



HAYDEN LAKE WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

May 23, 2022

Scott Forssell
Mayor, City of Hayden
8930 N. Government Way
Hayden, ID. 83835

Dear Mayor Forssell,

I attended the city council meeting on Tuesday, May 10, specifically to hear the Honeysuckle Beach Study Final Report. Two members of our BOD were added to the working group toward the end of the study process, so we were interested to see if the plan had substantively changed since the final working group meeting and the public meeting input taken in February. It had not.

After City Council accepted the report, there were several questions regarding how much the study has cost so far, and how much additional studies would cost to see if the project is feasible. Ms. Cleveland estimated that additional testing would be in the \$50-\$200K range. Our Board suspects that the numbers could be much higher. We have formulated a preliminary list of studies to give you an idea of the complexity and environmental impacts which will need to be explored prior to proceeding further:

- *Study of the flood capacity of the area below the outlet, and the effects of filling the current overflow channel with a parking lot.

- *Study of Flood discharge current speeds at the outlet structure and proposed ramp.

- *Study of the current wetlands areas, (and logistics and expenses of relocation if they are affected.)

- *Study of the bottom structure and depth of Honeysuckle Bay; the effects of dredging a channel several hundred feet long on the lake levels and on the aquifer.

- *Lower Hayden Lake Road traffic study; feasibility of widening the road to accommodate a turn lane.

- *Additional wave impacts on Honeysuckle Bay, (designated as a no wake zone,) and on adjacent property owners.

- *Legal expenses exploring the ramifications of a city owned boat launch outside the city's limits. Can the city build and own a boat launch on leased land, or would it have to be purchased?

- *Expenses to move/relocate Hayden Lake Sewer District and Dalton Irrigation pump stations presently located at Honeysuckle Beach.

There are probably other studies that we have not mentioned as well. The city could spend hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars to explore the feasibility of this plan, only to find it is not possible.

Ironically, even if this ill-conceived launch design is built in Honeysuckle Bay, it will not meet demand. The city would not be increasing its boat trailer parking capacity. In fact, a whole new set of problems would be created; environmental, traffic, and friction with adjacent landowners and non-motorized users of Honeysuckle Bay, to name a few.

If at any time the City contemplates increasing boat trailer parking beyond current availability, a lake carrying capacity assessment would be needed. We cannot assume that supporting increased boat traffic will not have social and economic and ecological effects. Other cities across the country have done these types of assessments. It is the starting point for planning. Our little lake cannot serve all its stakeholders if large, motorized boaters are prioritized. Their impacts are many orders of magnitude in contrast to small boats, paddle boarders, kayakers, fishermen and swimmers.

In addition, in the new plan, the beach area is not appreciably expanded, as the existing boat launch would not be removed. It would be used for marine deputies and possibly others (like fishermen). In fact, anyone launching a boat in the winter would use it, as Honeysuckle Bay freezes and/or has lower water levels during the winter frequently.

The city would be much better served by actively managing the existing launch and beach with a full-time harbor master during the high season. This person could diffuse confrontations and oversee an orderly launch process. That person's salary could be paid from the increase in boat launch fees that would be paid if someone was monitoring it. (HLWA distributes educational flyers to vehicles with boat trailers on most weekends in the summer. We have placed more than 2500 flyers in three years, indicating that many of the vehicles with trailers haven't paid fees, according to the numbers of paid boat launches shown in the study presented last week.)

This county is dealing with overcrowding on the streets, in the schools and on all the waterways. This is a fact of life we all have to deal with, including Honeysuckle Beach users and boat launchers. We must find a way to better manage and use our limited resources.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of these thoughts. Please let me know if you have any questions!

Sincerely,

Jan G. Wilkins
President
Hayden Lake Watershed Association

Cc: City Council members:
Matthew Roetter
Ed DePriest
Roger Saterfiel
Sandra White

Brett D. Boyer, City Manager

HLWA Board of Directors