

ShoreScore Update

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In this issue –

Lake Water Levels - Double Average

This Week's Commission Topics

Shoreline Regulations Timetable

City Utilities Dept. Would Exempt Itself

Lake Water Levels - Double Average

Lake Sammamish and Phantom Lake water levels are controlled by weirs (small dams). The weirs on both lakes have fallen into disrepair. As a result outflow cannot occur at rates needed to control water levels. In a preliminary analysis, WSSA members have compared Lake Sammamish water levels over 14 years. From 1997 through 2005 water levels were allowed to rise above the Ordinary High Water Level (OHWM) for 100 days, on average, each year. Thus far in 2010 the OHWM has been exceeded more than 200 days!

The impact to you? A new, higher OHWM has been created. For each foot of increase, the mark on shoreline properties will shift upward. Average slopes along Lake Sammamish would result in 5 to 15 feet of property "loss". Similar high water conditions on Phantom Lake would produce a loss of 50 to 75 feet and more on some properties! Since shoreline regulations are imposed from the OHWM landward, property owners are justified in their concern with unmanaged water levels.

Shoreline Regulations Timetable

City staff has been directed by the Planning Commission to release draft shoreline regulations by the end of the year. Once this occurs, there will be a 45 day review period. Then the Commission will hold a public hearing. At some time during the review period, an open house presentation by staff will be scheduled to review what has been proposed. Following a period of deliberation to consider public input, the Commission would recommend changes, and then send the regulations on to the City Council for their review. (If the Commission makes substantial changes to the draft regulations, another hearing may be necessary.) At the Council level, a similar process would occur.

The impact to you? Whether you've been involved already or not, this is an important period for public involvement. Public input at this stage becomes part of an official record and that input must be considered. Even if you've addressed your concerns to the Commission previously, you should do so again to assure they are forwarded to the City Council for consideration.

This Week's Commission Topics

This Wednesday evening the Shoreline Management Plan will be on the Planning Commission agenda again. (City Hall – 6:30 PM) The staff report this week will discuss a preamble to the regulations titled "Shoreline Restoration Plan – Lake Sammamish, Lake WA, and Phantom Lake". A quick review of a preliminary copy indicates that it discusses how the City and its programs would benefit shorelines and ecological function. While the staff report has not been posted as of Friday, you should look for it at this the following link on Monday. [Staff report link](#).

The impact to you? As you'll quickly note in the staff report, many items would involve either direct expenditures by the City OR would require shoreline residents agreeing to tax themselves further through Improvement Districts. As one resident recently pointed out, "Gee, what have my monthly drainage charges been used for all these year?"

City Utilities Dept. Would Exempt Itself

Brian Parks, Vice-President of the Phantom Lake Homeowners Association and Board member of WSSA, last week appeared before the City's Environmental Services Commission (ESC). Brian has been instrumental in researching the City's actions and responsibility for maintaining Phantom Lake. He became aware that the Utilities Dept. was addressing the ESC, proposing, among other changes, to reduce its responsibilities for lake water conditions. For example, staff is recommending that the City should not be responsible for sedimentation, such as clogged channels or the deltas formed by storm-water runoff.

The impact to you? Mounds of sediment that build up in channels and at storm drain pipe outlets coming into our lakes are a serious pollution sources. [Take a Look](#) Utilities' recommendations do not reflect a willingness of the City to be an active partner in improving lake and shoreline conditions! Contrast what Utilities' staff is recommending to the programs listed by the Planning staff. Somewhere there's a disconnect.

We Continue to Urge Your Support

As we have with each issue of this Update, we ask your financial assistance. WSSA continues to employ your funds (and those donated by Board members), to assure legal oversight of the City process. We are also seeking support to assure alternatives WSSA proposes on your behalf are appropriate, reasonable, and professionally presented. Please direct your contribution to: WSSA, P.O. Box 6773, 98008 or via PayPal at our home page – www.SensibleShorelines.org

One Last Request

WSSA believes it important to hold a shoreline property owner meeting prior to the City Open House. Please reply to this mail if you would be willing to attend a WSSA sponsored public meeting regarding the regulations, once they are published. We anticipate the meeting in late January.