

**BLUAC Steering Committee
March 23, 2006 Minutes**

In attendance: Mark Lorang, Judy Maseman, Dennis Hatton, David E. Reynolds, Jerry Thornburg, Edd Blackler, Gwen Sutherland, John Bourquin, Gary Ridderhoff, Chuck Gough, Bob Gorsuch, Doris Gorsuch, Joseph Biby, Pat Wagner, Brett Thuma, Craig Wagner, Sally Janover, Leslie Budewitz, Clarice Ryan, Carol Venable, Doug Averill, Kathy Robertson, Elna Darrow, George Darrow, Julie Spencer, Don Baughman, Janet Loranger, Sue Hanson, Don Loranger

Chairman Loranger called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM

Chair Loranger welcomed the large crowd and invited everyone to introduce themselves. He then introduced Mark Lorang from the Flathead Lake Biological Station. Mark began his presentation with noting that one of the present and future pet projects of the organization is to establish a trail system from the Biological Station east over the Mission Mountains to Swan Lake, north to Bigfork and south to Polson Bay.

Mark then presented a Power Point presentation showing the environmental studies being done at the Biological Station. The Station monitors carbon and algae concentrations in Flathead Lake in order to document changes in concentrations.

Most notable in the presentation was the erosion of shoreline on Flathead Lake and the Flathead River resulting from high water levels during the fall months when storms are prevalent. Erosion on the Flathead riverbanks is caused by water backing up from the lake and saturating riverbanks that have no vegetation protection. The north shoreline of Flathead Lake is the most valuable habitat for preservation of lake quality. Also noted was the frustration caused by the inaction of FERC, the Power Company and U.S. FWP to enforce the mandate to protect the north shore of the lake.

He commented on the importance of preserving the flood plane for lake health and water quality. He explained the dangers of gravel extraction in the flood plane causing interruption of the aquatic food chain and health of our water supply. He emphasized that natural lagoons and wetlands are critical to lake quality. They are the kidneys of our water system.

He also noted the efforts to acquire the Keenan property on the north shore of Flathead lake for a park area and buffer zone to prevent erosion. There is approximately 1,500 feet of shoreline in the property.

Mark emphasized the importance in communication during growth planning. Others noted the progress being made in communicating between communities in the area and the importance of working together.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

None

The meeting on March 30, 2006, noon, at Bethany Lutheran Church, will include the Government Committee report on Incorporation. There is a public meeting scheduled for 7:00 PM on March 30, 2006, at the Bigfork Middle School for the public to study the zoning maps and express their intention of future use of their property.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:20 pm

Sue Hanson
Secretary