

Waukewan Watershed Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

December 16, 2009

Members Present:

Bruce Bond
Bill Corr
Michelle Therrien
Bob Vogler
Stan Wallerstein
Tim Whiting

Staff Present:

John Edgar
Angela LaBrecque
Bill Edney

Visitors:

Duncan McNeish, WSOA Director
Steve Kahl, UNH Professor

Agenda:

- Approval of minutes of the November 18, 2009 WWAC meeting
- Update on Spear property
- Discussion of the draft of the proposed high risk septic health ordinance
- Discussion of Chloride level in Lake Waukewan (Steve Kahl)
- Other business

Having a quorum, Chairman Bruce Bond called the meeting to order @ 8:05 am.

The **11/18/09 WWAC meeting minutes were approved** as had been drafted.

Spear property status:

- John Edgar brought us up-to-date on the Meredith Conservation Commission's requirements to financially support a portion of the property purchase. The following property deed restrictions would be required:
 - Public access must be allowed.
 - No motorized recreation.
 - No boat launching; okay for kayaks or canoes to stop there for picnics.
 - Will propose no fires & no camping. Will propose no hunting.
- It would be the Town of New Hampton's obligation to see that the restrictions were honored, but a covenant would be included giving the Town of Meredith the right to enforce the restrictions should New Hampton not be able to fulfill their obligation.
- A motion was made and seconded – That the WWAC fully supports the acquisition of the 8.5 acre Spear property in the Town of New Hampton to be put in conservation for the purpose of protecting the Waukewan Watershed. The motion passed unanimously.

Septic System Health Ordinance Review:

- John Edgar provided a copy to all present of the 12/14/09 draft for *A Health Ordinance pertaining to the Regulation of subsurface wastewater disposal systems in the Lake Waukewan Watershed*.
- John then led a discussion reviewing the entire 10 page document. The discussion was excellent and thorough. John Edgar took the action to consider many of the comments/suggestions that were made.
- One significant issue was regarding the waste disposal "adequacy" of those 30 some properties that have no septic design on record. John will discuss this with David Ames to define "adequacy" in this regard. The meeting with David Ames will occur AFTER the members of the WWAC have had an opportunity comment on the 12/14/09 draft by the end of next week. These comments are to be sent directly to Bruce who will forward to the Septic System committee.

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Chloride levels in the lake:

- Angela invited Steve Kahl from UNH to this meeting for the purpose of getting a better understanding of chloride and other threats to a lake.
- It is Steve's opinion that rain water runoff into the lake is the major threat to the lake. Runoff carries the many chemicals that exist on the land surfaces into the lake.
- Chloride level increases and conductivity level increases are indicators that the lake is receiving many non-native substances that are harmful to the water quality.
- Chloride itself is not a significant issue, but it is advisable to try to minimize its addition to the lake.
- Runoff is best managed by having the rain water infiltrated into the ground and not flowing into the lake. Minimizing impervious surfaces by using pervious asphalt or concrete helps the infiltration process and Steve says it is shown that the use of pervious asphalt/concrete requires 80% less road salt to keep the roadways safe. A second method to manage runoff is to plant rain gardens in the paths of the runoff to the lake. The rain gardens help absorb the runoff and its harmful chemicals.
- Bob Vogler researched the source of the statement in Melissa Greenawalt-Yelle's master thesis document on page 47 – "... past research has indicated that, above concentrations of 10 mg/L chloride, phytoplankton were replaced by blue-green algae, many of which are responsible for toxic blooms in lakes." Melissa references this statement to the Environmental Protection Agency document - EPA 440/5-88-001. On page 5 of the EPA 440/5-88-001 document, the paragraph says – "Eyster (1962) reported that a concentration of 0.18 mg/L stimulated the growth of many algae, and Sonzogni et al. (1983) discussed the possibility that concentrations above 10 mg/L might shift phytoplankton communities toward nuisance, taste-and-odor-causing blue-green algae." As I read this, the word "might" jumps out at me as meaning it is not known that chloride at 10 mg/L is an issue, but it "might" be. Steve Kahl had no further information to add to this clarification.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:49 am.

Next Meeting: Wednesday 1/20/10 at 8:00 am in the Town Hall Annex.

Minutes submitted by Bob Vogler.

These minutes were approved at the 1/20/10 WWAC as had been updated.