



SLPOA ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: August 9, 2025

Time: 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Location: Timberlake High School, 5973 W HWY 54, Spirit Lake, ID 83869

Call to Order: Paul Sturm 10:02 AM

Board Members Present: Paul Sturm (President), Dan Beha (Vice-President), Jerry Peterson (Co-Treasurer), Linda Pendleton (Co-Treasurer), Jane Clark (Secretary), Brad Pendleton, Margie Wilke, Don Finney, Justin Morrison, Ron Largent, Ed Niblock, Dustin Thiers, Kurt Peterson

Advisory Board Members Present: Carol Capra, Doug Freeland, Dan Sullivan

Absent: Galen Beem, Randy Hurst

Conservation Concerns facing Spirit Lake

Paul Sturm shared the following updates and concerns facing Spirit Lake-

- SLPOA has accomplished restoration projects over past 6 years on Brickel Creek
- Increased emphasis on conservation driven by member survey in 2024
- Concern about Brickel Creek, sandbar development, habitat and erosion was elevated last year
- SLPOA Board Members Margie Wilke, Jerry Peterson, & Paul Sturm developed a restoration proposal that the Board voted to pursue
- Site Visit in June with Eric Berntsen (Kalispel Tribe) and Merritt Horsmon (Idaho Department of Fish & Game)
- Sediment accumulation at the northern areas of the lake
- Invasive species – Milfoil and Chinese mystery snails
- Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs)
- Large wakes from more boating traffic and wake boats
- Domestic use of lake water

SPECIAL PANEL DISCUSSION

Jerry Peterson was the MC for the discussion.

Panelists included-

Idaho Conservation League – Jennifer Ekstrom
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality – Todd Higen
Idaho Water Resources Research Institute – Meg Wolf
Inland Empire Paper Company – Paul Buckland

Brickle Creek Discussion

Restoration of Brickle Creek was discussed. The creek has been incised reducing the water into the adjacent wetland and due to the straightness of the channel, the sediment is depositing into the lake. Structures like bioengineered Beaver Dam Analogs (BDMs) are an inexpensive project that is common to help slow water down, drop sediment out, and reintroduce water to the adjacent wetlands. These consist of 5-6 posts driven into the stream with woody debris weaved into the posts to simulate a dam. It was estimated that with proper tools on a stream similar to Brickle Creek, 10 could be installed in a day. Check structures would be another option to help slow water down and drop sediment out. A full channel realignment of the creek would be very expensive.

SLPOA Vision Statement: Develop capacities within our community to provide a sustainable habitat, allowing all people who live, work and play within its environment an optimal Spirit Lake experience.



SLPOA ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

Water Quality Discussion

What waterfront and adjacent lake owners do to their property can make a difference. Installing waddles and silt fence to prevent erosion into the lake, using phosphorous free fertilizer, maintaining a 40-foot buffer of natural vegetation are all ways to reduce erosion and aid in keeping the algae growth at bay.

Hydrology Discussion

Is a hydrology study of the lake needed? It is always interesting to see how fast water is flowing into the lake and moving to the outlet. Is there enough flow to carry silts down the lake? It is important to be specific about the research questions so we can tailor the study to meet our research needs. We can start by utilizing our data that has been collected so far. Look into grad students as they are always looking for projects. Studies are expensive so consider narrowing down the questions we want to ask.

Algae Bloom Discussion

Algae blooms are common in the summer on lakes. Cynobacteria is natural and native to water in all lakes. Blooms occur when phosphorous and nitrogen are in balance and the cynobacteria want nitrogen so they go to the top to get it from the air and then explode. When they die, toxins are produced. No people have died from these blooms, but pets have. Blooms can't be predicted, but they often occur when the air is hot and stagnant with no winds or clouds. There have been three breakouts in Spirit Lake over the last 10 years- 2019, 2021, and 2023. Hauser Lake and Twin Lakes had similar breakouts these years. Ways property owners can help prevent blooms: reduce phosphorous into the water, reduce sediment into the lake, make sure septic systems are working properly (get them inspected and pumped regularly). A baseline study of where nutrients and sediments are coming from might be a good idea (i.e.- Brickle Creek is straight with no shade and nothing to slow the water down carrying sediments straight into the lake, cattle grazing in/along streams is not ideal). It takes all lake users to look for blooms. Use the SLPOA and DEQ websites to share possible bloom locations.

SLPOA BUSINESS MEETING

The business portion of the meeting began at 10:58 am. The Board Members stood.

Special acknowledgement was given to Brad and Linda Pendleton. They have provided 35 years of service to the SLPOA and Spirit Lake community. Brad was a volunteer EMT with the Spirit Lake Fire Department, helped move boards at the lake outlet, and was involved in the millpond repair and Linda has been a treasurer and secretary on the SLPOA Board. Thank you both for your commitment to Spirit Lake and we wish you all the best in your new chapter!

Approve 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the August 10, 2024 meeting minutes as presented was made by Dan Beha. Janna Harvey seconded. There was no further discussion. Motion carried.

SLPOA Vision Statement: Develop capacities within our community to provide a sustainable habitat, allowing all people who live, work and play within its environment an optimal Spirit Lake experience.



SLPOA ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

Current Treasures Report

Jerry Peterson provided a balance sheet and profit and loss report for the treasurer's report. From August 2024 to August 2025 an income of \$13,875 was collected which consisted of \$10,188 in dues and \$3,687 in general fund income. Expenses of \$9,603. Income/expense=+\$4,272. General fund balance as of 8/1/2025 = \$37,277
Justin Morrison moved to approve the Treasures Report, Dan Barlow seconded. Motion passed.

Emergency Planning

Kootenai Emergency Alert System

Go to Friends of Spirit Lake Website to find the link and sign up: www.friendsofspiritlake.com or <https://member.everbridge.net/892807736727064/login>

Progress Reports Updates

Jerry Peterson and Paul Sturm are collaborating with other lake associations (Little Lakes Coalition/DEQ), HABs communication network with DEQ and involved with HABs interagency workshop.

Ron Largent is taking the lead on researching sediment migration in the lake.

Jerry Peterson, Paul Sturm and Margie Wilke are continuing Brickle Creek proposal work and will review and refine it as needed.

Galen Beem, Ron Largent, Ed Niblock, Justin Morrison, and Kurt Peterson have put together a committee on large wakes and erosion and a SLPOA communications committee for signage, flyers, Facebook, and newsletters.

Invasive Species – Doug Freeland

Approximately 300 yards south of Brickle Creek, 20 milfoil plants were located. Some plants were also identified in the Millpond. If you think you see some, let the SLPOA know through the website.

Chinese mystery snails – these have tripled over the last year. Remove them from the lake if possible.

North American River Otter- native otters. Only concern is they leave their scat on docks. They do not like mothballs.

Lake Monitoring

Visibility was 6 meters in June & July of 2023. This went from 5 meters to 7 meters in June & July of 2024 and 6.5 meters to 8 meters in June & July this year which is very good clarity.

The water level is currently the lowest it has been since the millpond repairs. In April it started just above what it was in 2024, but then dropped in June. No sink holes have been reported or repaired this year. The City of Spirit Lake website monitors the lake level on the outlet structure.

SLPOA Vision Statement: Develop capacities within our community to provide a sustainable habitat, allowing all people who live, work and play within its environment an optimal Spirit Lake experience.



SLPOA ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

Board of Directors Nominations & Elections

Five directors were termed-out and nominated by the Board for reelection. These positions are:

Don Finney
Kurt Peterson
Ron Largent
Galen Beem
Tod Kiblen

Motion was made by Althea Sondahl, seconded by Margie Wilke that we vote to have these 5 members reelected on the SLPOA Board of Directors. The vote was unanimous with no objections.

Two Director positions are open. If interested reach out to any of the Board members and you will be invited to observe, interview and be interviewed by the Board of directors at a future meeting.

Additional Comments

Members expressed concern about the observance of the no wake zone in the millpond as well as the concerns with wake boats. The SLPOA will continue to educate and communicate the impacts of large wakes and no-wake zones. Report boats on the SLPOA website, this will be passed on to the Sherriff.

50/50 Raffle

Half of the raffle proceeds go to the winner and half go to the Brickle Creek/Wetland Restoration. The 50/50 raffle was won by Erick Fitzpatrick. Erick donated his winnings back to the SLPOA. Thank you Erick!

Meeting adjourned at 11:48am.

Minutes submitted by Jane Clark

SLPOA Vision Statement: Develop capacities within our community to provide a sustainable habitat, allowing all people who live, work and play within its environment an optimal Spirit Lake experience.