



BLACK LAKE SPECIAL DISTRICT

Black Lake Special District Meeting
Monday, October 21, 2024 • 6:15 pm • Via Zoom

MINUTES:

1. Call to Order – **Chair Stintzi called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm.**
2. Roll Call – **Chair Stintzi established a quorum.**
 - a. Present
 - i. Lake Stintzi
 - ii. Kirk Van Landeghen
 - iii. Cory Freeborn
3. Approval of Agenda – The agenda was approved by consensus.
4. Approval of Consent Agenda – **It was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.**
 - a. August 19, 2024 Minutes
 - b. Financials
 - c. Payment Transmittal and Invoices
5. Old Business
 - a. Carlos Herrera – Carlos reported his shoreline was treated in July even though he had requested “no treatment.” Mr. Herrera feels in general herbicides should be used as a last resort. He expressed concern that herbicides don't discriminate between native and invasive species, killing both. He stated that herbicides cause significant damage to the near-shore environment and fisheries, particularly affecting bass and panfish. Overall, Carlos seems to advocate for more careful and limited use of herbicides and pesticides in lake management. Mr. Herrera suggested changing the program from opt-out to opt-in, meaning property owners would need to actively request treatment rather than having to request no treatment. He suggested making the opt-out status permanent until a property owner decides to opt in, rather than requiring annual opt-out requests. He recommended establish herbicide-free zones in certain public areas around the lake. Specifically, he suggested:
 - i. The north end of the lake, which he refers to as a habitat area.
 - ii. The southern part of the lake, from just north of his property to Donna's property, which he describes as a nice beach and habitat.
 - iii. The area on Black Lake Belmont Avenue, which he believes is publicly owned.
 - b. Mr. Herrera suggested hiring teenagers to hand pull weeds around docks and using weed barriers.
6. New Business
 - a. Resolution #24-02 regarding aquatic plant control – Chair Stintzi shared the draft resolution and requested Commissioners review the draft considering testimony presented.
 - b. Draft resolution to define how we should operate for plant control – Chair Stintzi shared the draft resolution and requested Commissioners review the draft considering testimony presented.
 - c. Draft signage for “no plant control” – Chair Stintzi shared the draft signage and requested Commissioners review the draft considering testimony presented.
 - d. Ditch Maintenance – There are beaver dams in the Black Lake Ditch that are causing lake levels to elevate. The city recently annexed approximately 5,000' feet of land surrounding the ditch, where the dams are predominately located. Chair Stintzi shared information with the City of Tumwater about Black Lake Ditch flows, its choking with vegetation, impacts from development, and its history, and requested



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the city address flows by disrupting the dams. Because the dams are not impacting City of Tumwater infrastructure, the city is not willing to disrupt the dams and address issues impacting the Black Lake Ditch and subsequently the lake. There is no controlling jurisdiction taking responsibility, since Drainage District 101 was declared abandoned in 1973 and the land was remanded to Thurston County. Thurston County maintained the ditch until the City of Tumwater annexation.

- i. Chair Stintzi proposed the Black Lake Special District take over ditch maintenance. The 5,000' area proposed for beaver dam modification would require a permit and careful execution of the work. Commissioners reviewed a sample of the type of permit required and discussed contractors in the area that may be able to perform the work according to the requirements of the permit. There is a provider in the area that has expressed interest in performing the work and helping the BLSD with permitting.
 - e. Commissioners reviewed maps showing the ditch within Tumwater city limits and an aerial photo with elevations.
 - f. Permit required from WDFW for "Beaver Dam Modification". Permit cost is estimated to be less than \$500 for 5 years. Labor might be \$3,000 - \$6,000 per year. Permit sample attached
 - g. **It was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously to move ahead with the first step of dam mitigation and beaver control, which include applying for and paying for a permit for dam work.** Mr. Herrera volunteered to send information to the BLSD regarding the use of water diverters to mitigate beaver dam impact. Beaver transplant to another area requires approval of the owner of the land receiving the beavers. The land receiving the beavers must be a reasonable habitat for beavers.
7. Items from the Floor
- a. Commissioner Vanlandeghen recommended hiring a limnologist to learn more about the vegetation around the lake. *OrgSupport will add 'Aquatic Plant Survey' to the next agenda for Commissioner Vanlandeghen to share information about updating the existing survey.*
8. Public Communication – *Limit of 3 minutes per person. Meeting minutes will only reflect the name of the person speaking.
- a. Esther Kronenberg
 - b. Pat McFayden
 - c. Carlos Herrera
 - d. Rob Annear
 - e. Mark Rosenkranz
9. Adjournment of Public Meeting – **With no further business, Chair Stintzi adjourned the meeting at 7:05 pm.**

Next Meeting: November 18, 2024