

Notes from the HLWA Board Meeting held on October 4, 2022:

Present: Geoff Harvey, Barb Neal, Will Neal, Gil Rossner, Shawn Hathaway, Todd Walker, and Jan Wilkins. Attending Public: Mary Ann Stoll

Treasurer's report: A correction was made on a contributor's name. Barb Neal is getting an estimate for liability insurance for the board, which is specified in the by-laws. The annual audit will be on Thursday, Oct. 6.

Technology/Communications report: Will Neal reported that he spoke to Sgt. Ryan Miller at the annual meeting to make sure he gets the links to our excessive wake violations reporting. Miller was interested in identifying the hot spots. Shawn Hathaway suggested that we consider doing links to some of the information Jim Ekins has offered to our membership.

Semi-Annual report: Jan Wilkins will make some changes and send the Presidents message from the annual meeting to Will for posting to the website.

Will said that our privacy policy is on the website, and no one has objected or made comments. The board decided to adopt the policy, and to make a reference to it in an amendment to the bylaws.

OLD BUSINESS:

FSR 437 UPDATE: The Forest Service is anxious for the WID to take over the shooting site berm construction and temporary road closure construction. They do not have the funds currently. They also feel that the messaging will be better accepted coming from our organizations, rather than a federal agency. They will pay for the permanent road closure, scheduled for 2023, and decommissioning, ("re-contouring") out of their budgets. There will be a joint meeting at the site on October 12 with the contractor who has done work for the WID in the past. Mary Ann Stoll is hopeful that we will have an estimate so that the WID board can consider, and possibly make a decision to move forward at their 10/17 board meeting. The Forest Service plans to institute the temporary closure 12/1, after the conclusion of hunting season.

The WID wants a copy of the closure order, prior to beginning the project(s). We discussed PR messages to our members and to the general public from both organizations. The forest service wants the temporary order in place prior to speaking with adjacent landowners.

The board discussed contributing to the funding of the projects. There was unanimous agreement that we should take part financially, but we will wait to see what the estimates are before we can commit to a feasible amount. We agreed that discussion about this subject could be discussed in a group email, and a decision made prior to the WID meeting, as that information will be important for their decision-making process.

COUNTY CODE VIOLATIONS:

Board discussed issues relating to inadequate enforcement of code violations and failures of county required erosion control methods. Also discussed need to include violations in the shoreline management area, in addition to permitted building sites. It was agreed that the importance of these failures be understood by the county commissioners, in particular the incoming commissioner.

County community Development Director David Callahan is anxious for us to support his budget request for a new hire with a civil engineering and/or landscaping background so that erosion control plans can be evaluated prior to their approval. That person would also monitor implementation on the sites. The board agreed that we would rally community support for this request.

We may also publicly support improved erosion control devices like the R tanks, and possibly other changes that would require some code modifications. Steve Myer of the WID was going to speak with the attorney who gave the WID the legal opinions about county enforcement to see if she could recommend an expert who could give us recommendations for improved erosion control methods and shoreline management practices. Jan also suggested that Jim Coleman would have some valuable insight.

An Ad hoc committee was named: Will, Barb, Geoff, Todd, Jan and a member of the WID board, probably Kris Regele (Martz). We will consider expanding the group to include others from outside of the watershed. We will not begin until late fall, via zoom meetings.

WATER LEVEL: Appears to be normal for this time of year. Mary Ann will have the gauge readings for the WID meeting on the 17th.

WAVE MONITORING: Todd and Geoff will work on getting data that could be mentioned in the semi-annual report. Todd has picked up the planter and the cameras.

EXCESSIVE WAKE REPORTING: Feedback from the annual meeting shows that excessive wake violations are the number one concern of the members who attended the meeting, (69%). Weeds and chemicals in the water, was listed as second, and building code violations within the watershed was third at 50%.

Will agreed to do a summary report of the activity reported to our website that we can pass on to the sheriff, the county and the WID. We will also use it for the semi-annual report and urge members and the general public to report to the site again next year so that we can accumulate data and support enforcement efforts. We will recommend that other waterway organizations collect similar data.

FLORA AND FAUNA GUIDE: The board unanimously supported buying 20 of the laminated state flora brochures to be used as a thank you for generous supporters next year. (About \$160.00). The forest service identification of those present in our watershed will be included.

BUOY INSTALL: Mary Ann reported that she and Todd had audited the locations of all the buoys. Only two were out of position. Todd observed that the buoys seem to be in good shape physically, (some after 2 years,) but all lean slightly, probably a result of prevailing winds. It does not affect their efficiency.

HOUSING REPORT: The regional Housing and Growth Issues Partnership is gaining traction. One of their sub-committees, Home Share is going well. Kootenai health and the school district may buy property for subsidized housing for education and healthcare workers. David Callahan said that the BOCC was in favor of a bond to purchase property on the prairie to preserve as county open space. Builders and Developers are supportive of deed restrictions for affordable housing.

GLORIA LUND BENCH: Gil has not heard back from his parks contact at the city of Hayden. He will continue to try and get a hold of him.

AVISTA LETTER: Jan will request a progress update.

NEW BUSINESS:

TMDL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN AND GEOFF'S 22 UPDATE (DRAFT): Geoff gave background of the plan written by the Association in 2009, and later adopted by the WID. When he re-visited the plan to evaluate the current status, he found that a number of goals had been achieved. He noted that several of the identified projects had been completed, and that indicators like water clarity show that the main body of the lake continues to be in good shape. Those numbers have not varied significantly for many years, primarily due to closure of cattle operations, and no significant logging for 25 years. He cautioned that things could change once the forest service starts logging operations again.

The board voted to accept the report as written, once Geoff incorporates a couple of recent additions. Jan will refer to the update in the semi-annual report. The first report and the 2022 update will be available through our website for those who want to read it.

HONEYSUCKLE HILLS DEVELOPMENT WATCH: Members Stacy and Mark Bonilla notified the board that 45+ acres adjacent to Redman's property has been purchased. If combined with Redman's 65 acres, it would be a 110-acre site. It is unknown what if any development plans are pending but the situation warrants monitoring. Will is going to contact Callahan and see if the planning department has been approached yet.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 1, 2022.