tested by DEQ. Lead contamination was documented 5 to 6 years ago. A Public Records Request will be made for any data collected by DEQ.

**Bench to Honor Gloria Lund and others who have worked to protect Hayden Lake**

- Since Todd Walker is the contact and not present no further information on progress.

Kootenai County Legal Enforcement subsidy: There was considerable discussion of the county using a privately developed legal fund to enforce its ordinances. Discussion with Director Callahan suggest a lack of enthusiasm on the part of the county attorney. Others believe the county should not be able to fiscally shirk this responsibility. Jan will follow up with Director Callahan and report at the next meeting.

System to Track violations of County and IDL Regulations: Craig Davidson, the county code inspector and enforcement, will provide updates to Todd Walker. It would be more efficient for these reports go directly to Will Neal, who keeps the Associations tracking system. Will's access to these reports will be requested.

Hayden Lake Sewer District Meeting Attendance: Barb Neal emphasized that the Association have regular attendance at these meetings. A position may come open on the board soon and attendance will put the Association in a better position to have its supporter appointed to fill out any vacated term. Geoff and Jan made a commitment to regularly attend.

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Updates:

- No Honeysuckle Beach Work Group Report because Todd not participating.

**New Business:** None

**Any Current/Emerging Issues:** None identified

**Next Meeting Set for:** Board decided a Late November meeting would interfere with Thanksgiving and was not necessary based on the current workload. The Board traditionally does not meet in December. Next meeting set for Tuesday, January 25, 2022

Adjourned by consensus.

Meeting Adjourned 8:25 PM