

Village of Wauconda  
Minutes of Environmental Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, July 25, 2011, 3:30 PM

Committee Members Present:

Chuck Black, Chair  
Ken Arnsward  
Linda Starkey

Mayor and Trustees Present:

Mayor Mark Knigge

Public Works Department Employees Present:

Jackie Soccorso, Superintendent of Administration

Meeting called to order at 3:34 P.M. by Chair Black.

Chair Black welcomed Ed Lochmayer and John Lambert, Co-Chairs of the Bangs Lake Advisory Committee (BLAC) to the meeting. He changed the order of the agenda items such that items C and D were moved ahead of items A and B. This was to accommodate the BLAC co-chairs. Chair Black indicated that he plans to schedule Environmental Committee meetings two weeks after each BLAC meeting. He stated this will help to keep the momentum going.

The first item discussed was the lake level and lake restrictions. Ed Lochmayer stated that BLAC would be bringing forward a recommendation to change the current SOP such that the flow control bars would be left in place until November. He stated that boating season extends to November and if the bars are pulled at the end of September, that the lake drains too quickly. This has a negative impact on boaters and fisherman. It also makes it more difficult to remove the boats at the end of the season for storage. Director Soccorso gave a brief history of the SOP that was developed in 2008 to manage the water level in the lake. She stated that the initial SOP called for removing the bars on or about Sept 30<sup>th</sup>, but BLAC wanted it changed to the end of October. The SOP was changed at their request. However, that year, the Village experienced ice damming and flooding as a result of the water level being too high in the lake. By the time the bars were removed to allow the lake to drain, the autumn rains came and then the winter snow. In the spring, the water level was high and then the spring rains came along with the snow melt. This resulted in flooding and the lake being closed/no wake due to high water levels. Mr. Lochmayer stated if the SOP is followed, it should not matter when the bars are removed.

Mayor Knigge asked about the economic impact that lake restrictions have on the community. He also asked about the environmental impacts associated with high water levels in the lake. Director Soccorso stated that there were several complaints when the lake was closed during Memorial Day weekend. She also stated that high water levels contribute to increased shoreline erosion. Chair Black stated that when the water levels are high, areas that are not normally under water are then under water and whatever is in those areas (e.g. pesticides fertilizers, pet waste) can then enter the lake. The Mayor asked how other communities handle this.

The committee decided that BLAC should do some more research on the topic and bring the results back to a future Environmental Committee meeting. Chair Black stated that BLAC

should contact other communities to determine if and/or how, they manage water levels in their lakes. He requested that BLAC obtain this information from 3-6 neighboring communities. Mr. Lochmayer agreed and stated that he and Mr. Lambert would work on this.

The second item discussed was the development of a lakeshore homeowners association group. Chair Black would like to form this type of group to address issues common to all lakeshore HOAs such as operational issues, vandalism, weeds, loose boats, etc. Trustee Arnswald and Trustee Starkey agreed. Chair Black stated that he would like a map that showed the various HOA groups. He does not know the properties contained in each group. Trustee Starkey stated that property owner information is available on the Lake County website. Trustee Arnswald stated that Debra Ogorzaly has a list of HOAs in the Village. Mr. Lochmayer and Mr. Lambert supported the idea of forming a lakeshore HOA group. Chair Black suggested that BLAC and the Environmental Committee have a joint meeting held as a "meet and greet" designed to bring the various HOAs together. Trustee Starkey stated this is the same concept she is using to bring together other groups. Mr. Lochmayer and Mr. Lambert agreed. Chair Black directed Director Soccorso to obtain a blank map of the areas around the lake. His intent was to work with Debra Ogorzaly to begin to shade in the various HOAs on the map. Discussion concluded.

Chair Black then asked Mr. Lochmayer and Mr. Lambert if there were any other BLAC issues that they wanted to discuss. Mr. Lambert mentioned that he is part of a new group called the 4 Lakes Initiative. This purpose of this group is to bring together area stakeholders who have a joint goal of protecting the water shed and who have lakes in their respective communities. He stated this is a good networking opportunity. There is a Guidance Subcommittee that will be meeting on July 26<sup>th</sup>. The Guidance subcommittee is comprised of technical experts, not necessarily stakeholders per se. They will keep the Environmental Committee posted on progress.

Mr. Lochmayer presented a written recommendation to the committee for the use of aquatic herbicides to control the invasive species of weeds in the lake. Chair Black stated that he would review the submittal and it would be placed on a future Environmental Committee meeting agenda. Mr. Lochmayer stated that BLAC had a presentation by Clarke regarding their available herbicide services. Director Soccorso explained that the subject of using aquatic herbicides to treat lake weeds has been brought up in years past. However, the biggest obstacle has always been that the Village would need to obtain the written consent of every lake bottom owner in order to apply chemicals. This is because chemicals applied to a water body can drift to neighboring properties. Mr. Lochmayer stated that Clarke has a new patented technology that is a target application which severely minimizes the chances of drift. Director Soccorso stated that any changes made to the weed harvesting operation are subject to the IDNR consultation process. This is because Bangs Lake is home to many threatened and endangered animal, fish, and plant species. She also gave a brief history on how the current weed harvester plan was developed with Lake County Lakes Management Unit and IDNR. Discussion continued on the pros and cons of aquatic herbicides. Chair Black stated that the item would be discussed further at a future meeting.

Discussion then moved towards possible funding sources for the use of aquatic herbicides. Mr. Lochmayer stated that the first year of the program would cost more than is currently spend

using the weed harvester, but that every year, less and less herbicide application is needed, thus costs begin to steadily decrease. He estimates that after three years, the cost to use aquatic herbicides would be less than the costs to operate the weed harvester. Several potential options discussed were donations, boat sticker fees, and tariffs on boat slips. Chair Black concluded the discussion by stating that the proposal will be reviewed and discussed at a future Environmental Committee meeting.

The next item discussed was the Environmental Quality Department Annual Report. Director Soccorso stated the report covered fiscal year 2010-2011. She gave a brief summary of the report. She also gave a brief history of the department indicating that it began with three members, and then through the course of staff reductions, was reduced to one. Director Soccorso stated that she is the sole person the Environmental Quality department and that her time is split between that department and her secondary position of Superintendent of administration for Public Works. She stated that the essential, required functions of the Environmental quality department (e.g. IEPA requirements) are carried out by Public Works Department staff members.

The last item discussed was the NPL site. Director Soccorso provided an overview and history of the NPL site in Wauconda. An NPL site, formerly referred to as a Superfund site, is a site that has been listed by USEPA on its National Priorities List for remediation due to environmental contamination. The NPL site in Wauconda is the site of the old Wauconda Sand and Gravel Landfill. Despite the name, this landfill was not operated by the Village. Part of the landfill was unpermitted by IEPA and the other part was permitted. In the 1970's, leachate runoff from the landfill was detected in Fiddle Creek. At that point, IEPA got involved and forced the closure of the landfill. IEPA reviewed the records and compiled a list of all of the entities that used the landfill, even if they did not dispose of anything hazardous. This list is commonly referred to as the PRPs (potentially responsible parties). Director Soccorso went on to explain how different PRPs have different levels of responsibility. She also explained how the Wauconda Task Group was formed and the role it plays. Director Soccorso explained the Village's current responsibilities pursuant to the 1989 Unilateral Administrative Order that dictates the operation, maintenance, and remediation of the landfill site.

USEPA and IEPA regulate this site as a non-hazardous waste landfill. The Village regulates the leachate that discharges from the site to the Village's sanitary sewer system. Several years ago, vinyl chloride was detected in several private water wells located near the landfill. As a result, IEPA required that bottled water be provided to those on private water wells. The Village and the Wauconda Task Group worked together to propose that instead, those unincorporated areas be connected to the Village's water supply. IEPA agreed. The Village has constructed two additional water wells and a water treatment facility to service these areas. The Village took out a loan from IEPA to pay for this project, but the Wauconda Task Group is reimbursing the Village for those expenses. Discussion concluded.

Chair Black then scheduled the next Environmental Committee meeting for Monday, September 12, 2011 at 4:00 P.M.

Trustee Starkey moved to adjourn the meeting. Second by Trustee Arnswald.

Meeting adjourned at 5:13 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie Soccorso

Copies to:

Mayor Knigge; Chuck Black, Chair; Village Board members; Administrator/Director Geary