

GEM Committee Minutes – August 11, 2010

1. Attendance: Pam Kramer, Rick Vallejos, Jim Ormsbee, Paul Riley, Kent Lyons, Laura Warburton, Kimbal Wheatley, Steve Ransom, Steve Clarke. Visitors: Ed Macner, Kari Lundeen, Dave Torgersen, Louis Cooper, Dr. Darwin Sorensen, Brady Warwood, Lindsey DeBoer, Thomas Ruben.
2. Minutes of the July meeting were accepted as written.
3. Announcements:
 - a. Tim Maycock died in a motorcycle accident. Funeral arrangements are on hold pending possible recovery of his wife so she can participate in services.
 - b. Kent Lyons gave a brief report on the Snowbasin rezone hearing with the Planning Commission. It is currently tabled pending more information, primarily on wildlife impacts.
 - c. Dave Torgersen gave a brief report on the South Fork Sewer study. The area of study includes the south side of the reservoir down to the dam, east Huntsville up to Green Hills, Middlefork to 1900 North. The report is expected to be ready for public comment by late October and presented to the County and Huntsville Town before the end of the year.
 - d. The residential treatment academy rezoning request was withdrawn from the Planning Commission agenda by the petitioner at the last minute. It is expected to be on a future agenda.
4. Professor Darwin Sorensen introduced the water quality update report. Lindsey DeBoer presented detailed analysis of the South Fork and Middle Fork river flows and the loads of nitrates, potassium, and sediment they carry. Thomas Ruben reported on 5 wells and the data on nutrient loads delivered to the reservoir by groundwater. Brady Warwood reported on the reservoir dynamics, including dissolved oxygen, phosphorus, algae, nitrates, etc. As dissolved oxygen goes to low levels in deeper portions of the reservoir nutrients become free and contribute to algae growth. It now appears nitrogen and phosphorus are accumulating year by year, which is a substantial concern.

The conclusion is that more study is needed to be more definitive about nutrient loads of nitrogen and phosphorus coming into the reservoir, especially from groundwater, but that through careful management of nutrient sources and draining the reservoir from the bottom (as is now done) water quality can be managed to excellent quality levels.
5. The next meeting will be Wednesday September 1, at 5 pm in the Huntsville Library. Agenda items will include TR Morgan, Commissioner Candidate for Jan Zogmaister's seat, and discussion of priority for GEM study topics.

6. The meeting was adjourned at 6:40.