

Lake Lawrence Lake Management District Steering Committee

15735 Topaz Dr. SE
Yelm, WA 98597



1. **6:30 PM Call to Order** – Co-Chair Barry Halverson called the LLLMD Meeting on October 17, 2024, to order at 6:30PM. Steering Committee (SC) provided self-introductions.

SC Members Present: Barry Halverson (Co-Chair), Jim Biehl (Co-Chair), Ken Stewart, Terry Stewart, and John Carpenter. A quorum was present, so the meeting continued.

SC Members Absent: Stephen Slater, Steve Slater, Janice Leitzke and Isaac Smith

Members Present: Ann Carpenter

Government Staff: None

2. **6:32 PM Approval of Agenda** – **MOTION: SC Member John Carpenter moved to approve the agenda. SC Member Terry Stewart seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**
3. **6:32 PM Approval of July 18, 2024, Meeting Minutes** – Barry read the 18 July meeting minutes.
MOTION: SC Member Ken Stewart moved to approve the July 18, 2024, meeting minutes. SC Member Jim Biehl seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
4. **6:45 PM Public Communications** – No one wished to make any statements/testimony.
5. **6:46 PM Recurring/Continued Business:**
Budget – Barry Halverson – Provided an overview of the budget report as of October 2024 noting that the County has not provided an updated budget report since June 2024. Although we know what we have spent and submitted invoices for (see page two of budget report) we have no idea what our revenue has been since June or what County administrative costs have been. Issues on County charges for Salaries and Payroll are still a concern. Awaiting County working out Admin Rate process.
6. **6:55 PM Old Business**
Lake Level/Temps – Frank Hudik provided updated information prior to the meeting that was presented by Barry Halverson – Surface water temperature was 56 degrees on 11 Oct. It fluctuates from 40-41 degrees in the winter months (December – February) to 81-82 degrees during the summer months (July – September). A bit higher lake temperature than previous year now. Lake levels peaked in April at 2.56, approximately six inches above the dam level. The water level is currently at 0.60. For reference the dam level is 2.4. The water level is at its low point for the year.
Yellow Flag Iris (YFI) Floating Islands – Frank Hudik provided updated information prior to the meeting that was presented by Barry Halverson – 3 September Representative Wilcox met with State Agency representatives Fish & Wildlife, Department of Natural Resources and Department of Ecology. Ecology will provide a decision tree for LMD Costs, processes (permits). POC for Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) provided to discuss dredging options/cost. ACE POC was contacted. Working on a date to brief. Wilcox recommended LMD consider submitting a Local Community Funding Request to study human effects on natural succession of lake (Eutrophication).
Senate Bill S-3518.1 – On June 24th all LMDs in the State (24 of them) sent a letter back to DFW addressing their concerns, agreeing with some and disagreeing with others. Requested DFW provide a response to that letter by the end of July 2024. 2 September LMD send email to Department of Fish and Wildlife asking for a response to their 24 June email. As of this meeting nothing has been received from DFW. On 18 October prior to writing these minutes DFW sent a responsive letter. It will be sent to all LMDs in the state for comment.
Cyanobacteria Management Plan (CMP) – Toxic Algae Plan – Public meeting on 25 July went well. Not many showed up. Lake and ground survey conducted between LMD SC members and contractor prior to meeting. The contractor

completed lake sediment sampling on 25 September. The contractor and County Environmental Health (EH) are still working with WA State Department of Ecology on the Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP). Currently in the final stages of approval. Should have signatures on plan by end of next week. The contractor received approval from Ecology to conduct the sediment sampling in advance of QAPP approval. Our two volunteers that do water level monitoring are on track with weekly measurements. Water testing/monitoring occurring between October 1, 2024, and September 31, 2025. Final report due no later than June 1, 2026. Process will include at least two public meetings and three SC meetings with contractor. Proposed dates are Thursdays, 22 May 2025, 11 December 2025, 16 April 2026 and 11 June 2026. **Dates approved by SC.**

2024 LMD Invasive/Nuisance Aquatic Weed Treatment Plan - Final Curly Pondweed treatment conducted 29 July. The cost was \$29,000. Working to set up a meeting with contractor to discuss 2024 treatment and treatment for 2025.

2024 LMD Fragrant Water Lily Treatment – During the LMD lake survey in July it was determined that over .5 acres of Fragrant Water Lily was growing around the shoreline of the lake. A contract was issued to AquaTechnex for \$2,500. The treatment was initially delayed because of rain, but finally completed on 19 September at a cost of \$2,700. Results are positive although we will not really know until mid-summer next year.

Thurston County Lake Management District Standard Operating Procedures (TC LMD SOP) –The SOP is on the first page of the website at: www.lakelawrencelakemanagementdistrict.com. All LMDs in the County have quarterly meetings with the County Assistant Manager. The meeting for 24 September has been rescheduled to 23 October.

LMD Renewal 2027 – This process has begun. Communities/private parcel owners around the lake that want to have a meeting to discuss what this means please contact Barry to schedule. A sub-committee has been formed. Anyone wanting to participate please contact Barry. Here are some of the things being considered:

LMD Duration (10-35 years) – If we are going to start any type of toxic algae mitigation program, we need to have a longer duration LMD to reap the benefits of that program. It is costly and needs to be sustained for years to be effective. Long Lake renews their LMD next year and has submitted their initial petition for a 20-year LMD with a 15% across the board rate increase. All other LMDs in the county have much higher LMD rates than Lake Lawrence.

LMD rates & charges – Do we want to change how we charge LMD rates to align with other LMDs throughout the state? Lake Lawrence rates are the cheapest in the state and would not be sufficient to sustain an algae management program. What do we want our LMD to focus on moving forward? Do we want it to just focus on control of Noxious, Invasive and Nuisance Vegetation, which we are doing now. Or do we want to continue to do that, but take the next step in lake management and add algae (toxic algae) management to get a cleaner/healthier lake? The \$50,000 grant we applied for this year and received will prepare us for that next step if we decide to take it. That step will cost more, but the rewards will be reduced toxic algae blooms and a lake with water you will enjoy recreating in.

What do we want our LMD to do moving forward:

- Toxic Algae mitigation (will cost more and will raise LMD fees).
- Continue to control Noxious, Invasive and Nuisance Vegetation (this is what we do now).
- Will require community involvement/volunteers.

Action Items - Were discussed. Nothing new since July. See SC meeting presentation for details on action items – found on website under documents.

7. 7:30 PM New Business –

August Lake Survey Results – 20 August survey showed Curly Pondweed had been eliminated. Due to seed production this plant will return for several years. Other aquatic vegetation in areas treated with SC showed signs of stress. Tape Grass was not impacted by treatment and seemed to be wider spread. Areas not treated showed elevated levels of aquatic vegetation resulting in a contract for weed harvesting.

Weed Harvesting – Survey on 9 July showed a large amount of nuisance aquatic vegetation in most littoral areas. The survey committee recommended contracting a weed harvester. The cost was expected to be approximately \$1,000 per acre not including tax and disposal of weeds. Total costs were \$20,000.

2025 LMD Invasive/Nuisance Aquatic Weed Treatment Plan – We have budgeted \$70,000 for 2025 aquatic weed control. The 20 August 2024 Lake survey is the basis for developing our plan with the contractor for 2025. We are currently working to schedule a virtual meeting with the contractor for some time this month or next. Our initial surveys in 2025 will confirm or alter our plan for 2025. Our plan will be to expand the treatment area for Curly Pondweed to approximately 30 acres in the southern portion of our lake that were not treated in 2024. This will increase costs.

2025 LMD Fragrant Water Lily Treatment Plan – As we have done in the past our Lake Survey in July will inform our decision to either initiate a contract to treat FWL or not. In 2024 approximately 2.5 acres were treated at a cost of \$2,700.

2025 LMD Yellow Flag Iris Treatment Plan - This program will continue at a cost of \$1,500 to the LMD. Letters to those receiving treatment in 2025 will be emailed 7 January.

Weed Harvesting – During our survey on 9 July most of the littoral areas showed heavy concentrations of aquatic vegetation. The LMD SC voted to work to obtain a harvest contract for the 15.5 acres of shoreline area that were not being treated for Curly Pondweed. That contract was put in place on 25 July. A work order was issued on 2 August and harvesting was performed 12-15 August. The cost was about \$1,500 per acre. The total cost was \$20,000. 14.83 tons (29,668 pounds)/9.57 Cubic Yards of vegetation was removed from 15.5 acres.

Questions: Should we do this again, if necessary? SC wanted to see what weed density is next year, but felt harvesting should be considered.

State of the Lake Report – A final draft copy of the State of the Lake Report was sent to all SC members, a copy posted on our website and the report was discussed at our annual meeting 28 September and at our SC meeting 17 October. Once approved the final, signed copy will be sent to all county commissioners, our elected state representatives and other designated individuals and agencies. The most significant part of this report is the over 900 hours of volunteer effort by our LMD members during 2024. Thank you to all of you. We could not do it without you.

MOTION: SC Member John Carpenter moved to approve the 2024 State of Lake Lawrence Report. SC Member Ken Stewart seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

2025 Budget Decisions –

- Cancel USPS Post Office Box Mid December 2024 and use the Lake Lawrence Community Club (LLCC) address for our mail. This was approved by the LLCC Board on 9 Oct. This will save LMD \$166 a year. Will need to purchase a new address stamp at a cost of \$20.78. Our new mailing address will be:

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- Purchase one case of printer paper - \$43.58 at COSTCO.
- Purchase 6 ea. file storage boxes from AMAZON - \$21.89.
- Purchase on ONN Fix 32-86 TV Wall Mount from Walmart to mount flat screen TV on LLCC lower lodge - \$21.77.
- Contract for 671 5x8 post card mailers in January 2025 to send to all members announcing our 2025 meeting dates – Approximate cost \$450.00.
- Contract for 180 5x8 post card mailers in March/April to send to all shoreline members announcing weed treatment for 2025 – Approximate cost \$250.00.
- Requesting approval of \$806 +/- 10% for above purchases/contracts

MOTION: SC Member John Carpenter moved to approve expenses. SC Member Jim Biehl seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussed installation of warning signs on south end of lake – Due to low water/large rocks. Recommend installing three signs on steel signposts with tamper proof bolts and nuts at a cost of approximately \$386+ tax +/- 10%. To be purchased in March/April and installed in May 2025. DNR/DFW/County Sheriff have been contacted and have no problem with this.

MOTION: SC Member Ken Stewart moved to approve the purchase. SC Member John Carpenter seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Annual Meeting & BBQ Costs – Food \$185.84, Handouts \$47.02 for a total of \$232.86.

MOTION: SC Member Ken Stewart moved to approve reimbursement of expenses. SC Member John Carpenter seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Annual Meeting After Action review – 22 members present. Good presentations by Environmental Health and Community Planning and Economic Development – YouTube Video of presentation posted on Lake Lawrence YouTube Channel: https://youtu.be/j7kyE_PVZKo. What to do next year? There was considerable discussion. SC decided to hold next years annual meeting on a Thursday evening (from 6:30-8:30 PM) and purchase cake/donuts with coffee/tea to eat during the meeting. 2025 meeting dates below reflect that change.

2025 Meetings (6:30-8:30 p.m. unless otherwise stated) –

Thursday 20 February 2025 (virtual) – LMD Renewal Work Session
Thursday 20 March 2025 (Virtual) – LMD SC Meeting
Thursday 15 May 2025 (In Person) – LMD SC Meeting
Thursday 22 May 2025 – 1 hour (virtual) 6:30-7:30 p.m. – CMP Meeting
Thursday 17 July 2025 – (Virtual) – LMD SC Meeting
Thursday 25 September 2025 – (In Person) LMD Annual Meeting
Thursday 16 October 2025 (In Person) – LMD SC Meeting
Thursday 11 December 2025 (Virtual) – LMD CMP Meeting

Lake Surveys

2025 Lake Surveys (9-11:30 a.m.) –
Saturday 19 April 2025
Tuesday 13 May 2025
Tuesday 10 June 2025
Tuesday 24 June 2025
Tuesday 8 July 2025
Tuesday 19 August 2025

MOTION: SC Member Ken Stewart moved to approve 2025 meeting & survey dates. SC Member Jim Biehl seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

8. **8:25 PM Good of the Order** Prior to the start of the meeting several members asked about the article in the Nisqually Valley News regarding the Deschutes Estuary. Barry provided a summary of the issue to members present.
9. **8:40 PM Adjourn** – With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:28 pm.

October 17, 2024, Meeting Minute Attachments: None, however all presentation slides and information from meeting are posted on the website.

Prepared by Barry Halverson

Barry Halverson, Co-Chair