

CITY OF BELLEVUE
BELLEVUE PLANNING COMMISSION
STUDY SESSION MINUTES

November 4, 2009
6:30 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall
City Council Conference Room 1E-113

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chair Sheffels, Commissioners Hamlin, Lai, Mathews, Orrico, Robertson

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Commissioner Ferris

STAFF PRESENT: Paul Inghram, Department of Planning and Community Development; Michael Paine, Heidi Bedwell, David Pyle, Development Services Department; Kit Paulsen, Utilities

GUEST SPEAKERS: David St. John, Hans Berg, King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks

RECORDING SECRETARY: Gerry Lindsay

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:43 p.m. by Chair Sheffels who presided.

2. ROLL CALL

Upon the call of the roll, all Commissioners were present with the exception of Commissioner Ferris who was excused.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT – None

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda as submitted was approved by consensus.

5. COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY COUNCIL, COMMUNITY COUNCILS, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS – None

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS – None

7. STAFF REPORTS

Comprehensive Planning Manager Paul Inghram stated that additional background materials relative to the study session item had been posted to the website.

8. STUDY SESSION

A. Shoreline Master Program Update – Technical Presentation

Associate Planner Heidi Bedwell introduced David St. John, chair and coordinator of the intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder Lake Sammamish kokanee work group, which is

charged with creating and implementing a strategy to recover the kokanee population. She noted that Mr. St. John is government relations administrator in the director's office of the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks. She also introduced Hans Berge, an environmental scientist in the Water and Land Resources division of the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks.

Mr. St. John said he has been working on the kokanee population issue for a decade. He shared with the Commission a short video that outlined the work done in late 2008 by King County staff, in collaboration with staff from the state Department of Fish and Wildlife, to monitor spawning in Lewis Creek and Ebright Creek, the two primary kokanee tributaries to Lake Sammamish.

Mr. St. John explained that kokanee are the landlocked smaller form of sockeye salmon. They predominantly live a four-year lifecycle, though some come back in three years and some come back in five. Kokanee live in their natal streams for only a few months after they hatch. The eggs that are laid in the gravel hatch and the fry in a very short time make their way to the lake where they will remain until they return to spawn. In contrast to sockeye, kokanee do not swim to the ocean, so all of the environmental impacts of concern to the Sammamish kokanee occur within the lake and streams.

In the Puget Sound region there are currently only two native kokanee populations, one in Lake Sammamish and one in Lake Whatcom. There are other kokanee populations but only because they have been planted in other lake systems. There used to be a native kokanee population in Lake Washington as well.

Within the Lake Sammamish lake system, there are spawning aggregations of kokanee in three places: Lewis Creek, Ebright Creek, and along the lake shoreline in various places. Spawning occurs in November and December, and sometimes into January. During the past ten years there has been periodic usage by kokanee observed in Vasa Creek in Bellevue, Laughing Jacobs Creek in Issaquah, and Pine Lake Creek in Sammamish, but their numbers are very low.

There are four cities and King County that have jurisdiction in the Lake Sammamish watershed. Those jurisdictions and the people who live in them will ultimately decide the fate of the kokanee population. Roughly eight percent of the Lake Sammamish watershed is in Bellevue; by far most of the acreage in the watershed lies within the jurisdiction of King County. The main spawning area, however, are not located in King County.

Mr. St. John said historically the kokanee population in the Lake Washington and Lake Sammamish watershed numbered in the tens of thousands. The population supported a subsistence fishery for the Snoqualmie tribe and a recreational fishery. The last run registered only 42 fish; the year before that just over 100 fish returned to spawn. Those counts were the worst since the counting effort was undertaken, so the trend is not great. Catching kokanee is prohibited by law; there is no kokanee season in Lake Sammamish, though it is believed they are inadvertently or unknowingly caught.

There used to be three run timings for kokanee. The early run in August to October was almost entirely in Issaquah Creek. The middle run occurred in September to November was in Lake Washington and the Sammamish River tributaries. The late run occurred between November and January and was in the Lake Sammamish tributaries. The early run has been completely extirpated; probable causes include habitat changes, and the historic program of catching kokanee at the hatchery and exterminating them on the fear that they were diseased. The middle run appears to be gone as well, as those fish show genetic similarity with introduced sockeye.

The late run still exists but has a very small population. It is known that shoreline spawning occurs but no fish count has ever been undertaken because of the difficulties involved.

Mr. St. John said reliable data counts for kokanee have been collected since 1996. He said the scientific literature holds that in order to have a naturally sustainable population, more than 500 spawners are required. In 2003 there were some 4600 fish counted, but in the years that followed the number hovered close to the 500 mark; the last two years, however, have posted dismal numbers well below the sustainable population mark. It is not known why so many fish returned in 2003.

Answering a question asked by Commissioner Orrico, said the data makes it appear as though there is a cyclical pattern. However, such a pattern would have predicted a very large run in 2007, but that did not occur.

Mr. Berge pointed out that with thresholds of less than 100 fish negative genetic effects can be seen as a result of inbreeding.

Mr. St. John said the Endangered Species Act could impact the steps taken to preserve the kokanee population. A listing petition was filed in July 2007 by Trout Unlimited, then King County Executive Ron Sims, the Mayor of Issaquah, the Snoqualmie Tribe, People for Puget Sound, the Salish and Sammamish tribes, and the Wild Fish Conservancy. The filing of a petition involves the presentation of facts to the federal Fish and Wildlife Service. The petition focused on all of the remaining Lake Sammamish kokanee. The federal agency reviewed the petition and concluded that sufficient information exists to justify taking a more detailed look at the population. A status review is under way to determine if the population should be protected.

Chair Sheffels asked what additional things will need to be done to protect the Lake Sammamish kokanee beyond continuing the ban on fishermen catching them. Mr. St. John if additional protections are proposed under the Endangered Species Act, the factors concluded to be at issue in impacting the population will be prioritized. Just what those factors will be determined to be cannot be predicted with any degree of accuracy, but they could be residential development, water quality, and predation. The kokanee workgroup is not waiting for a resolution to the petition, however. There are many who are interested in conserving the population regardless of what goes on with the petition.

Mr. St. John said the local kokanee work group was established in 2007, somewhat as an offshoot of the WRIA-8 Salmon Recovery Council. The Recovery Council recommended the formation of the group. Each local government is represented, as are the state and federal governments as well as non-governmental groups and citizens. A limiting factors study was commissioned in 2007 which concluded in 2008. The study returned as a finding the need to put the fish in a hatchery program. The data showed preliminary signals of hydrologic impacts, specifically high water flows in the fall that can scour out redds in the stream beds, and low water flows in the spring that are not high enough to flush the fry out of the streams and into the lake fast enough, leaving them subject to more predation. Other findings included the potential for problems associated with predation in the lake, and the fact that climate change could compound all of the problems by changing the stream flow regimes. The study also found that better data is needed.

The kokanee work group has established as a goal preventing the extinction and improving the health of the native kokanee population such that it becomes viable and self-sustaining and supports fishery opportunities. The first tier priorities to achieve the goal include an artificial propagation program; correcting habitat conditions that cause mortality or limit access; and

protect existing habitat areas that are at risk of damage or conversion. The second tier priorities include utilizing science to ensure certainty, protecting and improving or restoring habitat, and building and maintaining public awareness and support.

Habitat priorities need to be set based on where the fish currently are and what a healthy population needs. It is improbable that a sustainable kokanee population can exist spawning in two streams and a lakeshore, so the risks to the population need to be distributed around the watershed. Fish passage barriers need to be fixed. It will be necessary to work with individual property owners to improve habitat. Incentives, regulations and outreach tools will all need to be developed and implemented. Low-impact development techniques need to be considered for both new development and redevelopment projects.

Mr. St. John said the work group is currently focused on mobilizing professionals to go out and find fish in the streams and capture and transport them to the hatchery. A King Conservation District grant has been received and will be used to conduct feasibility studies for restoration projects around the lake. The group is also providing input to jurisdictions as they work through their Shoreline Master Program updates. An educational brochure has been printed and is being made available widely. A tagging study is under way, and a conservation strategy is being developed. The group is also seeking ways to increase its funding base.

Mr. Berge explained that kokanee salmon start in redds in the streambeds around Lake Sammamish, particularly in Lewis Creek and Ebright Creek. They start as embryos and then mature into little fish that look very much like pine needles. When they reach a certain size they swim up through the rocks of their redd and immediately swim to the lake. While small they are not very good swimmers and are very vulnerable to predation and changes in water velocities.

Mr. Berge said food web research within the lake was conducted between 2002 and 2005. Fry trapping has been done on Lewis Creek by Trout Unlimited, an angling conservation group; the traps were manned nightly for the first year and their efforts have greatly informed the science. Currently the focus is on supplementation, the hatchery program. The egg-to-fry life stage is most critical to kokanee survival. High flow events disturb the redds and the eggs or fry can be ground up by the water action on the streambed. Each nest carries the potential for a thousand embryos, but high flow events can destroy 90 percent of the embryos. Eggs collected from the streams and incubated in a hatchery can result in a 90 percent survival rate.

The fry trapping work has shown that in Lewis Creek the survival rates range from two to ten percent for kokanee. Accordingly, the odds of having a large run return are very low.

The consortium of Trout Unlimited, King County and the federal Fish and Wildlife Service put together a proposal to put acoustic transmitters in kokanee and other fish in Lake Sammamish to monitor their movements. That study is currently under way and several receivers are collecting data. More fish will be tagged during the winter months. Future work will include stream habitat assessment, project prioritization, supplementation program evaluation, colonizing other spawning streams, and repairing barriers. The effects of hatchery releases in Issaquah Creek will also be studied to determine how they might influence kokanee in Lake Sammamish.

Mr. Berge said kokanee do not grow during the summer as well as they do during the rest of the year. That is unusual given that the productivity of lakes is highest during the summer months. Cutthroat trout, which is a major kokanee predator, do much better during the summer months. The reason in part could be related to something called the temperature/oxygen squeeze. In December through April fish species are found throughout the entire lake; in those months, temperatures are cool enough from the top to the bottom and there is plenty of oxygen. In

August the water surface down to about ten meters gets pretty warm. Cold water species such as salmon and trout seek to avoid the warmer water and move to the cooler areas of the lake to conserve energy. At the same time, the decomposing plant matter in the bottom of the lake is consuming the oxygen in the water column; the area in the lowest part of the lake becomes uninhabitable for salmon and trout and those species move up to the same band of the water column that is inhabited by cutthroat trout and are subjected to greater predation. Based on temperature and oxygen requirements, only 20 percent of Lake Sammamish is available for kokanee during the summer months.

Kokanee spawn in Lewis Creek, some in Vasa Creek in certain years, and along the lakeshore. During the early rearing period after the fish hatch out of the gravel, they stay close to the deltas of the tributaries while they adjust to the lake environment, grow into larger and better swimmers. They eat insects and plankton that concentrate along the deltas, and they try to avoid predators. It is in the lake that they really mature and grown. They spend only months in the streams and the shoreline areas; the bulk of their lifespan is spent in the lake where they are impacted by water quality, phosphorus and nitrogen inputs, and all kinds of aquatic plants, all of which makes the oxygen squeeze even worse.

Commissioner Lai asked Mr. Berge to comment on the relative importance of the three areas encountered by kokanee during their lifespan. Mr. Berge said runs cannot be rebuilt if they cannot get out of the streams, making the streams the most important. Equally important, however, is whether or not the lake's environment is hospitable.

Mr. Berge said one of the problems Lewis Creek experiences is high water flows during storm events. People have put in gabion walls and rock structures to protect their properties, but unfortunately that transfers the problem to downstream properties. As property after property is reinforced, the downstream bed becomes deeper and the size of the substrate increases. Sand then fills the interstitial spaces. The creek bed is left unsuitable for redds, and if redds exist during the high water flows they are simply washed out. Gabions increase the risks to fish as well as to bridges and other downstream public infrastructure. Water that tops the bank of a stream has its energy dissipated. Quieter pools are created in which fish can go and hide. Non-armored creek banks also offer habitat values.

The female spawning kokanee digs a nest in the creek bed. The material she digs out flows with the water downstream. She will then work upstream and dig another redd and deposit eggs, and the material from that dig will flow downstream and help to bury the first redd. On average, a kokanee will dig about four egg pockets before standing guard over the nests from other kokanee until she dies.

Upper Lewis Creek has a large intact riparian zone. However, high water flows trigger massive amounts of erosion resulting in large cobble deposits as the gravel gets exported. Some gravel gets exported through the entire I-90 culvert mess to lower Lewis Creek and ultimately to the lakeshore. There is a need for the cities of Issaquah and Bellevue to cooperate in developing plans for Lewis Creek if only to reduce some of the socioeconomic effects resulting from upstream development.

Mr. Berge said the acoustic telemetry goal is to understand seasonal movements of kokanee in Lake Sammamish, to monitor the spatial and temporal overlap of off-shore predators and prey, to investigate the effects of thermal stratification, and to study the day/night movements of kokanee. To date 17 hydrophones have been placed around the lake anchored to float just above the bottom of the lake. Each unit collects data that can be downloaded only by bringing it to the surface and connecting it to a computer. Data is collected on both the temperature and depth of

the tagged fish. In addition to kokanee, bass, cutthroat trout and squawfish have been tagged, each species with a unique code. Other measurements being taken into lake temperature, oxygen levels, light levels and water turbidity. Monthly samples of zooplankton are also taken.

Trout Unlimited provided the volunteers to go out fishing for fish to tag. A fair number of kokanee were caught, which added to the concern that fishermen may be misidentifying them as some other species and not throwing them back. The fish that were caught were handled very carefully. The kokanee that were caught were transferred to a live well on the boat and then to shore where a processing table was set up. The fish were anesthetized, tagged, sutured up, allowed to recover, and then released.

In all 35 fish were tagged, though only 33 have been heard from since. The data from the hydrophones has been downloaded every other month since August. There have been detections at each station near the Bellevue shoreline. Adult-sized kokanee have been detected in the shallow water along the shoreline which was not expected at all. During the summer months when the temperature/oxygen squeeze was in effect, the fish were forced further offshore; since the temperature has changed, the fish have returned to the nearshore area.

Questions written on cards by those in the audience were passed to Chair Sheffels to read.

The first question asked what impact the chemicals coming off the hills above Lake Sammamish have on the kokanee population. Mr. Berge said it all depends on what chemicals are involved. In general, any kind of nutrient that goes into a lake can disrupt the balance of the ecosystem. Nitrogen and phosphorus are particularly bad for the lake ecosystem. Non-point pollution is a problem for lakes the whole over.

Mr. St. John said one of the issues observed in the urbanized areas around Seattle is pre-spawning mortality in coho. He said there have been some who have hypothesized that the problem can be attributed to poor water quality. Mr. Berge said pre-spawning mortality has been observed in kokanee; in a fairly large percentage of the female kokanee carcasses analyzed there are eggs present that were not deposited.

Kit Paulsen, environmental scientist with the Department of Utilities, said an agreement for water quality in Lake Sammamish was put into place in the late 80s and early 90s. Bellevue has been a part of that agreement and since then has been working on some of the water quality issues, predominantly those associated with nutrients. There has been a lot of modeling work done and technical information pulled together. As a result, there are land use regulations for Lake Sammamish that include wet season clearing and grading restrictions. In Lewis Creek, the Lakemont treatment facility was put in place to help improve water quality in Lake Sammamish.

The next question asked how far up Lewis Creek and Ebright Creek do the kokanee travel. Mr. St. John allowed that the crossing at I-90 on Lewis Creek is a barrier to the fish; the distance from the lake to the freeway is about two-thirds of a mile. The fish can travel up Ebright Creek about half a mile before the streams gets small and steep.

The presenters were asked what percentage of the total kokanee hatch occurs on the lake shorelines. Mr. Berge said no one has a good answer to that question. Referring to the high count in 2003, he said the parent year that produced that many returning kokanee was off the charts; the best hatchery under the very best conditions could not mimic that result. It could be that the shoreline component is more important than anyone fully realizes. Redds along the shoreline are not subject to scouring like the creek beds are, and the water temperature is far more constant.

The next question read by Chair Sheffels asked what types of landscaping are either favorable or detrimental to the kokanee in their early years relative to their spawning on the shoreline. Mr. Berge said gently sloped shorelines and sandy shorelines are beneficial to little fish. Chinook salmon prefer those areas as well. Any kind of complex habitat helps small fish avoid predators. Vegetation is good, but not manicured lawns that contribute nitrogen and phosphorus into the lake.

Mr. St. John said the WRIA-8 Recovery Council has spent quite a lot of time on salmon-friendly landscaping ideas for shoreline landowners. They have produced a brochure with a lot of good information in it, including photos and schematic drawings.

An audience question asked how the shorelines are harmed by powerboat wakes that are up to two feet high. Mr. Berge said he has seen powerboat waves break on the shoreline but was not aware of any study looking at the impacts.

Another question sought to know if utilizing a hatchery process, which would improve the quantity and quality of fish in the lake, should be given top focus. Mr. St. John said if used properly hatcheries can be a tool for preserving or recovering a population. The current kokanee population is so small that using a hatchery to grow the population is about the only option open and as such is the top priority. Hatcheries have their risks, however, associated with genetic and domestication issues. All of those factors must be carefully weighed.

Mr. Berge allowed that kokanee are particularly difficult to culture. Many experiments have proved to be unsuccessful, though a few have succeeded. The successful experiments have come about in places where the naturally occurring virus IHN does not exist in the watershed. Lake Sammamish has IHN, so that complicates the hatchery approach. It is premature to say a hatchery program will be the final solution.

The next question asked why the kokanee are no longer found in Lake Washington and if there are plans to reintroduce kokanee to that lake. Mr. Berge said Lake Washington has been subject to a lot of fishery manipulation and management. The Cedar River was diverted into the lake, and sockeye salmon were brought in from Baker Lake in large numbers. All of the fish from the Cedar River travel to the lake where they compete with the sockeye and the kokanee fry. Additionally, habitat degradation occurred much earlier along the shores of Lake Washington. The lowering of the lake level also certainly had a negative impact.

Mr. St. John said his group is focused on Lake Sammamish kokanee only and is not formulating any plans to expand to Lake Washington.

Chair Sheffels read a question that asked if there is any reason for Bellevue not to adopt the same shoreline management plan adopted by Redmond. Mr. Berge and Mr. St. John allowed that they were not familiar with the Redmond approach.

Answering a question asked about the cyclical nature of the fish population, Mr. Berge explained that all populations are cyclical to one degree or another. When the population grows to the point where the capacity of the spawning habitat or food chain is reached, the population cannot continue to grow.

Asked to what degree shoreline development has had an effect on kokanee, and how the impact has been measured, Mr. St. John said it is known that shoreline development can affect habitat and that affecting habitat will affect the fish. Development often results in the loss of vegetation

along the shorelines and results in additional pollutants flowing into the lake. Development can also affect local hydrology. All of those factors will affect how the fish use the lakeshore area.

Mr. Berge said he was not aware of any study about lakeshore development that was specific to kokanee. There have been studies for other fish species, such as Chinook salmon, in Lake Sammamish that have included looking at the effects of shoreline modification on juveniles. That work showed substantial differences between the more natural areas and the areas with development modifications; logic would seem to dictate that the findings can be applied to kokanee.

B. Shoreline Master Program Update – Public Comments

Mr. Richard Johnson, 2824 West Lake Sammamish Parkway SE, commented on the 2005 bas review survey. He said he was appalled at the quality of the document. The assumptions made were simply not supported. Page 17 of Chapter 13 states that in accordance with the master program guidelines, WAC 173.26, local agency regulations should ensure that no net loss of ecological function should result from residential development, and says such provisions should include specific regulations for structure setbacks, buffer areas, shoreline armoring, vegetation and conservation. The fact is that WAC 173.26 calls for the accommodation of all reasonable and appropriate uses consistent with protecting against adverse effects, the public health, the land, the vegetation and the wildlife, the waters of the state and their aquatic life, consistent with public right of navigation. It goes on to say that permitted uses in the shorelines of the state shall be designed and conducted in a manner to minimize insofar as practical any resulting damage to the ecology and environment of the shoreline area and the public's use of the water. A picture showing freshwater clams on the shores of Lake Sammamish was shared with the Commission. It was stated that freshwater clams are a good sign and they are becoming relatively common. The Commissioners were shown a picture of a rocky beach on Lake Sammamish and were told that in the summer when the water level is low the water recedes some 60 feet. Attempts to plant on the site have failed several times due to root flooding and washout; one landscape architect recommended burying concrete planters as a way to keep the soils in place. To the north and south are several properties with bulkheads; each has sandy beaches. The source of the sand appears to be a 36-inch storm drain that empties into the lake. The bass review document also states that cutthroat trout are present in reaches upstream of West Lake Sammamish Parkway to Phantom Lake and Phantom Creek. The truth is that there is a 12-foot waterfall that prevents fish from reaching Phantom Lake.

Mr. Johnson continued having been yielded time by another person signed up to speak. He shared with the Commissioners a scale drawing depicting West Lake Sammamish Parkway, the summer lake water level, the ordinary high water mark, and the winter high water level. He pointed out that anytime between sunrise and noon on the western shore of the lake trees provide no shade whatsoever to the lakeshore. Around 1:00 p.m., a 100-foot tree might cast a small amount of shade; a 40-foot tree would not provide any shade until much later in the day. By about 3:00 p.m. all of the house on the western shore are beginning to lose their sunlight because of the slope of the hill behind them. At the most, trees add only a couple of hours of shade per day. Of course Bellevue has 62 percent partial or more daytime cloud cover 226 days per year. Requiring trees along that shoreline would simply not add much cooling shade. The problem is one of geometry.

Ms. Donna Lemke, 2016 West Lake Sammamish Parkway SE, said her biggest concern is improving the water quality of Lake Sammamish. She said her family has lived on the lake since 1920. The surrounding soils are loaded with phosphorus, and when the big rains come the runoff raises the phosphorus levels in the lake. There is a phosphorus level established for the lake that

is not intended to be exceeded; the readings have been improving some, but they are still dangerously close to the limit. It makes no sense that Lakemont Boulevard was constructed so near such a sensitive stream. She asked if any study has been done on the effects of introducing tons of topsoil annually into the lake. Soil runoff into the lake is bad, and that is why barriers are put up around new building sites. The level of the lake rises four or five feet every winter and any shrubs and trees planted along the shoreline as proposed by the critical areas ordinance would be washed away every winter, along with the dirt they were planted in, resulting in disastrous algae growth and increased phosphorus levels in the lake. It could be even worse if existing bulkheads were removed. She said the bulkhead on her property was put in by her grandfather in the 1920s; it should be grandfathered in. No one wants a barrier of vegetation that would make their waterfronts inaccessible. There would be a public outcry if Lake Sammamish State Park had a solid barrier of plants along its shoreline.

Ms. Janet Evans, 2254 West Lake Sammamish Parkway SE, deferred her time to Mike Lunenschloss.

Mr. Mike Lunenschloss, 2242 West Lake Sammamish Parkway, said the presentation on October 28 by Tessa Francis suggested that more trees along the shoreline will automatically yield more bugs in the water for the fish to eat. Ms. Francis went on to suggest residents should throw their Christmas trees in the water when they are through with them. If that were done by every lakeshore resident the result would be an unbelievable brush pile. The website bassresource.com states that bass are creatures of structure, specifically structure in the water. Salmon are not because they do not need it; other species that do not need structure include steelhead, cutthroat and rainbow trout. Only a few days after bass eggs hatch, the young fish seek hiding places in weeds, floating algae or brush piles. If trees and brush were intentionally added to the lakeshore, the number of bass would increase, but the salmon and other species would not. Bass avoid heavy currents in streams and they seek out heavy objects around which to hide. The fact that the buffer areas wash out easily is the only point everyone agrees on. It would make no sense to require homeowners to post a bond to assure the planting of trees. The trees would be planted, the water level would rise in the winter, the trees would wash out into the lake, and the homeowner would lose the bond.

Continuing, Mr. Lunenschloss said he saw nothing in the research that could be used to require the removal of bulkheads and plant bushes and trees along the shoreline. He shared with the Commissioners a chart showing the fish run numbers going back several years compared against the targets and noted that the fish populations are doing quite well. Bellevue wants to be known as a place with great parks, but planting trees in the buffers, only to see them washed out into the lake, the lake will be turned into a mudhole, and the result will be increases in bass, catfish and carp and the demise of all other species. City regulations should be based on common sense. The critical areas ordinance applicable to rivers and streams should not be applied to Lake Sammamish.

Mr. Dallas Evans, 2254 West Lake Sammamish Parkway SE, deferred his time to Anita Neil.

Ms. Anita Skoog-Neil, 9302 SE Shoreland Drive, said she learned from the September 23 presentation by The Watershed Company that if all additional shoreline development were halted the shoreline would still continue to degrade, and that the responsibility of the shoreline owners is to compensate for that degradation by taking proactive measures at their personal expense. The presentation by the city's utilities department on October 16 indicated that the largest sources of lake pollution are petroleum associated with cars, commercial construction, and the runoff from rooftops. It was stated that everyone is responsible for the health of the lake, yet it was still suggested that shoreline residents have the total responsibility to create habitat for the

fish. Ms. Francis in her presentation on October 28 said the width of buffers and setbacks relate to the distance a normal tree might fall into the water, and that shoreline owners should leave fallen trees on the shoreline where they fall for the benefit of the insects and the fish that eat them. It was also stated that fish eat other organic matter, and the larger the lake the less important the shoreline is to the health of the lake, yet it was stated that small changes to the shoreline could make a difference. The message of the presentations by Mr. St. John and Mr. Berge was really about the health of the streams. No science was presented regarding the effect of shoreline development on the kokanee population. The mounting evidence seems to suggest the real focus should be on the rivers and streams.

Mr. Jerry Baruffi, 9236 SE Shoreland Drive, said the presentation by Ms. Francis on October 28 was both interesting and informative, but not relevant. All of the lakes in her study were too small to be logically compared to Lake Sammamish or Lake Washington. Ms. Francis used river and stream data and extrapolated it to apply to lakes as well. Data about Lake Erie and Lake Superior would be equally applicable to Lake Sammamish and Lake Washington. The Commission is being force-fed irrelevant and misleading information in an attempt to recommend policy and regulations that will be expensive, irrelevant and misleading. Scientists with information that might differ from the presentations made to date should be invited to speak. Nothing has been said about Asian milfoil, and there appear to be no attempts to harvest it from the lakes, something that used to be done in Meydenbauer Bay. The milfoil is killing the fish, but no one is talking about it. The city could save a great deal of money by simply adopting the Redmond management plan.

C. Shoreline Master Program Update – Commission Discussion

Commissioner Mathews said he would appreciate receiving more information about lakeshore spawning and the effects of lakeshore conditions on spawning. Mr. Inghram said he would seek additional information.

Commissioner Robertson suggested the agenda should include a time for the Commissioners to ask questions of the presenters. She said she also would like more information about lakeshore spawning.

Commissioner Robertson noted that Mr. Berge had said abrupt lake edges offer good places for fish to hide and asked if a bulkhead could be considered an abrupt edge. There were also comments made about overhanging vegetation but the comments were not specific to the kinds of vegetation. She said she also wanted more information about the effects of bulkheads and docks on the kokanee population.

Chair Sheffels commented that Mr. St. John talked about incentives; she said she would like additional information from him with regard to the kinds of incentives. She also asked how possible it might be for the four jurisdictions surrounding Lake Sammamish to have consistent regulations to help level the playing field.

Mr. Inghram said staff will want to include on the agenda an opportunity to talk about the different types of regulations in the various jurisdictions. He noted that the city of Sammamish recently completed its Shoreline Master Program and has been submitted for review by the Department of Ecology; the approach designated by Sammamish differs from the approach adopted by Redmond. All of the different approaches will be reviewed with the Commission at a future meeting.

Commissioner Orrico said in future meetings she would discourage the sharing of time among

public speakers. Each speaker should be given their five minutes to keep things from getting out of hand. Mr. Inghram said he did not review the Commission by-laws during the meeting but said he is not sure they allow for the sharing of time. He said he would review the by-laws and report back to the Commission.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Diane Tebelius, 2650 West Lake Sammamish Parkway SE, said the entire community of those who live on the waterfront have been spending enormous amounts of time gathering information in order to be ready to respond to the presentations made by the experts. It is very difficult to present a long train of thought in only five minutes. If it is determined that the Commission by-laws do not allow for the sharing of time, the Commission should act to provide opportunity for residents to present coherent testimony and to bring forward experts to provide different viewpoints.

Mr. Dallas Evans, 2254 West Lake Sammamish Parkway SE, thanked the Commissioners for volunteering to serve on the Commission. He concurred with Ms. Tebelius that the public should be given a better opportunity to provide feedback presentations in a cohesive manner.

10. NEXT PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for November 18, 2009.

11. ADJOURN

Chair Sheffels adjourned the meeting at 9:02 p.m.



Paul Inghram
Staff to the Planning Commission

12/9/2009
Date



Pat Sheffels
Chair of the Planning Commission

12/9/2009
Date

