

M24 Ranch Association

Minutes of the Board of Directors' Meeting

March 3, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 10:06 AM.

Officers Present: Lance Keever, Ron Morrison, John Scadding, Sue Haaland, Chris Kramer

Members Present: Pat George, Randy and Loretta Giglioni, Jim Johnson, Ron Kramer, Linda McClusky, Carol Phelps, Don Starks, Suzie Russin, Sue West

Guests Present: Chuck Slaton (Ron Morrison), Leeann Bryan (Carol Phelps)

Dam Valve/Watershield Committee Plan:

Chris Kramer reported on the committee's four meetings over the past month and the resulting plans for the dam valve and the watershield. All information collected and presented is available to the membership by contacting Chris Kramer at M24News@yahoo.com.

The valve will be inspected by Big Valley Divers sometime in March. We were referred to them by Abbie Kirsch. This company does the repairs and maintenance on the valve at Blue Lake Springs in Arnold. Lance Keever and Kitos Leyva contacted Blue Lake Springs maintenance department and received a favorable recommendation of the company. Big Valley Divers will come one time, inspect and clean the valve, photograph, do general maintenance, and make recommendations if other work is required. A second visit may be necessary based on their findings.

After discussing all the options to remove the watershield and researching the idea of using an herbicide, the committee decided that the best option was to use an herbicide. Kitos Leyva was referred to an herbicide manufacturer by Blue Lake Springs and he contacted them. The AquaShade (blue dye) idea will not work on Emery Reservoir because of the size. The manufacturer suggested AquaStar liquid or Aquicide pellets. (Again, all information on the findings of the committee is available to members by contacting Chris Kramer.) Lance spoke to the Lake Doctor who approved of the board finding another way other than cutting to rid the lake of watershield. The decision was made after three meetings to test the two herbicides. One test of each would be in a sunny location and one test of each would be in a shady location.

Following the third meeting, it was discovered that timing is very important in using the herbicides. Liquid form is used mid-season after the growth of the watershield reaches the surface. Granules or pellets are used when the plant just begins growth at the rhizome. The committee set up a fourth meeting to resolve the timing issue.

After a conference call with the herbicide company the committee developed the following plan:

1. Order a small amount of the two herbicides. No cutting will be allowed on the lake until the board approves it.
2. Begin testing with the pellet for at the earliest knowledge of growth and completely document the process.
3. Spray with the liquid form when the growth reaches the surface. Spraying will take place at the docks and public use areas. This process will also be completely documented.
4. If the resulting spraying is successful, more of the AquaStar will be ordered to spray the entire area affected by watershield. A second year may be necessary for spraying with touch up in subsequent years.
5. If the spraying is not successful and the Aquicide pellets were, we will wait until the following year and use the pellets on the affected area. In the meantime, cutting will resume in public use areas.
6. If neither works... (to be decided)

The committee will meet again after the March 3 board meeting to determine the various considerations needed for the test areas.

Vice-president, Ron Morrison then presented a dissenting view of using herbicides. (He did like the meeting format.) He is opposed to repeated spraying of lake. Product sheet for glyphosate (AquaStar) says should be used after flowers bloom which is contrary to what the committee stated. Would like that clarified. Glyphosate rating from Wikipedia – Mixing with other chemicals could be a problem – might increase toxicity. The herbicide did cause some neural problems in African clawed frogs. There were also some other aquatic life problems. Life in sediments may be limited. It binds to soil particles and is inactivated. Unbound glyphosate is degraded by bacteria. There is some weed resistance over time to the herbicide. (See <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glyphosate>)

Also from Wikipedia (see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2,4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic_acid), Ron discussed the 2,4D herbicides. Various organizations have studied the effects of this herbicide on humans. In 1995 a panel of 13 scientists reviewing studies on the potential cancer risk had divided opinions, but the predominant opinion was that it is possible that it causes cancer in humans and perhaps some other diseases.

Ron would like to see the least invasive methods used first. He is concerned about the reactions of the chemicals with other chemicals. Feels we need a thorough history of what was done in past and is concerned about the aquifers. He is also concerned with the length of time the boat batteries work before recharging them and suggested that perhaps a small the motor should be considered. He likes the idea of mowing, mowing, mowing but is willing to wait to see the results of the testing. With positive results maybe spraying the entire lake next year is the answer.

Several members voiced their opinions on the use of herbicides. Some were totally against the use of herbicides; others are ready to move forward.

John Scadding made a motion to accept the plan of the committee; Ron Morrison seconded the motion, and the Board voted unanimously to accept the plan.

Financial Report:

John Scadding has prepared and filed CA Corp Franchise income tax return and federal return. Tax owed is approximately \$190 resulting from the garage sale and the sale of a porta-potty.

Cash balance at the end of year is estimated to be \$50000.

Other Comments:

Roads – Bob Schock is at M24 today and starting roadwork. Lance wants Bob to scrape and bring up gravel. The loose gravel can then be rolled after that. Ron Morrison asked what happened to the oiling of the road in certain sections. The business we were going to use is defunct and we will have to find another company.

It is almost time to follow up with owners who live in temporary structures on their property. These owners were given notice that they could only live in temporary structures or trailers during the course of construction and for not more than one year as per M24 CC&R's (#4). John Scadding will send letters out.

Ron Morrison handed out a sheet that has the information on the current lake sign at M24 Beach which needs to be replaced and updated. He asked everyone to bring their ideas to the next meeting to discuss the sign and he will move forward with having it produced.

Discussion at the next meeting also will include the proforma budget for the 2012-2013 fiscal year and elections.

The watershed drainage streams into the lake need to be cleared to keep sediments moving into the lake and not accumulate. Lance said he will hire someone to do this work.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM.

The next meeting will be held at the barn on Saturday, April 7, 2012 at 10:00 AM.