

RE: Lake Sammamish Flood Information and Requested Support

Members of WSSA (WA Sensible Shorelines Association) briefed Council Member Barksdale on Wednesday July 1st. We also provided him background information in the form of written documents and links to several videos. Our discussion with Council Member Barksdale prompted us to refine our requests for the City's support. Below we provide background information and our refined requests.

Floodplain LUCA - Please note: we have been working with City staff on the proposed floodplain regulation changes. We've suggested clarifying language and asked for several pieces of information regarding flooding and insurance. We hope to address you with our final comments on those changes prior to your hearing on July 13th.

Background Information

Fate of Our Fish - Lake residents are often targeted for the demise of the lake's Salmon and Kokanee. The following link will take you to a video that traces changes to our regional river basins, as well as other actions, that have contributed to their demise. Fish History Video (9 min): [Lk Samm Fish History](#)

Fate of Our Flood Protection - In 2008 the Corps of Engineers identified numerous deficiencies in the Sammamish River flood control system. Abutting jurisdictions and the public should have been informed of this action. The Corps' report ([click here](#)) demonstrates both the severity of degradation and why annual (or more frequent) inspections must be insisted upon by local jurisdictions.

2016 Status Report - Moving forward 8 years, the presentation at the following link is an earlier appeal by WSSA for support from local agencies and staff. Status report: [Click here](#).

Orientation Video and 2020 Flood Damages - The following links provide access to two resources. The first is a video intended to orient new comers to our community as well as local officials. The second video documents the damages produced by February's storm which, we note, were only slightly more intense than the Corps anticipated in designing the flood controls. Orientation (20 min.): [Click here](#). February Flood Damages (5 min.): [Click here](#).

Our Requests of the City

Expedited Permitting - Obtaining permits can take 6 months to a year and the costs range from \$7K to \$10K based on recent experience. Our request in March asked the cities and other agencies to create a streamlined process for repair of the February flood damage. We continue that request.

Broadened Analysis of a Dynamic Weir - Several years ago residents proposed a better way to manage lake water levels by addition of a gate to the small dam (weir) in the river. County staff evaluated a narrowly defined option and is now seeking a consultant to review their evaluation. We fear the FD consultant will not be charged with a robust analysis of alternative operating strategies for a dynamic weir gate. We request that the City insist the consultant work program assures a broader analysis.

Corps of Engineer Involvement - If the Willowmoor project goes forward, permits will be needed. The Corps will want an independent analysis conducted of proposed changes. To avoid spending money

on two studies, the Corps should be involved now so that a second effort is not needed (as it will have to be paid for by the County). We urge City support of active Corps involvement in the above analysis.

Long Term Plan - Given identified problems (ranging from invasive species, to man-made barriers, to unmanaged inflow from other tributaries), a process needs to begin to identify how to restore flood protection and historic lake level patterns while maintaining the fish population. The sooner this process is formalized, the better. It will not happen without City insistence.

Annual Inspections - As we noted above, in 2008 the Corps stepped aside when they declared the flood control system no longer meets their standards. When first constructed, the County agreed to annual maintenance AND annual or more frequent inspections. These have not been occurring. Without inspection (with written documentation), the long-term planning process will neither have base level condition information to inform that process nor longer-term data to evaluate the effectiveness of any changes. As important, more frequent inspection would alert responsible agencies of safety problems. We have urged Council Member Barksdale to insist on these inspections at the Flood District. We ask your support as well.

Closure

WSSA has and continues its efforts to advise the City regarding shoreline and flood damage information. With nearly 1,000 residential parcels on the lake, and nearly \$10 million in annual assessments of their cities being paid to the Flood District, we urge each jurisdiction's support of our requests. While we support efforts to enhance threatened fisheries, we cannot support those efforts without correction of lake flooding problems.

Thank you!



Martin Nizlek, Bellevue Resident
for and on behalf of
Lake Sammamish residents
and WA Sensible Shorelines Association