AGENDA

Friends of Robert Lake Society
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Robert Hobson EECO Centre, 2363A Springfield Rd.

June 13, 2024
7:00 p.m.

1.0 Roll Call
Louise Nelson, Bob Lalonde, Roland Gerbauer, Jim Hagar, Michelle Hamilton, Grant Halm, Allison Hargreave
Guest: Scott Hoekstra

2.0 Approval of Agenda
B. Lalonde moved, L. Nelson seconded. Passed.

3.0 Approval of Minutes from 2023
B. Lalonde moved, L. Nelson seconded. Passed.

4.0 Election of Directors and Officers of the Board

First call for Nominations

Proposed Slate of Candidates
Laura Hooker-President
Ian Walker-Vice President
Louise Nelson-Secretary Treasurer
Bob Lalonde, Karen Perry, Michelle Hamilton, and Grant Halm-Members-at-Large

5.0 Yearly Report
L. Hooker reported (report appended to these minutes) that the website has continued to attract attention, that the Society engaged in little activity with respect to Spadefoot monitoring, and that most of the Society's activity this year was associated with the City of Kelowna's water diversion and high-water control projects in and around Robert Lake. Jim Hagar reported the progress of these activities, the report is submitted as part of the annual report, and he provided a verbal update under agenda item 8.1.

6.0 Treasurers Report
L. Nelson provided a report on our financial state, which is stable.
R. Gerbauer moved to accept the report as presented, seconded by J. Hagar. Passed.

7.0 Business Arising

7.1-Monitoring of water chemistry characteristics: we are getting the City's data, is this enough?
A brief discussion ensued about FoRL's capacity to do any monitoring more extensive and biologically inclusive than that we are provided by the City. It was decided that currently this is not possible and that we should shelve the topic unless a specific need arises.
L. Hooker asked S. Hoekstra about how the 'electrical conductivity' was derived as it differs a little from the ones we took. The City's are taken in the lab using a meter and the values are corrected to 25^{o}C, whereas ours are taken in the field using a meter correcting to 25^{o}C.

Using limnological terminology both are 'specific conductance' and the difference could likely be attributed to slight differences in instrumentation and field versus lab conditions.
Regardless, results point to the same trend of increasing values compared to the past few years, which is indicative of increasing salinity.

7.2 Spadefoot monitoring

It was reported that the UBCO chapter of The Wildlife Society seems to have taken over the responsibility of monitoring the spadefoot population. We will be in contact with them in the Autumn to try and obtain results.

8.0 New Business

8.1-City of Kelowna Robert Lake area water diversion and high-water control projects-Report from Jim Hagar, Project Manager and FoRL member.

J. Hagar presented elements of the original proposals and updates on progress. There was a healthy, extensive discussion regarding aspects of the design including the proposed maximum high-water level in the lake, the unfortunate loss of about 12 mature Ponderosa Pines to be removed to allow for the construction of a buried water diversion pipeline, and the possible influence of irrigation on the water levels in the lake.

Second Call call for nominations

8.2 Questions for Scott Hoekstra, Manager City of Kelowna Landfill and Compost Operations regarding the City's Glenmore Landfill Hydrology and Hydrogeology Report

L. Hooker asked about surface water flow in and around the landfill (Figure 3.3) area and it was confirmed that during periods of high water in the upslope from the landfill, there is an emergency contained pipe that carries water to the southern edge of the landfill, and this water does not come into contact with the landfill. Water originating within the landfill is contained in ponds.

Groundwater that infiltrates into the aquifer (the leaky aquitard) that underlies the landfill flows to the south towards Little Robert Lake and Robert Lake (Figures 3.6-3.7) L. Hooker asked if there was any connection and possible transfer of material between overlying waters in the landfill and water in the aquifer. It turns out that the methods used to produce Figures 3.6-.7 indicate that the soil layers might be less permeable than previously thought, and studies are underway to help answer this question.

L. Hooker asked if there were any quantitative data to go along with the water flow directions so that relative comparisons could be made with surface water flow volumes, and irrigation inputs. The answer was, not at the moment.

8.3 Turtles and basking areas

M. Hamilton noted that with the high waters there were few areas for the turtles to bask, and asked if there was a possibility of constructing basking platforms. It was suggested that the logs might serve just as well, and that there could a source of logs if plans for the water bypass

are approved. The questions of money to build platforms and where to place basking structures were briefly discussed. The bordering city land might be appropriate, or possibly the COLT/RDCO/CONC(?) conservation covenanted area. L. Hooker to inquire about the latter at the next COLT Directors meeting.

Third Call for nominations

No further nominations beyond the proposed slate.

A. Hargreave moved to accept the proposed slate, seconded by M. Hamilton. Passed.

9.0 Membership Dues
Now due.

10.0 Adjournment
B.Lalonde moved adjournment.

Friends of Robert Lake Society

2023-2024 Annual Report

The website has drawn ongoing interest. A couple of students reached out just because they thought it was interesting and wondered about its history and were interested in going on informative walks. One visitor from the Lower Mainland submitted some photos of waterfowl for the website, which I posted. I was also interviewed by a UBCO Master's student whose thesis focussed on park administration - community group interactions. She knew little about what was happening around the lake itself, so the interview presented the opportunity to educate another person who wouldn't otherwise know about it.

We were approached by an environmental consultant Mark Piorecky who is doing work on a property (I asked which property but didn't receive a reply) in the area who was seeking information about the breeding period of spadefoot in the area. As far as I know, no one in FoRL was able to participate in Spadefoot monitoring this year. The UBCO's chapter of The Wildlife Society seems to have taken over that monitoring and appears to have plenty of volunteers from within their own ranks. The FoRL Directorship is in touch with this Society and so we hope to obtain a copy of their findings for the year.

Most of the activity this year was directly associated with the stated primary purpose of this society, that is, to advocate for the preservation of the saline characteristics of the lake and its environs. This activity was oriented around meeting with the City regarding their plans for 1) diverting water coming from up the Glenmore Valley, away from Robert Lake and into Brandt's Creek and 2) possibly installing a high-water control device on Robert Lake.

We had a number of suggestions to the proposals that were presented to us ranging from retaining habitat for the otters that currently live in the area, to the design of the high-water outlet mechanism, to the maximum of the high-water level itself. As to the last point, we proposed that the level be as high as possible in order to minimize the loss of salts from the lake basin, but not so high that the integrity of the access road to the adjacent roads was compromised. We wanted a review of the proposed elevation of 435.0 m.

Jim Hagar is the Project Manager for the City, and a member of FoRL and he thoughtfully prepared the following progress report for us, in which he addresses our request for a review of the proposed elevation of the high-water level by reporting that the review was performed, and the original proposed elevation stands.

Robert Lake Surface Water Bypass – June 2024 Update

The City is progressing with the Robert Lake Surface Water Bypass project, which includes a piped diversion around Robert Lake and a high-level water control for the lake. In November 2023, City staff and their environmental consultant met with members of Friends of Robert Lake, the Central Okanagan Land Trust, and the Central Okanagan Naturalists Club to present and discuss the preliminary designs. For more information and resources from this meeting, contact Laura Hooker.

Friends of Robert Lake requested a detailed survey of the surrounding road network to determine the highest possible level for the high-water control on Robert Lake. The survey was completed, and the Consulting Engineer proposed a high-water elevation of 435 m, maintaining a minimum freeboard of 0.3 m on private and public roadways. This elevation is similar to the levels seen in August 2023 (see image below).

The City continues to wait for final project approvals from multiple regulatory agencies and parties, including the Agricultural Land Commission and the Ministry of Forests, as well as private property owners. Conditional approval has been granted by the Agricultural Land Commission, but the following steps are still in progress:

- The City is preparing applications for provincial water licenses to support the diversion and establish a high-water level control.
- Statutory right-of-way negotiations are ongoing with private landowners.

Pending these approvals and negotiations, the City aims to start construction in 2025

Jim Hager, MASc, GIT, CAMP (he/him)
Design Technician | Utility Planning | City of Kelowna

The FoRL look forward to seeing these projects progress towards conserving the saline nature of the lake and look forward to being engaged with following up monitoring to assess the success of the projects.

Submitted June 13th,
Laura Hooker
President 'The Friends of Robert Lake Society'