



Spirit Lake Report

Periodic Update on Spirit Lake by the **SPIRIT LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION**

July 2021, Vol. 7

SLPOA Mission: *To develop the capacity within our community to provide a sustainable lake habitat that will allow all people who live, work and play within its environment an optimal North Idaho experience.*

Dam/Weir Replacement – Jerry Peterson, SLPOA Board Director

The replacement of the Spirit Lake Mill Pond Dam remains the number one priority and need for our lake. During low runoff years, like we are experiencing this



year and probably will in years to come, it is imperative that we retain every gallon of water possible, while preventing flooding in high runoff years.

The proposed design of a new Weir will accomplish both these tasks without human intervention. It will stop our current leakage under and through the existing dam, and eliminate the guess work of deciding when to remove or reinstall boards to control water levels (*not to mention the safety issues...*).

The current owner of the dam site property is considering donating the property to the city and is in the process of researching the possibility.

We now have \$60,353 in our Dam replacement fund. These funds have been raised through donations and small fundraisers. We want to especially thank those generous individuals who have contributed a \$1,000 or more (***Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!!!***). In addition, Karen Cowan has been and continues to seek grant funding for the project.

But we still have a long way to go. Our cost estimate was approx. \$160,000 and with current rising constructions costs, it could possibly reach \$200,000. There are more than 400 parcels around the lake and if each parcel contributed just \$500, we would have more than enough to fund the dam replacement. *Ask yourself...* “Would you even think twice about spending \$500 to repair your dock or your house, to preserve and continue to enjoy them in the future?” The dam will help protect property and help keep the lake healthy to the benefit of all of us who enjoy the lake.

Please Contribute What You Can

Your Donation May Be Tax Deductible
Spirit Lake Property Owners Association
P.O. Box 363
Spirit Lake, Idaho 83869
Or online at www.friendsofspiritlake.com

In Memorium – Karen Winston, SLPOA President

It is with sadness that we share news of the death of our board member Shelley Tschida, a vivacious young woman who had been valiantly battling cancer. Shelly was a valuable contributing member to our board who always shared her love of Spirit Lake and the environs. We deeply miss her enthusiasm and presence.

Lake Data – Jerry Peterson and Sid Wurzburg, SLPOA Board Director

LAKE WATER QUALITY – “Surface water” temperatures around the 4th of July were around 80° F, much higher than normal for this time of the year and the water clarity was very good as compared to mid-June, due to heavy pollen in some portions of the lake. There is concern of a possible algae bloom in the future if water temperatures and nutrients remain high.

LAKE LEVEL – Low snowpack in the drainage meant that although we experienced high water at a date in the normal range, it was about 20 inches below what is the recent norm and the lowest high water in recent years.

The lake however, was only dropping about 2 to 3 inches a week. That is less than usual with hot dry days. That changed on July 12 when the lake was down 4.5 inches for the week. That is a rate we usually see in mid-summer with the current lake level.

I’m guessing that the unusually high temperatures on Mt. Spokane caused early high flow levels in Brickle Creek, but that high flow is now over and we can expect the lake to continue to drop 4 to 5 inches each week. The result would be the lowest summer levels since the millpond repairs. It’s looking a lot like 2015 when millpond boat entrance and public launch access were limited for much of late summer.

Membership Dues – Linda Pendleton & Jerry Peterson SLPOA Board Directors

Membership dues (\$40 per year) were way down for 2020 and remain low for 2021. There are two possible reasons:

- In 2020 the board changed membership to an annual fee time frame to be due **on Jan 1**. Some members are not yet aware of this change. The change makes it easier for people to know when to pay dues, to generate reports and to applying for grants.
- Since many members have normally paid their dues at the Annual Meeting, and we did not have an Annual Meeting due to Covid-19 restrictions, a number of 2020 dues were not received.

We sincerely thank all the members that have already paid in both 2020 and 2021. Thank you in advance to those that will be sending your dues. The Association needs and appreciates your ongoing support!

Catch up on your dues or become a member and get the latest news!!!

Visit our Web Site: www.friendsofspiritleake.com

Or send a check to:

Spirit Lake Property Owners Association, PO Box 363, Spirit Lake, ID 83869

Membership Information – *Jerry Peterson, SLPOA Board Director*

Your Board has been updating the Membership List. We need your help to be as accurate as possible. In order to send out timely information/updates by Mail, Email, & Text, we need to verify everyone's current mailing address, email and cell phone (*if you want to receive text messages*). There are two active Association web sites, that are linked together. You can send us your current information:

Go directly to www.friendsofspiritlake.com or
www.spiritlake.org and *click the "Friends of Spirit Lake" button*

Fill in your name, email and other contact information in the comment area.

SLPOA Board Update – *Karen Cowan and Paul Sturm, SLPOA Board Directors*

In accordance with the Bylaws of SLPOA the members of the "board of directors" will be referred to here as directors in order to distinguish them from general members of the Association.

BOARD DIRECTOR ELECTIONS – At the Annual Meeting the Spirit Lake Property Owners' Association the current board will be offered as a slate of directors to be voted on by the Association members. If approved, each elected board director will then be assigned by the board to staggered terms. In so doing, in subsequent years, the Association can get back into alignment with our Bylaws and elect or reelect one-third of the board each year. This is a process that we planned for the 2020 Annual Meeting. As you may recall, because of Covid-19 restrictions and caution, the 2020 Annual Meeting was canceled and the process had to be postponed.

THE WORK OF THE BOARD – The board of directors is charged collectively with the responsibility to manage and direct the business, operations and activities of the Association. It is a working board. Board directors are expected to not only attend at least four board meetings a year, or more as needed, the director is also expected to take on strategic plan goal leadership and participate alongside other volunteers in support of the Association's active projects and actions. Time commitment varies. However, if the association is to make progress on its ambitious goals and action plans a director should be prepared to invest several hours per month.

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED BEING A BOARD DIRECTOR? The Board's Strategic Goals and Action Plans sometimes necessitate additional directors with specific expertise and talents. The current board believes that the best way to become a director is to discuss the work and needs with a director, attend a board meeting and get your questions answered. Then, if your desire to be a director persists, and according to the Bylaws, the board may appoint you to be a director to be voted on by the Association members at the following Annual Meeting. You can inquire about becoming a board director with any current board director.

Get involved – Be a Volunteer - *Paul Sturm, SLPOA Board Director*

If you would like to be involved in the work of SLPOA there are occasional as well as ongoing opportunities. We encourage you to sign up to be a volunteer at the Annual Meeting.



Friends of Spirit Lake
Spirit Lake Property Owners Association
PO Box 363
Spirit Lake, ID 83869

ANNOUNCING THE 2021 ANNUAL MEETING

August 14, 2021

Timberlake Senior High School

9:00 AM sign-in and refreshments

10:00 AM General Meeting

Public Safety Reports

Lake Habitat Updates

Weir Progress Report

Board Planning and Actions

Board Member Elections

Join SLPOA

Sign Up to Volunteer

Sign Up for Woods Tour

