



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING NOTES

Strategic Plan - https://friendsofspiritlake.com/images/sitepics/Strategic_Plan_v2_Sept2022.pdf

Goal One: Improve safe recreational opportunities for the community of Spirit Lake and the surrounding areas
Goal Two: Mitigate environmental impact: improve water clarity and flow and prevent and manage potential flooding
Goal Three: Take steps to protect natural lake flora and fauna

Date: April 18, 2026 – Meeting time: 10:00 – Noon
Location: Spirit Lake Museum, 6th and Jefferson and Zoom

Board Members: Galen Beem, Jane Clark, Dan Beha, Rob Brewster, Don Finney, Tod Kiblen, Tim King, Ron Largent, Justin Morrison, Ed Niblock, Dustin Thiers, Kurt Peterson, Jerry Peterson, Paul Sturm, Margie Wilke

Advisors: Carol Capra, Doug Freeland, Randy Hurst, Brad Pendleton, Linda Pendleton, Wyatt Brown

Attending: Galen Beem, Jane Clark, Dan Beha, Rob Brewster, Don Finney, Tod Kiblen, Tim King, Ron Largent, Justin Morrison, Ed Niblock, Dustin Thiers, Kurt Peterson, Jerry Peterson, Paul Sturm, Margie Wilke, Wyatt Brown (zoom)

Absent Excused: Dan Finney, Jane Clark, Galen Beem, Ed Niblock; Justin Morrison

Call to Order: 10:02 AM

Introduction of guests: None

Approve Board Meeting Agenda: Approved

Board Meeting Agenda

Approval of Minutes: February 2026 Approved

Treasures Report: Jerry reported that SLPOA earned \$9,189 in income and \$121 in interest since January 1, with expenses totaling \$13,441. Jerry implemented a investment account, at Paul’s suggestion, to capture a better interest rate. The net income for the year was reported as \$12,461. Jerry noted that dues income was slightly better than the previous year but not as strong as some past years. “Other Income” of \$4,492.41 consists of donations made in excess of dues, driven by a small group of generous donors.

Current Financial Position:

Checking Account: \$7,050

Savings/Investment Account: \$40,763

Total Cash on Hand: \$47,814

The group discussed website payment methods, including the need to implement Apple Pay and Venmo options. Jerry will look into these.

Old Business:

1. Committee Reports

- a. Communications – website, Facebook, Instagram, text, email
 - i. Next newsletter June/July content suggestions; invitation to annual meeting; information about permits for waterfront landowners
- b. Brickel Creek & Lake Studies: A site visit will be held with Brian Walker and Brittany Morlin from US Dept of Fish and Wildlife on May 12. Brian has survey instruments and intends to take data points during the visit. Brittany may be able to assist with accessing funding
 - i. Beaver Dam Analog Project – LiDAR vs ground survey, design/plan, materials & timeline; It was suggested that we hold off until we find out if the survey data that Brian Walker collects is sufficient for planning and permitting the BDA and livestock watering projects.
 - ii. Potential lake research – It appears that our lake did not receive research attention at the UofI. We need to learn more about how to get our projects in line for consideration.
 - iii. Millpond leakage – The efforts to identify leaks in the millpond last fall were inconclusive. Several sites were marked as suspicious. They need to be observed now that they are under water.
 - iv. Agencies and Partners – Paul has prepared a list of contacts and has it available if board directors need it.



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- v. Proposed HIP Grant for planting/Equipment – Jerry is coordinating with Ole Hohman and Chris Hardy to secure a grant from Fish and Game for equipment to install new plantings at selected sites on Brickel Creek. It was suggested that planting in the fall when rain is expected might result in greater survival of plantings than putting them in in the spring just before the dry season.
- c. Water Quality Monitoring: Jerry will begin collecting data in mid-April.
- d. Membership/Fundraising – Jerry will provide dan with a list of potential members. Dan has volunteered to make calls and have conversation with these potential members. Total mailing list: 393 people (for physical newsletters). Total membership: 425 members. The discrepancy is due to members opting for email-only communication. There are 324 members that have made a donation at some point in their membership history; 101 members have never made a donation; 213 members have donated in the current year (2026); 111 previous members have not yet renewed for the current year, representing approximately \$4,400 in potential dues. These are individuals who were historically members.
- e. Wake Boats/Erosion – Proposal for buoys and anchors: The board decided that SLPOA should not accept the liability for non-permitted buoys. Flyer distribution: Dan will add flyers to the box at the Maine and Bronze Bay boat launches; Ron will do the same at Maiden Rock boat launch; Dan will replace the missing box at Maiden Rock.
- f. Annual Meeting – The format will remain similar to past years – registration at 9:00 AM, program at 10:00 AM, business meeting at 11:00 AM, Adjourn at noon. Mayor Phips and Evan Neal have been invited and will give a brief presentation. The remainder of the program should be focused on Brickel Creek and BDAs. Tim suggested using video presentations. We will invite Brittany Morlan and Brain Walker to support this part of the program. It was agreed continue with the 50/50 raffle, Jerry will coordinate registration, Paul and Nadine will coordinate refreshments – All board directors who can to assist with setup and take down as in the past – Show the Millfoil video instead of speaker on invasive species – there are wakeboat educational videos available to focus on what SLPOA can and cannot do to mitigate concerns.
- g. Lake cleanup 2027 – A question was raised about what a property owner can do about blow-down trees on the beach and in the water. It was clarified that this is not the role of the SLPOA lake cleanup. We discussed regulations for removing trees and other impacts on beach front property—The group suggested that property owners should contact DEQ, Department of Lands, or Kootenai County’s Community Development Department for specific guidance on tree removal situations within the Kootenai County Shoreline Management Area.

New Business:

1. **Member Survey and/or Member Issues Workshop** – Dan prepared a draft survey and shared it with the group. There were suggestions from the group. Dan and Paul will work with Paul to develop a Survey Monkey of SLPOA members
2. **Small Waterways Coalition** – Paul, Margie and Jerry attended a workshop on April 10. A discussion about joining the coalition resulted in interest and the need for more specific information. The group found enough potential benefit to continue to pursue the formation of the coalition.
3. **Proposed Joint Board Meeting** – SLPOA and SLCC: The board approved a motion to plan a meeting with the SLCC board. There was discussion about the fact that the two missions are not the same but there is overlap. The SLPOA voice is important as the Coalition and City develop initiatives that could impact SLPOA mission and member interests.
4. **Lake Level Measuring** – Dan reported that the mayor is interested in relocating the monitoring system. It is unclear if there is a feasible alternative. Jerry will prepare a measuring device so that Dan and Paul can take regular lake level measurements at the millpond bridge.
5. **New bridge proposal** – Reports of this have been circulating. No one on the board had specific information. Paul will contact Hal Monheim to see what information he has. Hal had sent Paul an email in March while traveling.
6. **Mountain clean-up** – Dan Beha is coordinating with IEP for a clean-up day. The Facebook side-by-side group will pick up trash in specific areas on the IEP property on May 2nd.



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7. **For the good of the order** – Jerry reported that Todd Higgins was mentioned as working on a bathymetric map of Spirit Lake and the Mill Pond, potentially seeking help from participants for data collection – Paul, Dan and Jerry met with the new IEPC forestry manager, Evan Neal. Thank you, Dan, for setting up this meeting. Our impression of Evan was positive. He expressed knowledge of BDA stream restoration, indicating he may have an disposition toward the conservation focus of SLPOA.

Next meeting date: June/July A next meeting TBD

Adjourn Business Meeting: 11:56 AM