

Lake Management Advisory Committee

February 7, 2024 / Hybrid/Zoom

Minutes of the Meeting ~ Revision 1

Town Hall Conference Room

- Call to Order:** **James Santos** is presiding over the meeting for Michael Gnazzo who is traveling. The meeting was called to order by James Santos, Wednesday February 7, 2024 7:04 P.M.
- Present:** Phyllis Dunn, Mike Scalise, Mary Roickle, Robert Powell, Robert Millerd, Greg Stryker, Henry Beck, James Santos, Michael Gnazzo
- Absent:**
- Excused:** Noreen Farrington, David Vanderbilt
- Pledge the Allegiance:**
- Minutes:** Jim Santos, called for a motion to accept the January Minutes. Motion to accept Mary Roickle, 2nd Michael Scalise
Motion Carried
- Guest Speakers:** Brian Auld, Department of Recreation/Marine Patrol
- Audience of Citizens:** Frank Guifford, 15 Erdoni, Columbia
- Communications:** Nothing to report
- Committee Reports:** Adjusting Committee Reports, to Access, Safety, Regulations and Marine Patrol
- Access & Safety:** Brian Auld discussed the procedures they are planning on implementing for 2024 boating season. This will include the application process and boat inspections. The issuing of 2 stickers per boat, easier to be seen to confirm that the boat was inspected by Marine Patrol.
Increase the number of Patrol Agents on the boat to (2) for safety concerns.
Inspections recorded: 153, 28 calls, 49 calls from boat to open gate, 40 stops, 78 not in compliance, 2 individual incidents.
The Town Manager will explore the ability to issue tickets with Resident Trooper.
Marine Patrol will explore the ability to issue tickets with DEEP. DEEP has a specific certification course which addresses this issue.

Permit Review: **Permit Work:** Most permit works on lake walls and dock repairs are complete, near completion or are so minor raising the lake to even -3'6" will not impact those repairs.

Dam: Gate Currently open 12 inches. LMAC's February 7th discussions and recommendation to Mark Walter was to reduce the dam gate to 6" or close the dam gate as soon as possible as the lake's water level on Saturday, February 3rd was at -4'1'. The rationale was to slightly reduce or maintain that a 4' level which begins a slow lake refill pending the precipitation forecast. The reasons for initiating the lake refill included:

- **Weather & Temperatures:** Our weather pattern into March is forecasted as 'quite mild' with only one predicted snow fall. Temperatures are rising and in two weeks will be into the 40's and 50's. With snow melting and rain forecasted it is ideal to begin the refill.
- **Ice is Essentially Gone:** There is no ice on the lake; occasionally we may see a thin sheen. Henry Back shared the days are getting longer and ice that could create any ice jamming will not form in these temperatures.
- **Dam Control Guidelines:** Our guidelines read, " After January 1, depending on varying ice conditions, and extended climatic forecast, the lake filing process may begin. At such time, the Lake may be allowed to rise to 3' 6"- 4' 0" below BWL until all ice is essentially gone. This allows the lake to fill to capacity during the maximum run-off months in the first quarter of the year. Historically, in February, especially with these conditions, is when we start the Spring refill.

Water Quality: No Report

Fishing: No Report

Water Shed Watershed Management Plan: No update.

Storm Water Drainage: After discussing the increased phosphorus levels entering and in the lake which is producing more frequent cyanobacteria algae and native plant growth, Mary Roickle proposed LMAC recommended that Mark Walter utilize \$5130 of the remaining 2023 to 2024 LMAC budget to conduct TRC's Option 4 of Additional Storm Drain Sampling to assess the inflow of total and dissolved phosphorous and total nitrogen into Columbia Lake from the 10 of the main stormwater drainage pipes and/or inlets. This total includes TRC's expenses and the laboratory analysis. Michael Scalise seconded the motion. It was passed unanimously.

LMAC will establish a Sub-committee to review Storm Water Drains. They will assist TRC in determining which 10 water drains to monitor of the 21 drains proposed by TRC . Sub-committee members are:
Mary Roickle, Michael Scalise, James Santos, Robert Millerd

Motion by Phyllis Dunn. That LMAC approve the storm water drain sub-committee to work in conjunction with TRC, the consultants, to determine which of the 10 storm water intakes are the immediate priority. 2nd Robert Millerd. All approved. Motion carried.

Dam Emergency Plan: Nothing to Report

Budget Review: LMAC still within budget. After discussion of TRC's invoices not matching our fiscal year, Mary Roickle proposed that the LMAC budget be adjusted to coincide with the Town of Columbia fiscal year of July 1 through June 30 which would mean that there would be a one-time adjustment in the 2024-2025 budget to accommodate the monthly water quality testing that starts in May of every year. Henry Beck seconded. The motion pass unanimously.

Open Business: Geese Update -Addling – LMAC established a Sub-committee- Mary Roickle, James Santos, Greg Stryker, Mike Scalise

Mary Roickle and James Santos will share responsibility for reporting the outcome of the addling which must commence during March and April.

- Update electrofishing
- Gate repair out to bid pending.
- Boat Launch – Westside Area – Greg Stryker/Manny Landscaping
- Horsepower issue
- Sand issue in cove on Lake rd. from Town beach

- Excel permit link -
- Minicucci/Esposito culvert issue -on going. Town recommended Neighbors work together to solve the run-off issue.

Boat Launch – Westside Area – Greg Stryker/Mario, Manny Landscaping

Adjournment: James Santos called for motion to adjourn. Motion to adjourn, Mary Roickle, 2nd. Mike Scalise All approved Meeting Adjourned 8:20 p.m.

Submitted by
Phyllis Dunn, Secretary