

Town of Lake Lure - Lake Advisory Board

- Minutes of Regular Monthly Meeting -



The Lake Advisory Board held their regular monthly meeting at the Lake Lure Municipal Center on Monday, the 8th day of January, 2018 at 3:30 p.m.

Attendees:

Mark Helms (chairperson)
Bill Ashman
Dan Breneman
Gary Hasenfus
Gary Johnson
Sonya Ledford
Michael Yelton
John Kilby (council liaison)
Dean Givens, Dir. Lake Ops.
Clint Calhoun, Environmental Management Officer

Non-Attending Members: N/A

Call to Order and Agenda Review:

Chairman Mark Helms called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. and welcomed new Lake Advisory Board member Michael Yelton. The Board reviewed the Agenda.

Approval of the minutes:

Bill Ashman made a motion to approve the December 4, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. Gary Hasenfus seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Individual Meeting Reports and Actions:

Lake Operations Department – The Board discussed the Lake Operations Department’s report that was sent out by Lake Operations Director Dean Givens prior to the meeting. Town Manager Ron Nalley explained that the Town’s dredging contract with Rowboat has been terminated. Town staff believes the change will not affect the grant funding that the Town is scheduled to receive.

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Chairman Helms explained that during the Marine Commission meeting there was lengthy discussion of the lake level and lake lowering. Following their discussion the Marine Commission asked the Lake Advisory Board to develop a matrix containing negative and positive effects of lowering the lake and recommendations as to when the lake should be lowered and how far it should be lowered to yield the most benefit to the Town and citizens. Contractors working on the Lake were urged to attend the February 13, 2018 Town Council meeting where Council will discuss the dates for bringing the lake level back up based on the status of current projects being done while the lake is down.

Special Topics –

Begin Discussion of Lake Lowering Matrix – Chairman Helms overviewed some variables that should be considered when discussing future lake lowering including the Polar Plunge event, the rowers that annually come to Rumbling Bald Resort in early spring, loss of the ability to irrigate the golf course when the lake level is three feet or more down, loss of ability to generate power when the lake is more than three and a half feet down (a loss of about \$40,000-\$60,000 per month). Bill Ashman agreed to gather data to help determine the financial impact of the lake lowering, lake level needed for the rowers and ideal dates for the lake lowering from the perspective of the effects on the rowers. Dan Breneman agreed to work on determining the economic impact of the Polar Plunge and the lake level needed for the Plunge.

The board also discussed options for doing repair projects and construction without the lake being lowered. The board agreed that not lowering the lake is better for it's ecosystem, but financially it may not be feasible for residents to make necessary repairs if the lake is not lowered on a regular basis. Chairman Helms agreed to try to determine that cost of using a coffer dam for projects.

Gary Hasenfus stated that ideally the lake should be at full pond no later than April 1st in order to not effect fish spawning and stated that he can provide a history of rainfall amount to help estimate how quickly to lake level rises.

Clint Calhoun agreed to determine the number of permits pulled by those working on the lake for the past several years. The board agreed to continue discussion of data for the lake lowering matrix at their February 5, 2018 meeting.

Board Member Areas of Responsibility Reports:

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Fishery & Ecosystem – Gary Hasenfus reported that there are Christmas trees at the ABC Store to be used for fish habitats. Mr. Hasenfus also stated that it is likely that there will some loose of thread fin shad due to the recent cold temperatures.

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Public Forum

George Wittmer asked if the state would allow use of coffer dams for projects. Clint Calhoun explained that they do, but it has to be included as part of the permitting process.

David Lusk expressed concerns about exposed sewer lines exposed in the lakebed.

Commissioner Kilby asked if there has ever been a study conducted to determine how much shoreline is unprotected (not riprapped, causing erosion, etc.) Lake Operations staff does not believe such a study has been conducted.

Adjournment: Gary Hasenfus made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:00 p.m. Michael Yelton seconded and the motion carried unanimously.



Mark Helms, Lake Advisory Board Chairman