

Lower Nipit Improvement District
Annual General Meeting
July 22, 2007
2:00 PM

Held at Kaleden Community Hall

Meeting was called to order by George Windsor at 2:10 PM.

There were 20 members in attendance.

George Windsor introduced the Executive and the Treasurer and Secretary.

Minutes of 2006 AGM were distributed. Motion by Terry Bellinger to accept the Minutes, 2nd by Anne Geary. Call for discussion, no comments. Motion carried all in favour.

Financial Reports: A copy of the annual Audit Financial Statements is available on request for viewing.

Financial Report given by Christa Black: Balance Sheet:

Current Account Balance:	\$ 8,742.81
Term Deposits:	\$10,357.93 Matures September 2007
	\$10,115.00 Matures January 2008

Decision made to split each term deposit upon renewal date into two and stagger the maturity dates to ensure that there is option for redemption more frequently during the year if the necessity arises.

Honoraria paid out January to June in the amount of \$2,520. There are 3 levy accounts not yet paid for the year.

Operating Budget for the 2007 year distributed.

Trustee Report:

Betty Purdy obtained signs "No Gas Powered Engines Allowed on Lake" for placement at entrance to the lake. The signs have been posted. This year there was a reduction in the incidence of snowmobiles on the lake.

Bob Wilson researched the feasibility of bear proof garbage cans for the boat launch access area. The cost and management of these was found to be prohibitive. No further action taken. Bob does have the information available for review by membership.

Water Level markers were obtained and installed in front of pump housing. A non legal 'low water' mark was determined that met needs of all properties. This mark will be used as a warning mark should the lake reach previous high levels. Measurements are being taken regularly and will be posted on the website. No water to the lake was received via Turtle Pond this year. However, the pond did fill and Lower Nipit Lake did crest 7 inches higher than the first spring measurement.

Water clarity is also being tested regularly using Secchi disk. Currently the clarity is approximately 4 to 4 ½ meters.

Bob Wilson has been working with Vic Jensen of the Ministry of Environment to complete "Profiling" tests of the lake. Readings are being taken regularly of the oxygen levels in the lake. Total dissolved oxygen in June 2007 was recorded at: 8 ppm at surface (temperature 18 Celsius) and 0.41 ppm at 8 meters (temperature 4 Celsius)

Water Analysis has been performed and will continue thru the season. Water samples are sent to *Caro Environmental Testing*. Current test finds the water acceptable at 1 cfu/100 mls. Residents are cautioned about drinking water from wild lake and encouraged to boil water if necessary to use.

Discussion:

Question raised as to the importance of oxygen in the bottom of lake. Further information on this matter can be found in the BC Lake Stewardship & Monitoring Program newsletter titled: *Twin (Nipit) Lake 1999 – 2003*. A copy of this will be made available on request to the executive.

Question raised as to the necessity of posting further signs on the lake. George responded "With the installation of the signs we have seen a decrease in the incidence of snowmobiles on the lake."

Question raised as to the mandate of the LNID and that the mandate is the controlling of high water. Clarification given by Terry Bellinger as to the original mandate of the LNID which was formed to ensure that excess pumping by a local farmer did not continue without some consultation with the landowners on the lake. Later it was the mechanism for lowering the lake in a very high water (flood) season.

Question raised as to the necessity and usefulness of the website. General discussion agreed that the website certainly is still under construction and that the executive will continue to improve the information on there. Some discussion as to whether letters to the executive and members should be posted on the website. This will be taken under advisement by the board and discussed at the next Trustees' meeting. George requested that if anyone has ideas of what specifically they would like to see on the website, that they send an email suggesting such.

Question raised as to the situation with Horn Lake and the release of any water to Lower Nipit. George responded that he had recently received information on the standards for release from the Ministry of Water and Water Stewardship. The understanding the Executive now has is that Lower Nipit is allowed to take water from Horn Lake between July and September, when the water level at Horn Lake reaches the spillway. Currently the water is not at spillway. Further investigation on the dam, the trampling of the waterway by cattle and the LNID ability to clear waterway, is being undertaken. LNID has been informed that in the event we reach high water levels (in the future) it will be optimal to pump from the lake in March. This information will be given by the Ministry.

Question raised as to why water did not flow to the lake. George responded with Turtle Pond did fill, but water did not spill along creek to lake. However the lake levels did go up which would indicate ground water seepage.

Discussion ensued and it was pointed out that there have been many drought years of late and it would appear that the aquifers are refilling first before surface water is moving. It was also

mentioned that although the province in general had experienced high snow pack levels in the mountains, our watershed did not experience the same high snow pack levels.

Old Business:

Mr. McInnes noted that the AGM minutes from 2006 state: "Will however need better legal access to control Water Gate & Water storage license of Horn Lake. Therefore will continue to work with RDOS." Mr. McInnes stated that RDOS has nothing to do with the above and this should have been caught in the minutes. George agreed with Mr. McInnes position and confirmed that he is working directly with the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection and the Water Stewards Office.

Mr. McInnes indicated that a motion was made to "explore further the LNID mandate to the RDOS" in the AGM minutes from 2006. He asked if he would be hearing anything regarding this at this meeting. George stated that he had determined with the RDOS that they would require the completion of the 'right of way accesses with Twin R Ranches and the Blacks. The paperwork is currently being updated and he has initiated contact with Mr. McPherson to resolve. He also indicated that further investigation of the feasibility and cost factor of joining the RDOS and disbanding the LNID would have to be done. This is on his agenda.

Mr. McInnes indicated that he felt the AGM minutes should have been sent out along with Notice of Meeting to allow for a review of errors and omissions. George agreed that it would have been a good idea and would be done in the future. As well minutes of the meeting will be posted on the website.

Mr. McInnes noted that the Trustees' Meeting Minutes are not posted in a timely manner. George responded that he attempts to post them as quickly as possible, but waits until all the Trustees have had the opportunity to view the minutes for errors or omissions. This usually happens at the subsequent meeting. Thus the delay in posting minutes.

New Business:

LNID received a letter from Bill Wells, President of Aiken S Ranches Ltd. Wherein it was requested a resolution to re-structure the annual assessment to maintain a minimum cash position between \$28,000 and \$32,000. The executive supports this resolution. A motion was made by JD Thomas to accept the resolution and it was seconded by Vic Jeremy. Carried with no opposition.

Lower Nipit Lake was stocked with 1500 Rainbow and 1500 Brook Trout this spring.

Discussion on the development a secretary position for the executive. George explained that there is sufficient work to be done and the division of the workload helps to ensure the volunteers can still manage personal and business life. The position is not an elected position. Executive wants to ensure the membership is accepting of the position. Debora Webb moved to confirm the addition of Secretary position to the LNID. Seconded by Wayne Whitehead. Question raised on the value obtained for the honoraria paid. General discussion by membership indicated no specific concerns. Motion carried, none opposed.

Election of Trustee: Betty Purdy's tenure is over. Call for nominations. Val Windsor nominated Betty Purdy. Betty accepted the nominations. 2nd and 3rd call for nominations. No further nominations. Betty returned as Trustee for 3 year period by acclamation.

Terry Bellinger moved to accept the LNID Auditor as White Kennedy. Motion 2nd by Val Windsor. Carried, no opposing.

Question Period:

Dead fish found along lake at Westview Road. All indications are this is a normal phenomenon.

Discussion on the paving or resurfacing of Westview and Eastview Roads. It was noted that during severe rain there was some washout. This may need to be stabilized. Not mandate of LNID, however the Executive will look into information.

Public Accesses: Who is responsible for the upkeep and clearing? Forestry or Department of Highways. Some general discussion on whether clearing this access would encourage too much external usage when there are no provision for dealing with parking, garbage or illegal tenting. Agreed in principal that the locals are aware of the access and use them as needed and that is sufficient. No further action by LNID.

Note to membership: Recently property on Westview Road was broken into and several items were taken. Discussion to help watch out for each others property. Get to know your neighbours!

Discussion on Fire Protection. Currently there is forestry protection. There has been some discussion at the RDOS regarding the formation of a community or volunteer fire program. This is not LNID mandate. Further information can be obtained at RDOS. Suggest that as a community we should be prepared to help our neighbours by responding with assistance (shovels, buckets) if a loud banging (pots and pans?) noise is heard on lake.

Further discussion on the mandate of LNID. Question raised if the mandate was to protect individual's properties who had built/purchased at end of lake where 'high water mark' is lower. Clarification received from Mr. Bellinger that the original mandate of LNID was to ensure that water was not over pumped from the lake for agricultural irrigation purposes. At a later date flood control and the controlled pumping of the lake to lower high water levels was the mandate. In the past century it is believed that flooding has happened twice. It is not currently an item of concern.

George responded that his mandate is to communicate with the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection (Environment) to ensure we can react to high water levels when and if necessary. He will also be trying to facilitate the release of water from Horn Lake to replenish LNID. Discussion ensued that currently the priority for the LNID is to attempt to protect the fragile environment of the lake.

Motion to adjourn meeting made by JD Thomas. Seconded by Dave Bushby. Carried no opposing. Meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm.