



Lake Health and Fish Habitat Committee Report
Paul McDaniel, Committee Chairman
paul@agageo.com

Written and submitted by: Paul McDaniel

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Charter: To oversee and monitor lake conditions and create a healthy fish habitat for recreational purposes.

Committee Members: Paul McDaniel as Chairman, Louis Santoriello, Paul Flanagan, Jeff Harbert, Laura Pool, Jessie Logero, Randy Orth, Glenn Christensen, and Jameson Smith.

Meetings: Meetings were held monthly from spring through September. Schedules and concerns over the Pandemic caused no meetings to be held in October or November. An attempt was made to schedule a December ZOOM Meeting but response was such the meeting was not held.

Project Updates:

- **Fishing and Lake Rules** . We were flexible based on Water temperature and related lake readings. We did not have the influx of trespassers and poachers we expected. This is an indication the signage had some effect, but is also likely to be because of the pandemic as well as the drought this summer. We lost fish to heat and related water conditions in Mirror and Willow Lakes. Sadly but not surprisingly there were more issues with rules with Big Elk Residents than outsiders.
- **Algae:** We certainly had challenges with algae, especially later in the summer with heat and no new moisture. We have enough Biolyneus for one more treatment in the spring, Algae control has been and will continue to be an issue. We are exploring different strategies to deal with this issue. I have met with and have had productive discussions with Aquatic Associates, our fish supplier, about strategies to solve the algae problem. I will need to get more information regarding budgeting before presenting a plan.
- **Aeration:** We still consider this to be a priority for establishing and maintaining Lake Health. We made some progress this year but are exploring alternative vendors and system types to get a better handle on this ongoing priority for 2021.
- **Weed Mowing:** No weed mowing was done this year We are exploring strategies to move toward the idea of weed management as opposed to weed elimination. and are actively discussing this approach with Aquatics Associates.
- **Fishing Club:** No further action has been taken at this time. We are better off not having done so given the heat and dry conditions which were very deleterious towards good fishing after late June. This would have given us a bad reputation with Rocky Mountain Angling and potential customers.
- **Lake Readings:** We continued regular lake readings until ice-over. The cooler fall weather brought the readings back toward where they need to be. Lou Santoriello took readings just before ice-over and reports all readings within normal parameters. From discussions with Aquatics Associates this may become less burdensome this summer, but do need to get a 1 gallon sample for analysis for them. They suggested taking the sample from Mirror as it not only had a fish kill but is also part of our potable water for the Meadows.
- **Funding:** We need clarification on if sales of fishing badges and boat permits affect our budget. We will need good funding to finish Aeration and Algae/Weed Management and still be able to stock adequate numbers of fish for 2021.
- **Team Building with Other Relevant and Interdependent Committees:** We have not had as much opportunity to interact and leverage cooperation with other committees as hoped but have given it a start and will work toward mutually beneficial projects, strategies, and activities in 2021. Some discussions have begun with the Long Term Planning Committee.

Activities:

- Development of supplying some cooler water from wells to help keep water temps down in the deeper sections of the lakes. Willow well house has been cleaned out and the interior painted for use next summer. We are looking at other wells which may be helpful as well.
- Developing a stronger relationship with our fish supplier for more precision stocking rates, weed management, and aeration. This is being done but an implementation strategy will not be able to be discussed further and presented until questions regarding available budget are resolved. It will be helpful to discuss budgeting and priorities if we can get budget projections for the next few years, as all of this is a process where time frames can be either compressed or lengthened.
- Continue to form strategic communications and activities with other committees for mutual benefit. Not a lot of progress has been made to date but we are committed to making the effort to do so.