



Lake Health and Fish Habitat Committee Report
Paul McDaniel, Committee Chairman
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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. As well, no committee meeting was held in January but a number of phone calls and face to face discussions about moving forward in a more proactive and effective way.

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 Biolyneucus 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. We are very close to submitting a feasible plan to more effectively control Algae and other issues related to hot summer/low precipitation summers while avoiding fish kills.
- **Aeration:** We still consider this to be a priority for establishing and maintaining Lake Health. We have made considerable progress in getting more efficient/effective Aeration and are actively analyzing proposals.
- **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 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. Successful discussions are ongoing with the Long Term Planning Committee. We want to start discussions with the Water Committee shortly

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. There has been no and will not likely be any progress on this until Spring.
- 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 prioritization when we get budget projections for the next few years. I will present the 2021 budget request and justification shortly..
- Continue to form strategic communications and activities with other committees for mutual benefit. This is a fairly slow process but progress is being made.