



PO Box 672, Holbrook, Arizona 86025 • 928.524.2912 Fax:928.524-2910
Email: info@littlecolorado.net

Minutes

Seasonal Kick Off Meeting, April 10, 2012

Friends of Show Low Creek Watershed dba Rainbow Lake Coalition

The first 2012 seasonal meeting of the Friends of the Show Low Creek Watershed was held at the Pinetop-Lakeside Town Hall on Tuesday, 10 April 2012 beginning at 1:00 PM.

Chairman David Newlin called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM.

It was noted that Al Crawford, the guiding force behind the entire Rainbow Lake Aquatic Weed issues, has asked to be relieved of any responsibilities for the group as he and his wife are moving to an assisted living center in the Phoenix and downsizing their lives.

A Contract between the Shores at Rainbow Lake and the Little Colorado River Plateau RC&D has been signed for reimbursement of costs associated with the RC&D support of the group. This Contact is available for review, if desired. The limit on the costs per year is \$5,000.

Introductions were made. The minutes for the last seasons' closing meeting on 11 Oct 2011 were unavailable.

A Conference call-in number was provided for anyone to join the meeting; Al Crawford tried to make contact but something failed and he was unable to join us.

Nick Scienski reported on the great efforts that he has made to move forward with a carp barrier below Lake of the Woods (the Priess family enterprises) to replace the barrier that failed in 2005. Letters from Region I of the Arizona Game and Fish Department to Bob Pender of the Shores regarding the weed harvester; JR DeSpain of the Navajo County Board of Supervisors and most importantly, a letter from Mike Lopez of AZGF modifying their position on the carp barrier and giving the group some incentive to move forward with this option for aquatic weed treatment were read and discussed.

Some standard flow models were obtained from ADOT through the concrete culvert under US260 right at Lake of the Woods. This included both flow in cubic feet per second and headwater height. It is felt that these would be a solid basis for design of the carp barrier since the culvert has never been "topped" by downstream water flow.

Drawings of a proposed barrier as well as pictures of the area were distributed.

The group discussed at length the issues surrounding the lake, particularly the benefits and disadvantages of chemical or carp treatment.

David Newlin had been in close touch with a local weed management person, Mike Joyce, who is fully licensed; however, it was felt that the cost/benefits of the weed killing last year did not meet the regions expectations, were very expensive and led to additional problems concerning what the best approach to the weed issue in Rainbow Lake might be. Nick Scienski's persistence in working with Region I of Arizona Game and Fish has resulted in a substantial change in their approach to the carp barrier. David has also been in touch with Larry Whipple of the Show Low Irrigation Company who *confirmed* that the water users would likely be able to deal with a three-day embargo on irrigation water in the May/June time frame (for the time that the herbicides needed to be in the water and in contact with the noxious aquatic weeds). David was also in touch with AquaTechnex who did not return his calls.

The carp barrier remains the second most desirable choice for the lake treatment (based on the 2002 AZ Water Protection Fund Grant Best Management Practices [dredging was the preferred alternative]).

A carp barrier downstream from the drainage on Lake of the Woods would permit the introduction of carp into Rainbow Lake, reintroduce them to Lake of the Woods (these carp are 10 years old and their effectiveness is fading) and, if necessary, Woodland Park Lake in the Town of Pinetop-Lakeside. This is a Regional approach and should lead to more effective fund-raising.

Nick Scienski has made some preliminary designs and had bought various contractors out to the site for estimates on the construction of the barrier. Mike Lopez indicated that if the group could get a stamped Engineer's drawing on the design, that AZGF was very likely to approve the barrier.

This may be problematic since there are no engineers available that have committed to work on the project; likewise, until a design is adopted, costs are unknown. The Shores at Rainbow Lake has committed to some summer fund-raising efforts; however, specific plans and goals are needed. This would not, however, benefit any efforts in the May/June time frame.

Ernie Modzelewski moved and Jim Snitzer seconded that the group go ahead with the carp barrier and discontinue pursuing the use of the herbicides in Rainbow Lake. The motion passed unanimously.

Nick Scienski and David Newlin were each tasked with contacting different people to move the project forward. Discussion about funding sources from both the Town of Pinetop-Lakeside (Leslee Wessel) and Navajo County (Trent Larson) were requested.

Trent Larson and Byron James, as well as Mike Lopez, indicated that their offices would have likely have some permitting requirements for the construction of the barrier. It is completely on private property with Navajo County.

Discussion of the number of carp for Rainbow Lake followed. Mike Lopez suggested a figure of 30 carp per acre would be good for planning purposes (the lake is approximately 106 acres). The fish cost range is not in the \$9-10 per fish. This expense is not minor but the effects would likely last 10 years. A reminder that the fish are sterile and do not reproduce but eat a great deal and grown from 10-12 inches to over 30 inches in their lifetime. There is a need to replace aging fish generally every year.

Another lengthy discussion, led by Ernie Modzelewski, followed regarding the desirability of incorporating the group. Ernie stated that he had met with Al Crawford and David Newlin and had reviewed the matter at length. His recommendation was that the group *does not* need to forward with incorporation as long as it remains under that guidance and assistance of the Little Colorado River Plateau RC&D. **Paul Ahler moved and Nick Scienski seconded to not incorporate at this time. The motion passed unanimously;**

Some discussion was had about the introduction of carp versus the pike that are in the Lake and when AZGF had plans for fish harvest/kill. Mike Lopez indicated that there were severe budget restraints and he did not see this happening anytime soon.

Having no further business and by unanimous consent, the meeting adjourned at 2:28 PM.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 8 ay at 1:00 PM at the Pinetop-Lakeside Town Hall. Conference Call information will be provided.

Respectfully Submitted;

David M. Newlin
Chair