

## Pond Committee Minutes

July 20, 2017, Darlene Sowell

**Members Present:** Roger Sense, Cindy Lyon, Rick Harkins, Judy Cheek, Darlene Sowell, Bill Framm

**New Member:** The Pond Committee welcomes Bill Framm who is representing Hidden Cove.

**Hidden Cove:** We previously were under the impression that Hidden Cove was not a siltation pond but rather an extension of the lake. Apparently this is incorrect; consequently, we are including Hidden Cove as part of our area of responsibility. Rick will confirm the acreage of the pond currently given as 2.5 acres.

Bill Framm brought several Hidden Cove issues to our attention. Those being the barrier at the North end of the pond which traps trash and debris; algae; and deterioration of one of the runoff channels and resulting erosion at that site. We discussed the possibility of a second aerator or bubbler. Bill advised that the barrier was first installed 7-8 years ago when Hidden Cove was dredged. He will prepare a presentation for the Board of Directors Work Session, hopefully to be completed for the July 25<sup>th</sup> session.

**Fish Kill:** We discussed the recent fish kill at Turtle Dove Pond which was determined to be due to several factors: hot weather/increased temperature of the pond, shallow depth, density of fishy population, and recent treatments by both Blue Valley Labs and RLPOA Staff. The MO Dept. of Conservation was called and visited the pond. Bubbles were observed at the pond - this being gases formed by decaying plant life. Staff cleaned up the fish kill in a very timely manner and installed a temporary aerator.

**Pond Maintenance Contract:** Roger consulted with two companies concerning development of a maintenance program for the ponds. We will consult with a third vendor Friday, July 28<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m. to outline requirements for a bid (Jennifer Bonzani of Solitude Lake Management). Additionally, Blue Valley Labs' bid will need to be revised to include Hidden Cove. We also discussed bacterial treatment as part of the maintenance program. Cindy has researched bacterial treatment and informed us about "balls," either biodegradable or permanent, that release bacteria which attacks nutrients upon which algae feeds. The bacteria also reduce rotting vegetation at the pond bottom that

contributes to silt. We mentioned the possibility of using two ponds to test effectiveness of bacterial treatment.

**2018 Budget:** The following were identified for budgeting -- Hidden Cove signage; aerator/bubbler; walking trails; trash pickup around ponds; and rip rap at Minnow Pond.

**Admiral Byrd Pond:** Admiral Byrd is still being observed for leakage. We hope to establish a new "normal level" after recent rains and, from there, attempt to determine if leakage still exists.

Staff is currently measuring the depth of the lake and ponds and will advise the Committee of pond results.

Pond literature from the MO Dept. of Conservation was distributed to the members.