

Walker Lake Lake Committee report

June 2020

By Peter Wulfhorst

The lake committee met on July 9.

Coliform bacteria testing at beaches – Walker Lake was notified by the PA Department of Health that our clubhouse beach failed the e-coli count on June 25. The e-coli was 1,300 colonies and the limit are 125 colonies. The beach was tested by a 2nd DEP certified lab on June 29 and had a test result of 79 colonies. The clubhouse beach was shut down on June 29 and reopened on July 1. The lake committee is working with Prosser Labs to have them notify Walker Lake directly when a water test fails for e-coli.

Water Quality – Aqua Link was provided a map of the lake front property owners who wanted floating aquatic plants removed around their shoreline & floats. Aqua Link conducted their water quality monitoring, aquatic plant treatments and bacteria treatment on July 15.

Dam – Walker Lake received a letter from the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) that the dam had a major inspection in 2005. This inspection which should take place every 10 years is 4 years overdue. Walker Lake inspected the pipe under dam in August 2019 and it was determined that the pipe will need to be replaced. A report was provided to Walker Lake by Kiley Associates, our engineer and has been provided to PA DEP. In addition, our insurance company requires Walker Lake to comply with our annual dam inspection recommendations and therefore would want us to follow through on making repairs to the dam as well.

The inspection will require that we inspect the pipe at the bottom of the dam which means we need to either get a diver or person down to conduct that inspection. We have three (3) options to allow for the inspection: have a dive team inspect the pipe & valve, build a cofferdam (a watertight enclosure pumped dry to permit the inspection) or perform a lake drawdown.

Dive team – The lake committee chair reached out to a business, GOE International that send an e-mail to Walker Lake concerning their services. GOE international would inspect the upstream inlet conduit with a 3-man trained dive team (OSHA & ADCI standards) at \$3,900/day (8 hr. min./day) with an anticipated project duration of 1-2 workdays. Excavation, obstruction and/or sediment removal, trash rack removal is additional on a T&M basis at the same rate/day. Therefore, we are looking at \$3,900-\$7,800 plus additional costs to inspect the dam with a dive team.

Coffer dam – Walker Lake's engineer, Kiley Associates, estimated a coffer dam to be \$15,000. This estimated seemed low by some members of the lake committee.

Lake drawdown – Kiley would prepare & submit the lake drawdown permit to the PA Fish & Boat Commission, inspect the inlet conduit pipe, valve and other parts and prepare the permit application if repairs are needed to the PA DEP for a cost of \$4,500.

The costs for both the dive team & coffer dam would not include the engineer costs of determining if a permit will be submitted to PA DEP for repairs as well as preparing such permit.

Based on the above costs, the lake committee on a motion by Bill & seconded by Chet recommends to the Walker Lake Board that a lake drawdown permit be prepared to inspect the Walker Lake inlet conduit pipe, valve and other parts. Motion carried. In addition, a motion by Wendy & seconded by Bill to submit the permit to draw down the lake on October 5. Motion carried.

In consultation with Kiley Associates, it is anticipated that repairs to the outlet conduit pipe which was inspected in 2019 will take place in 2021. In addition, if repairs are needed for the inlet conduit pipe & valve, this would also take place in 2021 as well.

If repairs to the inlet conduit pipe and/or valve take place in 2021, we would need to have a 2nd lake drawdown. Lake front property owners can then prepare to obtain permits to remove sediment along their shoreline. Kiley Associates or another engineer can assist with the permitting. The cost for the permitting process would be shared by those obtaining the permits.

We should indicate we have a rusted outlet pipe needing repair, so there is a suspicion we have similar issue at lake pipe.