

ShoreScore Update

June 2014



Council Deliberations | Docks | Shore Stabilization | Lake Sammamish OHWM

POP QUIZ

What takes more than 80 meetings over more than five years to develop?

Answer - You guessed it, but will you win? It was May 2009 when lake shoreline residents attended an open house at which staff introduced the update process for the Shoreline Management Program. WSSA has represented you ever since. Read on to see if progress is being made.

Next City Council Meeting

Bellevue Council will again take up the SMP this coming Monday evening (6PM City Hall). Two weeks ago they were to deliberate vegetation retention, critical areas, and floodplains as they pertain to the shorelines. After presentations by WSSA and staff, their discussion quickly dissolved to a discussion by Council members on how the process could be sped up. Some felt elected officials simply do not have the time to dig into SMP issues. This seems to follow staffs' comments during the Planning Commission process that science (facts) will not determine what happens along lake shores. For further information on the upcoming meeting, [click here](#). (Select June 23rd Study Session agenda.)

We encourage you to attend. Property owner presence makes a difference... and the same ole faces sends a message that the fort is empty!

Public Hearing Summary

Were you heard? As you'll recall, the Council held a public hearing on the SMP in early May. Many of you attended and many spoke. We encourage you to check out the minutes of the hearing to understand the range of issues people brought up. [Click here for to read the hearing minutes](#).

Docks

Who controls what you can do with your dock? Can you perform routine maintenance or simply change from a wood deck to an open grated, flow through design? WSSA convinced the Planning Commission that the City should not duplicate what other state and federal agencies control. This topic is scheduled before the Council this Monday evening. [Click here to read WSSA's communication this week to Council regarding docks](#).

Shoreline Stabilization

Does the picture below remind you of times gone by? Perhaps you lost your dock, bulkhead, or other shoreline improvement in this storm.



Because storm wind and waves can be this intense, the Planning Commission selected angled rip-rap (rock) revetments as the preferred treatment to protect shoreline properties. (Vertical concrete bulkheads are not as ecologically friendly). Staff and State Ecology would prefer that "soft" stabilization (think earthen berms with logs, rocks, plants, and trees) be required rather than allow you to maintain your current bulkhead. Will the Council support rip-rap revetments? [Click here to read WSSA's input this week on Shore Stabilization.](#)

Lake Sammamish Water Levels

While we're on the topic of bulkheads, let's talk about water levels.

Sammamish's Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM) was addressed before the Council on May 27th with WSSA providing input. As you'll recall, the OHWM is your shore property line. The OHWM has crept higher over the last 15 years and many Lake Sammamish residents have lost property (or worse, as shown above). In the SMP process staff advocated use of the higher water level, but lake residents (and WSSA) identified lack of County maintenance in the "Slough" at Marymoor as the culprit. At the May meeting, WSSA Board member Marty Nizlek cited a recent study confirming this. [Click here to read his message to the Council.](#)

Will the **historic, Corps of Engineers' OHWM** be used in the final SMP, as proposed by WSSA and supported by the Planning Commission? Possibly not! The State Dept. of Ecology, at the urging of [Save Lake Sammamish](#), has stated it will deny such a request and require the use of costly professional surveys to determine the current OHWM on your property when you apply for a permit. While lake levels have improved with increased County maintenance in the river, WSSA forewarns that the OHWM is still elevated. Why?

The State process to determine the OHWM uses a demarcation between water tolerant and water intolerant plants to set the OHWM. There simply has not been sufficient time for that "line" to reset along the shore. Worse, the County has noted it prefers to replace the river flood control channel with something requiring less maintenance. [Will this new project return the lake to historic water level patterns or not? Click here to read WSSA's recent message to King County.](#)

Clearly, Lake Sammamish residents need the City Council's support to find a solution for this issue. And, we need your help to achieve this!

Why WSSA Needs Your Support

The Council is being pressured by a number of organizations to alter the draft SMP. Save Lake Sammamish, Trout Unlimited, the Kokanee Work Group, and the Snoqualmie Indians have all weighed in at recent meetings. They demand:

- Lake Samm. shores be declared critical areas because Kokanee inhabit the lake,
- Increasing the proposed setback from 25 ft. to 50 ft.,
- Rip-rap revetments be removed from the SMP, and that
- "Soft" stabilization required.

In addition, they're pressing the Council to return to restrictive buffers of native vegetation with less active use area. [Click here to see Lake Sammamish resident Tom Shafer's perspective on this requirement.](#)

The restrictions which these non-government groups are advocating are **NOT** required by State law and are dangerous!

Help us keep this message in front of the City Council as they consider the SMP. Make a donation today to WSSA - P.O. Box 6773, Bellevue 98008.

Please note - we have applied to the IRS for 501-(c)-(3) Charitable status.

Still Need a Reason to Support Us?

[Click here to visit WSSA's website to see other material we've prepared on your behalf.](#)