

Lakes and Beaches Committee

meeting minutes

April 1, 2024

6:00 pm

Members present: Kent Campbell-Chair, Brian Fink, Greg Kirkpatrick, Tom Selm, Mark Winchester. The meeting recording was not captured, therefore a summary is provided.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm, immediately followed by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. The agenda reviewed and approved after addition of fish size limits as a topic for discussion. Committee members were thanked for their commitment and hard work.

The Clean Flo bathymetric studies were completed by Dave Grote on March 25th and 26th. The studies included maximum depth and topography, dissolved oxygen levels in the deepest portions of each lake, water samples for analysis, and lake floor composition (bedrock vs “muck”). A “tare” was determined for each lake so future treatment/depth analysis are accurate. A completed report and

recommendations/options for improvement of the lakes' health is anticipated within one month.

Next, the importance of reducing further matter from entering the lakes from runoff began. Potential solutions were discussed, including options to slow flow into the lakes, debris collection mechanisms, catch basins, etc. Each committee member was asked to contact at least one resource for achieving this goal before our next gathering, including a discussion with the Jefferson County Stormwater Department.

There is a concern that the game fish populations in Raintree lakes are stunted, or even declining. Brian Fink reviewed data collected from the monthly fishing tournaments here at Raintree over the last several years. Previous discussions with John Schulte, MDC Fish Biologist, had illustrated the need for such data before making recommendations on fish harvesting which would be inconsistent with our current fishing rules. Harvest recording was historically not well received by the community (few people actually completed/submitted the forms despite convenient access and drop off for them). John Schulte's opinion on proceeding with a fish harvest program given the tournament records versus awaiting electrofishing results will be sought.

The rinse station for Autumn Lake beach was discussed. A high level review included potential placement of the rinse station near the stairs leading to the beach. Restrictions of using any soaps, detergents, or other chemicals which would be prohibited as the rinse station would drain into the lake. Further, the water would not be heated or cooled. Given these parameters, the committee felt it appropriate to survey beachgoers regarding the use of water from the lake, and potentially a hand pump to avoid continued costs of county water and electricity for a pump. The survey

would also ask about design, specifically the height of the spray/nozzle or a flexible hose, as well as their opinion on the maximum amount of funds which should be spent.

Food services at Autumn Lake beach were discussed. Committee members present all agreed no vendor would be given exclusivity at any time. All vendors must complete a Events Oversight form in order to participate in food sales at the beach. No vendor will receive any guaranteed minimum. It was suggested we explore charging the vendors a small "rental/lease" fee each time they are here. It was also noted that Four Lakes has been approached regarding their ability to provide food/delivery to the beach. Four Lakes plans to review this further and get back in touch.

Lastly, a concern was voiced regarding some larger fish being harvested and transplanted to other bodies of water, likely privately owned. Doing so does not violate our current fishing rules. Following a short discussion, it was decided a rule requiring fish of a certain size be released back into the water, but waiting until we receive the MDC recommendations regarding fish harvest and slot restrictions.

2024 boat, PWC, trailer, and auto stickers, as well as hang tags, are not available and required as of April 1st.

The next meeting will be May 6th at 6:00 pm at the POA office.

Respectfully submitted,

Kent Campbell, Chair

