

LOOMIS LAKE WORKING GROUP

Notes from Meeting with Pacific County Commissioners

August 14, 2014

Pacific County, Long Beach Offices
Conference Room A

Attendees:

Pacific County Commissioner Lisa Ayers
Pacific County Commissioner Frank Wolfe
Pacific County Commissioner Steve Rogers
Pacific County Engineer Mike Collins
Janet Easley, Tides West resident
Nadine Long, Tides West resident
Maggie Bloomgarden, Tides West resident
Lynda Cangemi, Tides West resident
Dennis Winston, Tides West resident
Pam Reynolds, Sunset Sands resident

1. Janet Easley began the meeting by introducing our group and thanking the commissioners and engineer for meeting with us. She gave the commissioners a description of the problems in Loomis Lake and passed pictures of the invasive plants clogging the lake.

2. Maggie and Nadine explained about past treatments, successes and failures. The lake was treated in 2002 but did not receive retreatment necessary to maintain weed control. We learned that an interested group must remain vigilant.

3. Mike Collins asked if the weed control was sprayed on. Nadine said she believed it was. Steve Rogers asked if we had discussed possible dredging since the lake is so shallow.

4. Janet reported on the input she received from the Department of Ecology and described our meetings as a group, including our meeting with the WA Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Pacific/Grays Harbor Conservation District and the WA Department of Natural Resources.

5. Frank Wolfe explained that they were aware of the long term progression of the lake to a meadow if the lake is not maintained.

6. A letter was shared with the commissioners that our group proposes to send to the owners of lake front property. Mike Collins said we should confirm the county property owner list with the assessor's office and he could expedite a map and current list for us from his office if we could come to South Bend to get it. Contact Tim Tresh at the assessor's office

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7. A public meeting would be needed to determine the goals and methods of treating the lake. A large group of interested citizens would be helpful.

8. The subject of dredging the lake was discussed and Mike Collins told us building an island in the lake with the dredged material had been discussed in the past. And other possibilities were: depositing it in the State Park or use it to build suggested tsunami refuge berm. This would all be a long term solution.

9. Janet said we understand that a survey will be needed to assess weeds growing in the lake and the needed treatment. Perhaps Jeff Nesbitt, Director of the Pacific County Department of Vegetation Management and Todd Brownlee from the Department of Natural Resources could do this. Maybe the old survey and Aquatic Plant Management Plan of 2001 could be updated. Either the Conservation District or the Department of Community Development may have a copy of that.

10. The group is hoping to have a meeting in early October of lakefront property owners, interested members of the public and biologists, and led by a facilitator to be supplied by Mike Nordin. Janet told the commissioners we would welcome them at the meeting to share their input. The purpose of the meeting will be to determine if there is consensus about what the goals for the lake should be: treat the noxious weeds, sanitize the lake of all living plant materials, do nothing, etc. Discussion of possible methods of treatment of the weeds would also be described by the biologists present.

11. All commissioners would like to be involved and would attend public meetings when their schedules allow it. They recommend we ask the Pacific/Grays Harbor Conservation District led by Mike Nordin to be the lead agency.

12. Steve Rogers requested to receive all the updates and minutes from our meetings.

13. Frank Wolfe also recommended we contact State Representative Brian Blake as he has a good rapport with the Department of Ecology. Another to contact is Ron Craig of South Bend (360-875-6402) who is knowledgeable about restoration.

14. The Aquatic Species Act might be worth consulting for additional funding sources.

15. Lisa Ayers suggested that a group such as ours needs to be formally constituted with a President, etc. to ensure continuity and longevity.

Respectfully submitted: Pam Reynolds