



Spirit Lake Report

Periodic Update on Spirit Lake by the **SPIRIT LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION** • September 2020 • 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.*

2020 Annual Meeting - Special Newsletter *by: Karen Winston, SLPOA Board President*

Due to COVID-19 and the desire to keep our members and the citizens of Spirit Lake healthy, the Friends of Spirit Lake (SLPOA) cancelled our annual meeting (normally held in August) this year. We did not think it was prudent to try to bring everyone together in one place. In lieu of the meeting, you are receiving a larger and informative newsletter that will include articles from many of the people who would have been reporting at the meeting. Stay healthy and please note the article on the dues schedule. We can only move ahead with our projects with your help so.....please make sure your dues are up to date.

Spirit Lake Dam/Weir Project UPDATE *by: Jerry Peterson, SLPOA Board Member*

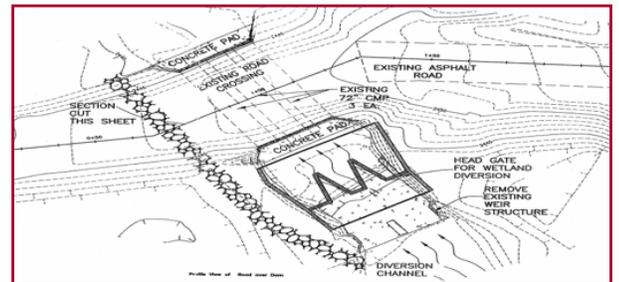
WE'RE READY. The engineering phase has been completed by Tate Engineering and we have made some cost saving changes to keep the Estimated Cost of the project to approximately \$160,000. Tate Engineering is now working with the necessary Governmental Agencies to obtain permitting through the City of Spirit Lake to make it truly "Shovel Ready". After that, we will be seeking bids from local contractors.

We continue to seek Grant Funding opportunities, but they are few and far between and that is why we need your help too!!! The current dam has been deteriorating for decades and is now prone to failure. Not only is it extremely dangerous to remove and then reinstall the dam boards against the out flow current, but is also dependent on someone's discretion and availability of when to do it.

The proposed "Weir" style Dam will be a permanent solution to prevent flooding in the spring and maintain a full lake level, for the longest time possible during the year, with no human intervention. Anyone who lives, works or plays in the Spirit Lake area needs to contribute to support this long overdue "necessity". There is currently no Government Agency or Program that will replace or repair the dam when it fails. It's up to us to make this project happen, to preserve & improve beautiful Spirit Lake!



High water flow over the existing Weir/Dam



Where the Dam Project Stands Today... *by: Sid Wurzburg, SLPOA Board Member*

In February, SLPOA submitted an application for a permit to replace the old weir. During review, the City found a 1941 deed from the Spirit Lake Land Co. which transferred to the City a water right which included the existing dam. The Idaho Department of Land and Water Resources determined that the City was the proper applicant and that SLPOA, as the funding entity, and Southwest Construction-the owner of the land should also be involved. They suggested that a memorandum of understanding be prepared.

Since I no longer have a license to practice law, I sent

my ideas for an agreement to the attorney for the City and asked that he consult with the City and prepare the memo. I waited several weeks and finally got a slightly modified version of my proposal back from the lawyer. Then I found a draft of the annexation agreement with John Sempre from 2001 in which the City agrees to serve as a sponsoring agency for millpond repair. I asked for a copy of that final agreement and was told that because of budget planning and messed up filing from past years, it would be some time before they could look for that agreement.

Review of SLPOA Bylaws and Board Elections *by: Paul Sturm, SLPOA Board Member*

A subcommittee of the SLPOA Board met on June 4, 2020, to review the bylaws for the organization and specifically address the questions about the election of board members. The committee included Sid Wurzburg, Karen Pendleton, Paul Sturm and Liz Krise.

The committee made recommendations to the board on July 11, 2020. Those recommendations included designation of varied terms for each board member, aligning with the current bylaws. The recommendation included a process putting that slate of board members (including any nominations from the floor) before a vote of the general membership at the annual meeting. However, as a result of the coronavirus pandemic the annual meeting was canceled for this year.

The board decided on July 11, 2020, to operate with the current board members throughout the coming year, designating each to varied terms per the bylaws. The one-year term positions will be open for election before the general membership next year, the two-year term the next and so forth. The board members for 2021 are:

Three-year term (through 2023):

Doug Freeland, Linda Pendleton, Jerry Peterson, Karen Winston, and Sid Wurzburg

Two-year term (through 2022):

Karen Cowan, Mallene Herzog, Dave Krise, Marc Kroetch and Don Miller.

One-year term (through 2021):

Tom Beaton, Liz Krise, Brad Pendleton, Paul Sturm, Shelly Tschida

Join us in thanking Randy Hurst for his important service to the board. He announced his resignation at the board meeting on July 11, 2020. He, along with Carol Capra and Dan Sullivan will remain as non-voting board advisors.

We also want to welcome Tom Beaton, Liz Krise and Shelly Tschida as newly appointed members to the board this year.

A subsequent committee was formed at the July 11 board meeting to review the entire set of bylaws and to make recommendations for amendments as needed.

Historical Society and Museum *by: Paul Sturm, SLPOA and Spirit Lake Historical Society Board Member*

The Spirit Lake Historical Society and Museum board and small group of volunteers are working to renew the Society with a more public presence as a museum and vintage gift shop. Thanks to the First Lutheran Church, the Society now has a home in the historic Lutheran Church at Jefferson and 6th in Spirit Lake.

The board is grateful to the many interested people that have, in the past as well as more recently, donated time, resources, personal and family stories and objects. So many of the members of SLPOA have generational roots on the lake and in the community--a source of rich historical memory and knowledge of which we will continue to work to capture. It is gratifying that the SLPOA board, friends and members have been so supportive of the Society.

We had hoped to open the Museum this summer,

however with the coronavirus pandemic the logistics of meeting, working together and opening have been put on hold until further notice. Volunteers continue to develop displays and prepare the museum for an eventual opening.

We invite you to become a member for only \$10 per year or to make a donation, if you are able. Your help in keeping this dream alive is welcome and appreciated. Membership and donations can be mailed to Spirit Lake Historical Society, PO Box 1186, Spirit Lake, Idaho 83869. If you are interested in the museum project and donating time or other resources to the venture visit the website at www.spiritlakehistory.org and contact President, Althea Sondahl at (208) 691-9533.

Thank you, SLPOA, for your support!

Help Us Fund The Spirit Lake Dam Project by Making a Donation at: www.friendsofspiritlake.com

“Thank you to all that have donated.”

Spirit Lake Police Report...by: Dennis Sanchez, SLPD Chief

Spirit Lake Police Chief, Dennis Sanchez reports that, on average, over the past 12 months there has been a 30% increase in "calls for service". He cites a 3% increase in population and the fact that the Police Department is able to be less reactive with more people reporting. They encourage citizens to report crimes and let the officers do the investigation. His crime report states that they are responding to more traffic issues, rapes and vehicle thefts. That there has been an increase in traffic stops, citations, arrests with 561 cases for thefts. Chief Sanchez said that the use of heroin is on the rise in the area and they are dealing with many addiction issues. He would love to be able to have a mental health facility that would help deal with addiction instead of people having to go to Coeur d'Alene for treatment. His department has participated in training on mental health, de-escalation, and how to be more proactive. The SLPD has a drug turn in box in their lobby and anyone can drop off drugs of any sort anonymously. They want to encourage people to bring those drugs in to them rather than throwing them into the garbage or flushing them down the toilet.

Chief Sanchez wants all to know that they are involved in a program called SPAN which is Suicide

Prevention Action Network. This helps individuals to learn how to save more lives from suicide. There is also a YANA (You Are Not Alone) form in the lobby that is available for anyone wanting to help older or disabled individuals who are living alone with no friends or immediate family in this area. This group will make regular phone calls to the individual and will also do home visits.

The Chief responded to questions regarding the number of children playing on the causeway bridge and jumping off. His officers have gone down to the park and have cautioned people about the dangers of jumping from the bridge. The jurisdiction for that area is clearly that of Kootenai County Sheriff's Office. The county does not want SLPD to write tickets for congestion/parking on the bridge or to tow any cars. They want to be informed of problems, so it is up to anyone with concerns to contact the KCSO. They are located at 5500 N. Government Way, CDA 83815. Their general phone number is 208-446-1300 and the non-emergency number is 208-446-1854.

Please take time to go to the SLPD website at spiritlakepolice.org and read their annual report. It is impressive and very well done.

Please Pay Your Dues and Send us your Email Address

We currently have 376 property owners on our list, with only 116 email addresses! Our goal is to communicate more effectively with our members electronically and also be able to send our newsletters via email to reduce our mailing expenses. To do this we really need everyone to share their email address with us to help make this a reality. Please send your email address to: kwinston40@comcast.net

The number of listed members who have paid their dues for the past several years are: 2018- 63 members paid, 2019- 82 paid and this year currently we have only 54 who have paid dues. 187 property owners have never paid since we started keeping track each year. Just

think, if only 50% of those 187 paid their \$40 it would bring in an additional \$7500.00!

We would like to move our due date for SLPOA dues to January of each year. We know that many people have paid at the annual meeting and this will mean a change, but this is a cleaner way of accounting for purposes of grants, etc. We will be sending reminders in January 2021. Please pay your dues now for 2020 to keep you current.

REMEMBER...Dues can easily be Paid Online at:

friendofspiritlake.com

...or mailed to:

SLPOA, PO Box 363, Spirit Lake, ID 83869

SLPOA Financial Report as of August 23, 2020

Balance in Checking Account	\$ 7,098.30
Balance in Savings Account	\$ 27,337.36
Balance donated for Weir Project	\$ 55,118.90
Total asset for SLPOA	\$ 89,554.56

Add Your Voice for a Greater Spirit Lake by: Marc Kroetch, SLPOA Board Member



In an concerted effort to better communicate and help direct the inevitable growth of Spirit Lake an new action group of concerned citizens and businesses has been started “Greater Spirit Lake”. It pupose is to listen to the people who live and work in Spirit Lake and gather information on what they want for Spirit Lake going forward.

Creating a brighter future for Spirit Lake requires a team effort. Greater Spirit Lake is a grassroots group that aims toempower the people who live, work and play in Spirit Lake to create a prosperous future for our community by promoting economic development, affordable housing, public safety, health and wellness, and community services.

MISSION:

Creating a brighter future for Spirit Lake

VISION:

Greater Spirit Lake will empower the people who live, work and play in Spirit Lake to create a prosperous future for our community by promoting economic development, affordable housing, public safety, health and wellness, and community services.

A Greater Spirit Lake starts with You!

Please go online and take the survey and lets us know what you really think.

WWW.GreaterSpiritLake.com

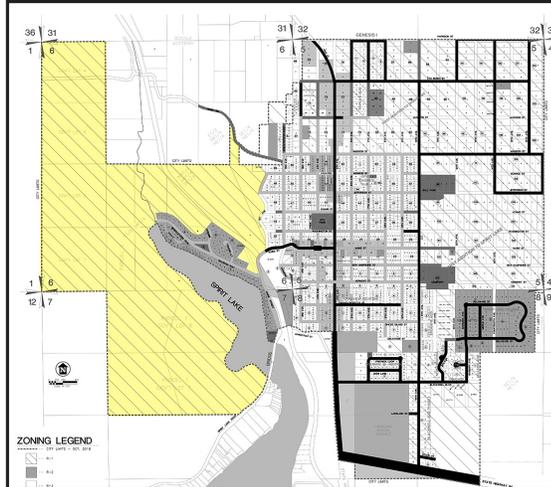
Millpond Property Development? by: Dave Krise, SLPOA Board Member

Many people have asked about the land clearing activity on the property located on south shore of the Mill Pond.

Let start with a quick recap: In 2001 the 450 acres of land surrounding the south side of the Mill Pond continuing around to the west (Dam location) and north and east of Spirit Shores was purchased by John Sempre with plans to develop the property. He had plans to build 100+ homes, golf course and community docks, on the property. Mr. Sempre along with the Miller, Dolan and Holman families, plus SLPOA and home owners created and backed the Millpond Repair Project in 2002 that successfully stopped the historic leaking of the lake’s Mill Pond.

Financial difficulties forced Mr. Sempre to sell the property in 2014 to a gentleman by the name of Dave Simmons who also purchased the property with intentions of developing it.

In 2015 Mr. Simmons proposed a new 45 home development to the west of Spirit Shores and east of 2nd Avenue. High infrastructure costs and low housing prices caused him to temporarily shelve the project.



Mr. Simmons recently has said that he has plans to move to Spirit Lake and build 1 to 4 homes on his property and possibly revisit the housing development plans in the near future.

I personally see this as a very positive thing for our city and the lake. Mr. Simmon’s projects will bring much needed tax revenues to our City, plus he has a vested interest in the well-being of the Mill Pond and our Lake. The

SLPOA and the City are already working in partnership with Mr. Simons on the dam replacement project and with the recent passing of Jimmy Brown, who was the only approved contractor permitted to work on Mill Pond repair, Mr. Simmons, with his proximity and heavy equipment experience, could be a possible resource for any future Mill Pond issues.

While everyone wishes the land could remain untouched forever, the bottom line is, the property belongs to Mr. Simmons and he has every right to develop it as allowed by governing laws and we should try to see all the positives benefits for our Lake and City.

Inland Empire Paper Company Update 2020 *by: Paul Buckland, CE, IEP Forest Resource Manager*

Wow, what a different world we live in compared to last year. The pandemic has caused all of us to do things differently than we have before. I look forward to being able to meet and visit our friends and neighbors in Spirit Lake at next year's annual meeting, but an article updating you on what's happening with Inland Empire Paper Company timberlands (IEP) will have to suffice for now.

I'm sure there are some new residents to Spirit Lake reading this newsletter, so a brief introduction is in order. IEP is a privately owned paper mill that has been operating in Spokane since 1911. Through re-investments and innovation, our newsprint mill and water treatment facility is the most technologically advanced in North America. We also own and manage over 120,000 acres of working timberland in Washington and Idaho which supplies the area sawmills with logs. Those same sawmills supply IEP with residual chips (a by-product of the lumber production process), which is what we make our paper from. We are an integral part of an extraordinarily efficient, and local, forest products supply chain network. I'd wager that some of the various forest products in each of our homes came from the surrounding forests.

On that note, I'd like to say a few words about our land sales policy. With the breathtaking influx of new residents from other parts of the country, we have been inundated with requests to sell our timberland. It seems that the rest of the world has discovered what a wonderful place we live in! Although on rare occasions IEP has sold or traded specific individual parcels, we generally do not entertain unsolicited offers. Fragmentation and urban sprawl are the biggest threats to keeping forests as forests, so our long-term vision is to maintain a contiguous working forest.

Another threat to forests are wildfires. I'm sure many of you watched with distress when the wildfire started on the Stimson Lumber Company land (a 320 acre parcel on the southwest end of the lake) over the 4th of July weekend. It appears that someone associated with one of

the cabins on that end of the lake had set off some fireworks which caught a slash pile on fire. Thankfully, the Idaho Department of Lands' (IDL) fire crews were able to respond quickly to contain the blaze. I hope we all recognize the severity of the threat to life and property this foolish act poses. If anyone has specific information or witnessed anything associated with this event, please call the fire investigator with the IDL.

In a typical year, IEP hosts a Forestry Tour of its timberlands for some residents of Spirit and Twin Lakes during the fall (near Labor Day). I call it, "Everything You Ever Wanted To Know About Forestry But Were Afraid To Ask". This is a fun day driving around the watershed to see and discuss various aspects of our forest management operations. Unfortunately, with the uncertainty of the COVID-19 restrictions and precautions, we are not offering the tour this year. I believe it is important for us to engage with our neighbors about forest management in an interactive forum, so I'm hopeful we'll be able to resume offering this tour next year.

As our country came to grips with the severity of the pandemic this spring, Shelter-in-Place and business shutdowns were mandated. Unfortunately, this included many state and national parks - the places we all like to recreate. IEP made the conscious decision to keep our timberlands open for recreation during this shutdown because we believe outdoor recreation is a relatively safe and healthy pursuit that is critical to our collective well-being. I think many people agree because we saw a huge increase in visitation through our gates and at the trailheads. If there are more mandated shutdowns in our future due to a "second wave", we will endeavor to keep our timberlands available for recreation. We ask our visitors to practice social distancing and play in a safe and prudent manner. In other words, "don't do stupid stuff, like set off fireworks or drive your ATV like a maniac!"

Have a safe and healthy summer on the lake! If you have any questions, I can be reached at: paulbuckland@iepco.com

2020 Water Level and Water Quality Report. *by: Sid Wurzburg, SLPOA Board Member*

On Monday, August 23, the lake was 36.75 inches below normal high water. This is higher than it has been at the end of August since 2012. The rate of water loss is lower than in any recent years. It looks like the millpond work has made a difference. Water clarity was also the best ever (7 meters when last measured) and seems to be staying near that level.

For the second year in a row, the water clarity is very good compared to previous years and is probably why the more aquatic plants are growing faster & reaching the surface due to the additional light. Notably, the surface temperature in late June was 7° F higher than 2019.

July Temps °F	Surface	75	70	71
	Bottom	42	42	42

June Dissolved Ox (ppm)	Surface	9.3	9.3	9.4
	Bottom	8	7.8	6.8
July Dissolved Ox (ppm)	Surface	11	9.4	9.3
	Bottom	5.6	6.9	6.1

Visibility (m)	June	6.5	7.3	7
	July	1.6	8.6	6.2



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

Help Us Fund The Spirit Lake Dam Project by Making a Donation at: www.friendsofspiritlake.com

The Loss of Jimmy Brown... a True Friend of Spirit Lake!

Anyone who lived around Spirit Lake knew of Jimmy Brown. He was a man who had a huge heart and loved to tell the many stories of his escapades. Jimmy was killed in an ATV accident on August 15th

Jimmy took great pride in his work and skills as a heavy machine operator. His innovation and skills were responsible for the restorative work on the Mill Pond.

When John Sempre agreed to fund the mill pond repair by adding a fabric liner, it was Jimmy who figured out how to do the job for far less than expected. He welded together a huge bucket for an excavator-wide enough to dig out enough of an area to install a full width of fabric across the pond in one pass. The fabric was placed in the excavation and then covered with the dirt that was removed in one pass from the adjacent area which needed the next width of filter fabric.

All dirt removed-except from the first and last excavations- was thus handled only one time. Jimmy's innovative super bucket and he and his hard-working crew really made the fabric liner for the millpond happen.

He spent endless hours working with our association on lake clean-up days by hauling multiple truckloads of debris away.

Jimmy suffered from macular degeneration, but he never let his blindness get in the way of what he wanted to accomplish. He will be missed for his great sense of humor and his love of life, his family, and friends.

There will be a celebration of his life in Spirit Lake on September 19th, location TBD.

The family has asked for donations to be made to The National Federation for the Blind at <https://www.nfb.org/>

Become a “Friend of Spirit Lake” and Join the SLPOA today!
...for only \$40 per year you can be a supporter and ensure a healthy future of your lake.

Become a Member, Donate and Pay online at: friendsofspiritlake.com