

Proposed Lake Kapowsin Aquatic Reserve

Workshop Summary

June 8nd, 2016, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Graham Fire Station 94

Purpose of the Meeting

- To share information about the Aquatic Reserves Program with the community. Describe the benefits of the program and why Lake Kapowsin has been proposed as an aquatic reserve.
- Listen to community comments and answer questions about the proposed reserve.
- Provide an opportunity for local residents to share ideas about how to build a community partnership for Lake Kapowsin.
- Ensure local public interest is included in the plan.

Agenda

6:00 – 6:15 – Browse listening posts

6:15 – 6:30 – Purpose of the meeting – short presentation

6:30 – 7:50 - Listening posts and writing comments

7:50 – 8:00 -Wrap up

27 people signed in to the meeting.

There were five “listening posts” set up for discussion:

1. Aquatic Reserve and DNR – Community Connection
2. Unique Features of Lake Kapowsin
3. Learn More About the Management Plan
4. Community Involvement and Stewardship
5. History

Comments and Questions

Unique Features of Lake Kapowsin

Comment: Suggesting that informational signs be located around the lake identifying its unique history and describing the diverse wildlife, fish and bird species.

Response: This is a great idea that can be included in the management plan.

Community Involvement

Question: What are we doing about security at the launch ramp?

Response: Currently DNR is providing no additional security at the launch ramp. However, this is identified as an action item in the management plan.

Question: Is it possible to establish other trails and access to the lake that provide interpretive signs describing the history of the lake?

Response: This is a great idea that was proposed by the planning committee and included in the management plan.

Question: How do we create a park where we have community events?

Response: This would require a cooperative effort by Pierce County Parks and the ability to purchase land.

Question: Can the forest surrounding the lake be harvested?

Response: Yes, but according to County and State regulations.

Learning More about the Management Plan

Comment: Suggestion for a Kapowsin Lake Vision Task Force. DNR or Pierce County as the lead agency.

Response: The implementation committee that will be organized for the reserve will take this role. The county, local citizens and other stakeholders will be invited to participate on the committee.

Question: What does an aquatic reserve do? How will things change? How will it be different than it has been?

Response: The state-owned portion of the lake will be managed to protect the unique characteristics of the lake that support current public uses. The management plan is developed in cooperation with a local implementation committee, and recommendations from the public.

Question: Will you expand public access?

Response: The reserve includes only state owned aquatic land, but the plan includes actions to partner with entities that are interested in creating additional public access to the lake or parks.

Question: Would DNR hire more staff and increase the budget to support the Lake Kapowsin Aquatic Reserve?

Response: No.

Question: Can DNR apply for federal money to manage wildlife.

Response: DNR could apply for funding. The Program currently has a federal grant to support outreach and monitoring of wildlife and habitat at the seven established reserves.

Question: Will community clean-ups and monitoring continue if there is no reserve designation? Why do we need that designation to continue?

Response: The lake will continue to be managed by DNR as an area with unique features. However, it is unlikely that any additional efforts, such as clean up and monitoring, would occur if the lake is not designated as a reserve.

Question: Does the management plan specifically call out and prevent certain activities? Specific examples that people wanted to know about were - removing stumps,

building docks (ie; if the new development wants to build a bunch of docks), and if Hancock decided to start storing logs in the lake.

Response: The plan does not specify what types of uses are allowed or not allowed but states that any proposed use would have to meet the goals and objectives of the management plan. DNR in coordination with the implementation committee, would consider a proposal and refer back to the goals and objective in the plan to determine if they were compatible using best available science etc. The management plan is actually a mechanism for the community to have input into what happens at the lake.

Comment: Several people mention Sherwood properties (on the western shore of the lake) and the plan for the area.

History

Question: What is going to be different as an aquatic reserve than the way it is now? What will be taken away?

Response: The state-owned portion of the lake will be managed to protect the unique characteristics of the lake that support current public uses. The management plan is developed in cooperation with a local implementation committee, and recommendations from the public.

Comment: The pilings are historically significant and represent the community history and should not be removed.

Response: DNR has no plans to remove any pilings from the lake.

Comment: I like what I hear but I don't want people shut out.

Response: DNR has and will continue to support public use and access at Lake Kapowsin.

Question: What are the tribe's plans for the lake?

Response: DNR is not aware of any plans that the Puyallup or Muckleshoot Tribes have for the lake.

Question: What are you going to do about security at the boat launch and trash dumping?

Response: The draft plan calls for working with partners, WDFW and the community to develop strategies to improve security and to raise awareness regarding trash dumping through outreach and education and sponsoring participation in community clean-up events.

Comment: Don't ban motorized boats at the lake.

Response: The management plan does not address what kinds of boats may be used on the lake and DNR does not have the authority to make that decision. Limitations like this are generally made by the county or city in which the lake is located.

Comment: The City of Tacoma's condemning of the lake shore and town along the shore is important to the lake's history.

Comment: Need an informational display at the boat launch about the history of the old town and geology of the lake.

Comment: The rowing facility proposed for the lake is a bunch of Seattleites trying to take Lake Kapowsin.

Comment: I enjoy the quietness of the lake.

Comment: Some interesting historical information can be found at the Kapowsin Tavern and a showcase at the Graham-Kapowsin High School.

Other General questions regarding aquatic reserve designation:

Is the aquatic reserve permanent?

Response: Aquatic Reserves are established for 90 years.

Does DNR have any other reserves planned?

Response: Not at this time.

What happens at the end of 90 years?

Response: After 90 years the site is re-evaluated to determine if its reserve status should be continued for an additional 90 years.

Will DNR complete SEPA before designating Lake Kapowsin as an aquatic reserve?

Response: Yes, this is required under the State Environmental Policy Act

What is the cost of designating an aquatic reserve?

Response: We estimated the cost for completing the 2 year process for designating the Lake Kapowsin Aquatic Reserve to be roughly \$75,000.

Will the rock quarry and adjacent timber lands be impacted by the aquatic reserve designation?

Response: No.

What changes when an aquatic reserve is established?

Response: The state-owned portion of the lake will be managed to protect the unique characteristics of the lake that support current public uses. The management plan is developed in cooperation with a local implementation committee, and recommendations from the public.

Are there any affects to adjacent private property?

Response: DNR is not aware of any of our seven current aquatic reserves affecting adjacent private property. All of this is taken into consideration during the two year designation process.

Is leasing allowed within an aquatic reserve?

Response: Yes, if the proposed use meets the goals and objectives and supports the desired future conditions defined in the management plan.

Are historical signs really going to happen? If so, when?

Response: The draft management plans calls for DNR to work with stewardship groups and other partners to develop historical outreach material. This work would be initiated after the management plan is formally adopted by DNR and funding is available.

Since DNR does not pay WDFW, how are they going to improve security at the boat launch and clean up dumping?

Response: The draft plan calls for working with partners, WDFW and the community to develop strategies to improve security and to raise awareness regarding trash dumping through outreach and education and sponsoring participation in community clean-up events.

Is DNR going to remove pilings or sunken boats at the lake?

Response: No.

How can you make decisions based upon these meetings if few people attend, as was the case tonight?

Response: DNR staff has been doing outreach for the last two years, in addition to the seven public meetings to date, that include public events, speaking events, meetings with individual interest groups and face-to-face interactions with people at the lake. Meetings have been publicized through posted flyers, newspaper articles, Facebook, and website notices. In addition, we have invited 1,400 to the April 23 meeting and 4,400 people to the June 8th and 29th meetings through mailings. Our staff has many years of experience conducting outreach and engaging with the public about the Aquatic Reserves Program and specific aquatic reserves.

Why are the meetings so frequent?

Response: DNR is trying to get as much public engagement as possible through these workshop/meeting opportunities for the community.

How will we know the comments generated from this meeting?

Response: Per this responsiveness summary.

Where does this meeting fall out in the SEPA process?

Response: The open house meetings on June 9 and 29 are not part of the SEPA process. The SEPA process has not begun.

Did DNR develop the draft management plan?

Response: DNR engaged with a public planning committee to develop the draft management plan.

Should the proposal to designate Lake Kapowsin an aquatic reserve be announced to the entire state?

Response: The draft management plan will be provided to a wide distribution list as a requirement of the State Environmental Policy Act.

Which aquatic reserve has been in place the longest? Was there any negative feedback from the community when establishing that reserve?

Response: The Maury Island Aquatic Reserve, established in 2004, has been in place the longest. Some members of the community were concerned, similar to what we initially hear regarding all our reserves, that current uses could be restricted or eliminated.

When DNR was updating the Maury Island Aquatic Reserve management plan in 2015 did anyone imply that they didn't want it to be designated as a reserve any longer?

Response: No.

Budget and revenue questions:

Is there a budget for the aquatic reserve program?

Response: The biennial (2 year) budget is \$ 761,200.

Does the Discover Pass money go to support the aquatic reserves program?

Response: No

Where does DNR get its revenue?

Response: DNR Aquatics generates revenue for the state from leasing of state-managed aquatic lands and the state commercial geoduck fishery.

How much revenue was generated in 2015?

Response: The DNR Aquatics Program generated \$ 30.4 million for the state in 2015. See below for additional revenue and expenditure data.

Where are tax dollars going?

Response: The DNR Aquatics Division generates revenue for the state and does not receive any tax revenue.

Are federal grants awarded to the aquatic reserves program obligating the state to meet any federal requirements?

Response: While the current federal grant (National Estuary Program) does not require matching funds from DNR, we are providing documentation of match in the form of staff and volunteer hours. All federal grant recipients must comply with uniform administrative requirements for Federal grants and subawards.

Recent Annual Revenue and Expenditure Data:

Year	2015	2014	2013
Revenue	\$30.4M	\$28.8M	\$25.0M
Expenditures	\$20.7M	\$16.7M	\$15.3M
ALEA Distribution	57.5%	54.5%	55.6%
RMCA Distribution	42.5%	45.4%	44.4%

ALEA - Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account, used for a local government grant program to fund access and restoration projects, as well as activities of other agencies consistent with access and restoration.

RMCA - Resources Management Cost Account, used to fund the operational costs of the management of state-owned aquatic lands.