

September 27, 2016 Meeting with representatives from Williams Lake Improvement Board at Schoolcraft Elementary School

Guests:

Stan Moore—Williams Lake Riparian and Williams Lake Improvement Board member

Mark Freeborough—Williams Lake Riparian and Williams Lake Improvement Board member

Karen Joliat—Waterford Township representative on the Williams Lake Improvement Board (also a Watkins Lake Riparian)

Stan and Mark talked about the Lake Board operation and the history of getting the Lake Board established. (Comments and questions about chemical treatments are not included since that was not the purpose of this meeting and Stan, Mark and Karen are not the experts on chemical treatments.)

- Williams Lake had 2 Special Assessment Districts (SAD) prior to establishing the Lake Board. When they went to renew the SAD, the township said to do a Lake Board.
- The scope of the petition can expand beyond the lakefront lots, but it still requires signatures for 2/3 of all in scope.
- Williams Lake has 250 houses; they needed 66% for the township to approve.
- There are 5 members on the Williams Lake Improvement Board:
 - A township representative
 - A Water Resources Commission (WRC) representative, provides coaching and guidelines
 - A County Commissioner representative makes sure that what the Board does follows the rules/laws
 - 2 Riparians
- First step is to establish the budget. Their advisor/consultant Dr. Pullman (Aquest) put together the initial budget. Their goal was to increase the biodiversity of the aquatic plants.
- Williams Lake had 2 different assessed values; one for lakefront and canals and one for lots with lake access (their assessment is \$11.26/year).
- Representatives on the Lake Board do not get paid.
- The Lake Board does mailings and holds public hearings. Williams Lake did make some changes after objection raised in hearings.
- A Lake Board does not HAVE to use chemicals. Watkins Lake does not use chemicals. Karen thinks they would have to re-petition to start using chemicals.
- There are public hearings for Waterford to create the Lake Improvement Board and then another hearing.
- The Budget would say what the scope is (such as “chemical or harvest”) and that would limit the spending.
- The budget is fixed for a 5 year period. It could be reduced. Williams Lake initial lakefront assessment was \$126, now it is \$88.

- They think that on 90% of Lake Boards, they might be able to increase the number of representatives (from 5).
- Williams Lake is in the 2nd year of their Lake Board.
- If all of the money collected is not needed, it could be used for something else – it would be a line item in the budget.
- The Lake Board puts out bids for consultants and applicators and the Board chooses. This is a very formal process.
- Water Quality is the goal of the Lake Improvement Board.
- The County Commissioner representative wants the Board to be happy and to follow the rules.
- The Township does not charge the Lake Board.
- Estimate of how happy the Williams Lake residents are is 9 or 10 out of 10.
- Williams Lake water clarity is now great.
- There is no term limit of the Riparian representatives on the Lake Board.
- It was 6 months to a year between when the petition was submitted and the Williams Lake Improvement Board was established.
- The Williams Lake Association did incur some costs for mailings, etc. prior to the Lake Board establishment but they were reimbursed after the Lake Board was established.
- Williams Lake has 2 Association meetings each year where they invite Dr. Pullman to speak.
- Establishing a Lake Board is important and needed to share costs evenly with all Riparians for any type of treatment.

Stan and Mark closed with “doing nothing is not an option.”