

HLWA Meeting Notes from the Board Meeting

by Jan Wilkins, President

May 24, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm. Present: Barb Neal, Will Neal, Geoff Harvey, Gil Rossner, Shawn Hathaway, Todd Walker, and Jan Wilkins.

Treasurer's report: Barb Neal had previously sent out the treasury information. She checked our mailbox, and we still have not received the bill for the workshop lunch at the HLCC on May 9.

Technology Communication report: Will Neal said he had received requests for a link to the fathom recording we do for our monthly meetings and questioned the board's policy about releasing those recordings. Will started Fathom so that the recorder could review points of the prior meeting while writing up the notes which are posted on our website. The fathom recordings were never intended to be available to the public, and in fact, there is no requirement for the recordings to be made public. The board discussed that the attending public may not feel comfortable speaking freely at our meetings if they are being recorded for other uses. The motion was made and passed unanimously that the fathom notes will be available for our board only; to support the permanent written notes of the meeting discussions, which are posted to our website.

Old Business: Mailing and Education Publications and Activities: Barb Neal reported on the progress with the Hayden Lake Marina. The Marina has graciously offered to give the HLWA space for an information kiosk. Gil has located a contractor that will donate his labor. He has an excavator ready to take out the shrubs at the Boathouse Restaurant entrance for the HLWA Kiosk. Joe at HLM was able to get approval for the design. It is estimated that materials will be about \$1500.00. The board reviewed a photo of a prototype and gave approval. There will be three compartments. The first will have the permanent plaques honoring Gerry House, Gloria Lund and a few others who have been instrumental in the protection of Hayden Lake and its watershed. We will also have space to acknowledge other contributors. It was suggested that books about the local area be highlighted in that compartment.

The second compartment will have the bathymetric map of the lake water depths completed by the Hayden Lake Watershed Improvement District last year. The third compartment will feature articles and updates about the watershed, emphasizing boater safety and boating rules. For the first display, we will use the "Hayden Lake: Its Extraordinary" poster printed two years ago. Barb will contact Minute Press to have the correct size made for the space. It was decided that the permanent sign at the top of the kiosk will say, "Welcome to Hayden Lake." Jan will reach out to Mary Ann Stoll when she gets back from vacation to see about the bathymetric map.

Other marina business: Joe has invited Barb to contribute an article for their monthly newsletters. The board reviewed her first proposed article and approved it with minor changes. Barb's next article will be about the issues discussed in our code enforcement workshop.

HLM sponsored fundraising event for HLWA: Barb had previously reported that Joe was supportive of a fishing contest to raise money and awareness. Jan has reached out to Rob Ryan at Fish and Game about the rules and other details. We discussed having it be a pike fishing contest, as the predatory fish species like Pike and bass seem to have the upper hand on Hayden Lake and Fish and Game would like to restore a balance of the fish species populations.

Publications: The board approved Barb's ideas for our first education flyer. A QR code will be added so that folks can go to our website to report excessive wake violations and the occurrence of dangerous safety or health issues as well as private property damage. In addition to handing this out at all three input sites, (including the marina,) It will be sent to the property owners on the lake. The board approved printing 1000 copies. Shawn and Gil reported that they still have some left over from last year that they will start distributing over the next busy weekends. Gil has noticed more wake boats putting in at Sportsman's Park.

Community Awareness and Education Activities for 2023: Geoff briefed the board on his idea to apply for a DEQ 319 grant for financial assistance to move logs into the mud-bog area north of the shooting site on 437. So far, the Forest Service has expressed support for this project. This would be a project for spring of 2024, and the community would be involved in planting seedlings between the logs.

Collaboration with other trail groups at English Point: Jan reported a meeting with Ian Cotter, head of the Panhandle Forest service trails group. He explained that a 501(c)3 is being formed to obtain funding for the reconstruction of bridges and other trail work on the west side trails. (Called FONIT- "Friends of North Idaho Trails.") They will first try to obtain funding from the Back Country Horsemen connections. Members of the N. Idaho Trails Association will do a lot of the trail rebuilding labor. Their annual meeting is June 13, and he suggested we go to learn more about the plans. Jan and Geoff plan to attend.

FSR 437 update: Jan asked if someone on the board could take on the responsibility of coordinating the meetings with the forest service about the future of 437. Shawn volunteered to take this on. Jan has already reached out to inquire about the models used to decide the firefighting drawbacks for decommissioning 437. Board members Leda Kobziar and Geoff Harvey had expressed interest in seeing the data. She will share the Forest Service response when she gets it. The next meeting with the forest service will be sometime in June, although this is the beginning of their busiest season. They are accepting bids on the first 2 phases of Honey Badger, and work will probably start in 2024.

Code violation enforcement: The board was pleased with the attendance and ideas which came out of the May 9 meeting. Jan has written a summary of the meeting which she has distributed for feedback. She is planning to present it to the Planning Commission at their meeting of May 25, along with our support of David Callahan's proposal to increase the daily violation fines to \$1,000/day for the responsible property owner, and possibly also for the contractor. (Callahan is suggesting that the fines be capped at \$20,000, although the HLWA and other workshop attendees felt there should not be a cap.)

The board decided that we learned enough from the May 9 meeting to work on for now, without planning follow-up meetings with the full group.

Geoff suggested that we can do a better job of educating the public living in the watershed about storm water rules and the shoreline buffer zone. He feels that most folks don't understand the irreversible negative impacts of heavy sedimentation runoff events, and how they can be avoided. There was discussion about how to get a mailing list for the target group if we decide to do a mailing.

Barb suggested that contractors practicing responsible erosion control should be recognized at our annual meeting; A “Good Lakeside Construction Erosion Control Practices” award. She will investigate who to nominate.

Hayden Lake Water Levels: Shawn reported that the high-water mark for the spring was 2-3 inches below the high point of the dike. There is less water than last year, but it still seems to be in the normal range.

Wake Monitoring: Shawn volunteered to put a camera/planter on his dock on the south end of the lake near Honeysuckle Bay. Someone also knows of a dock at the south point of McCleans Bay who may be willing to have a camera. It needs to be turned on and off daily and should only be recorded on weekends and holidays. It also has to be within site distance of a legal buoy.

New Business: NRAB grant: Kris Regele of the WID had asked if this grant would be appropriate for an old wooden culvert on Ohio Match Rd. Geoff said that this should be the forest service’s responsibility since they will be using that road for hauling logs for honey badger, and the condition of the haul roads are their direct responsibility.

HLSD: This is the last time we will hear a report about HLSD activities, as Will and Geoff will also be on the HLSD board.

Hayden Lake Yacht Club Fundraiser: The Yacht Club has selected HLWA to be the recipient of its fundraising efforts again this year. The event will be on Saturday, August 12. Barb and Will can be present again this year, which is a huge boost for Jan. Jan is looking for donations for the silent auction. Barb will get her the notebooks from the previous 2 years.

Fire Hydrants servicing on the south end of the lake: Barb’s investigation has shown that the fire hydrants hadn’t been serviced for quite some time. Barb, Will and Geoff went to the last board meeting of North Kootenai Water, as the fire department found that it was the water company’s responsibility to check on the hydrants’ operability, not theirs. The COO of N. Kootenai Water didn’t know anything about this and promised to check into it. Barb had previously submitted a PRR to N. Kootenai Water, but never had a response. She decided to put in a second PRR about their closest hydrant specifically.

The next meeting of the HLWA Board will be on Tuesday, June 27, 2023, at 6 pm via zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.