



State of the Lakes

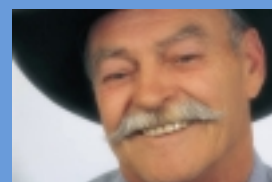
The Siltcoos Lake blue-green algae advisory has been removed as of the end of January. First coming to the attention of the Dunes City Water Quality committee in late October 2008 the state's Department of Health Services issued an advisory. "Water monitoring by lake scientists has confirmed the presence of blue-green algae that can produce toxins harmful to humans and animals," said Deanna Conners, Public Health Toxicologist with the Oregon DHS. After ninety three days this advisory has been lifted with the DHS stating, "Water sampling has confirmed reduced levels of



blue-green algae that can produce toxins harmful to humans and animals. These reduced levels are not likely to be associated with dangerous toxin concentrations in the water, according to World Health Organization guidelines."

Siltcoos is not a deep lake. Recently it has developed more weeds. As late summer temperatures rise these shallow waters heat more rapidly. Add to that still, windless days and the formula for green and blue-green algae increases. Since the 1970s Dunes City's Water Quality Committee have been diligently providing feedback and suggestions to the City Council relative to our community's affect on and health consequences to the state lakes making up a great part of our town. As a cooperative steward Dunes City partners with county, state and federal agencies in order to do what's best for all concerned. The City has legislated ordinances meant to prevent damage to the waters and in turn property values. Reducing sediment, chemicals, run-off and poorly maintained septic systems have been the city's main focus in the last three years. The erosion control, phosphorus, stormwater and septic maintenance ordinances are meant to bring more

cooperation and awareness to the delicate condition of these two lakes. The federal government is working with DEQ and city officials to study solutions to Siltcoos Lake's problems. This program is part of the Clean Water Act that also helped Ten Mile Lakes to the south of us. Because only 1/8 of Siltcoos' perimeter borders Dunes City Lane County, Douglas County and other agencies like the Forest Service which also are a part of its borders need to be involved. The residents who live on it's shores beyond Dunes City could be involved in a lake solution as well. More news will be on the way as soon as it is known. For now the blue-green algae season has passed.



Taking time to learn how I can make a difference and help volunteers in keeping costs low is making all the difference.



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Mayor

Eric Hauptman – (10)

City Council

Meeting – 2nd Thursday at 7:00

Peter Howison, President – (10)
Richard Koehler - (10)
Jamie Mills – (12)
Susie Navetta – (10)
Robert Quandt – (12)
Becky Ruede – (12)

Planning Commission

Meeting – 4th Thursday at 7:00

David Bellemore, Chair – (10)
Eggert Madsen – (09)
Marilyn Miller – (11)
Ken Platt – (10)
Ron Shearer – (09)
Dennis Smith – (11)

Road Commission

Meeting - 3rd Monday at 6:30

Rob Quandt, Chair – (10)
Gerry Curran – (11)
Fred Hilden – (10)
Jo Owen – (10)
Troy Sathe – (11)
Michael Smith – (10)
Keith Herring, Road Inspector

Budget Committee

Meets 1-3 times in the Spring

Amy Graham, Budget Officer
Janet Carroll – (10)
Fred Hilden – (09)
Dick Kibbit – (10)
Linda Lauck – (09)
Judy Martin – (09)
Karen Peck – (10)
Bob Read – (11)

Conservation Committee

Meets as needed

Peter Howison, Chair – (10)
David Bellemore – (10)
Cynthia Chandler – ((10)
David Dumas – (11)
Fred Hilden – (11)
Jim Rash – (09)

Park & Recreation Commission

Meets as needed

Becky Ruede, Chair – (10)
Tracy Quandt, Chair – (10)
Richard Koehler – (10)
Roberta Dalbeck – (10)
Mimi Tizzard – (09)



Site Review

Meetings as needed

Jamie Mills, Chair – (10)
Linda Ash – (10)
David Dumas – (09)
Debbie Pasternak – (10)

Water Quality Control Committee

Meeting – 1st Thursday at 7:00

Richard Koehler, Chair – (10)
David Dumas – (11)
Ken Henderson - (11)
Rick Cox – (10)
John Stead – (09)
Susie Navetta, Secretary – N.V.

Water Testers

Mark Chandler – (10)
Ralph Farnsworth – (11)
Bob Mohler – N.V.
Wes Wilcox - N.V.
Steve Hager – N.V.

Communication and Education Committee

Meets as necessary

Susie Navetta, Chair - (10)
Linda Ash – (10)
April Dumas – (11)

Dunes City Staff

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Laurale Lorentzen, Office Administrator
DunesCityOffice@charterinternet.com
Patty Pennel, Road Secretary
DunesCityRoads@chaterinternet.com

Office Hours

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Richard Koehler, Web Master, www.dunescity.com

For road emergencies: Rob Quandt 997-3745
Keith Herring, Inspector of Roads 997-8050

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COMMISSIONS

- The two chairs for the Park and Recreation Commission are **Rebecca Ruede** and **Tracy Quandt**. The Commission makes recommendations to the Council on new parks, park improvements, recreation programs, and the naming of city parks.
- The Planning Commissioner has just elected Dave Bellemore as their chairman. The Planning Commission makes recommendations to the Council and other public authorities concerning land use issues. They study and propose measures for the promotion of public interest, health, safety, comfort, convenience and the welfare of the city and of the area six miles adjacent to the city. The Commission is charged with promoting public interest in and understanding of the Comprehensive Plan and planning and zoning in general.
- **Robert Quandt**, the Road Commissioner and its members will be working closely with the Inspector of Roads on road maintenance, sign replacements, right-of-way uses, reviewing citizen complaints and requests relating to roads and uses of right-of-ways uses, including tree removal. The Committee will be updating the Master Road Plan in the near future. The Dunes city Roads Commission has an energized and ambitious set of goals that are intended to create a more organized system for its citizens and future commission standards: Creation of Institutional Memory, Procedures and Protocol, Document Control System, Pavement Management Program, and better organization to improve our road system with less funding.

COMMITTEES

- The Communication and Education Committee will be chaired by **Susie Navetta**. The newsletter is only one of the ways the city communicates, educates and involves the citizens of the community. Events, such as the Pot Luck, the Festival of the Lakes and the Festival of the Lights are some of the other ways to inform the citizens. **Richard Koehler**, our webmaster is continually adding new information to the website.
- **Peter Howison** is the chairman for the Conservation Committee that oversees riparian concerns by controlling soil erosion and removal of vegetation in the shoreland areas and right-of-ways. The committee does site reviews for properties that request assistance or that are subject of complaint. According to Peter, "The Committee will be working to inform the residents of the Dunes City codes to protect our drinking water source and uphold the rural atmosphere of our beautiful city".
- The new Revenue Committee is so new that it does not have members yet, but it will be headed by **Jamie Mills**. The Committee is charged with finding funds to supplement the budget, applying for grants and writing a Business License Ordinance.
- Chairman **Jamie Mills** is already busy with her Site Review Committee. The Committee investigates citizen complaints on land use violations other than shoreland related complaints and works with the City Recorder and the Council on corrective actions. Jamie said, "The prior leadership of the Site Review Committee and its members worked very hard to resolve several complicated complaints on file with Dunes City. As current chairman of this committee, I would like to follow through and finalize those issues that are still pending, and pursue any new complaints as promptly as possible."
- Continuing his chairmanship of the Water Quality Committee **Richard Koehler** and his committee will investigate water related tasks for the Council. The water testers will conduct, record, archive and report on going monitoring and present conclusions to the Council.

OTHER ASSIGNMENTS

- The Concerned Citizens Involvement (C.C.I.) headed by **Mayor Eric Hauptman** will have involvement in reviewing and planning programs that are a concern to citizens, such as development standards and other projects for the public health, welfare, and safety of its citizens. The C.C.I. reports to the Council with their findings.
- The Community Center will be the focus for **Susie Navetta**. The job duties are overseeing the maintenance requirements of the building and assisting in the budget process for building maintenance.
- Fire Commissioner **Becky Ruede** will act as liaison with the Siuslaw Rural Fire Department and assist in programs such as the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) or the Neighbor to Neighbor program.
- **Susie Navetta**, Police Commissioner, will continue to investigate citizen complaints (except eyesore complaints) including excessive noise, animals at large/dangerous animals, unsafe buildings, or other nuisances affecting public safety and health. She will work with the City Recorder in notifying offenders.

Who's Who



Taking Part woc



Resident involvement is a crucial part of Dunes City's Water Quality Committee (WQC). We lead the way in helping local, regional and state agencies toward the preservation of our current and future land values. Involvement is our best protection from a costly bureaucracy.

The duties and responsibilities of the Committee include;

- * Monitor the water quality of nearby lakes and streams.
- * Collecting and reporting water quality monitoring data and conclusions.
- * Anticipate and respond to potentially toxic algal blooms, following a Protocol.
- * Review implementation of the City's ordinances to enhance water quality.
- * Communicate with Dunes City Commissions and City Council, State Agencies and the public.
- * Serve in an advisory capacity to the City Council in matters relating to water quality and quantity.

We have at least seven members, led by a Council member - at least two water testers (one for Siltcoos Lake and one for Woahink Lake). Additional volunteers conduct technical water quality sampling or other helpful tasks.

Our Comprehensive Plan Policy states, "The City shall strive to preserve the quality of the land, air, and water resources...protect water assets with vigilance for the benefit of the entire community." The purpose of the Water Quality Committee is to make recommendations to the City Council for the conservation, protection, maintenance, and improvement of the water quality and the promotion of public health, welfare, and safety.

Basically, our state controlled lakes are our life source for domestic, livestock, wildlife, fish life and recreation. Each person has a part in these lakes' health. A few years back building and clear cut events enabled a change in the natural lay of the land. Unnatural topography changed how water and wind move about and affect our area. Over time a build up occurs on the lake's bottom of a harmful ingredient; phosphorus. Our goal is to help minimize phosphorus getting into the water in the first place. Septic systems that are not working well, fertilizers, harming the protective vegetation zone around the lake and sediment running into the lakes all contribute to our lake and land value decline.



Since before the area's building boom this committee, with the help of the Communications and Education Committee, has strived to inform those in the watershed of the impact of sediment, effluent, fertilizer and storm water's effect and how each one of us can enable a future for which we all will be pleased. Unfortunately, past neglect cumulates on the lake's bottom in the form of phosphorus as it has in Siltcoos. Coupled with high temperatures, shallow depths, increased aquatic weeds, an activation of latent nutrients and lack of turbulence Siltcoos experienced episodes of rapid growth of phytoplankton populations (algae bloom) and blue green algae in 2007 and 2008. The Federal Government in cooperation with state agencies and Dunes City are working on solutions to Siltcoos' long standing problems. Since water quality is dependant on cooperation our success as a steward community will be measured by your awareness and contribution.



The ways everyone takes part.

- Erosion Control
 - Prevent silt run-off
- Water Conservation
 - Water rules are much different here
- Phosphorus Control
 - Fertilizers are discouraged
- Vegetation Plans
 - Native vegetation helps near shore
- Septic Systems
 - Properly working helps us all.

Helping Nature Compost

One way residents can improve soil stability and contribute to a healthy environment with minimal nutrient (especially phosphorus) runoff into the lakes is by composting. It also reduces landfill and air pollution, since yard trimmings and food residuals together constitute 23 percent of the U.S. waste stream. Composting is natural; as vegetation falls to the ground, it slowly decays, providing minerals and nutrients needed for plants, animals, and microorganisms. Mature compost, however, involves the production of high temperatures which destroy pathogens and weed seeds. Adding compost to your soil will improve its texture, water-holding capacity, and fertility. It can be applied at any time and in any amount, unlike fertilizer which needs to be applied at a certain time of year and can never provide the full spectrum of nutrients that you get with compost.

There are many ways to compost and many systems on the market. The trick to speeding up the process from up to 2 years to as little as 2 weeks is to balance the ingredients (brown=high carbon, green=high nitrogen), keep them moist, and add oxygen (turn them). You should use 3 to 25 times more "brown" ingredients than "green" ones. Examples of brown are: pine needles, wood shavings, dry leaves, paper, woody vegetable stalks, and straw. Green ingredients include vegetable scraps, grass clippings, coffee grounds, fresh weeds, green leaves, and egg shells. You probably want to cover it to maintain moisture, (keep wet like a squeezed out sponge) and turn it as often as you like. Turning more often will speed up the decomposition. Then when you want to plant or feed the existing plants...it's ready!



Do NOT Feed the Animals

We know that most citizens want to do their part in protecting our environment, and it is important for all of us to get involved in protecting our water resources. We're all a part of the solution. Feeding the wildlife is harmful to our drinking water which causes them to become more dependent on humans and creates unnaturally high populations and more animal waste. This waste contains nutrients and bacteria that pollute our lakes and parks.

In natural settings, the native fauna seek and feed on a variety of nutritious foods such as plants, natural grains, insects and invertebrates.

Since these foods are already abundant in our area, they don't add much to the overall contamination of the water. Many of the items commonly used to feed (bread, corn, popcorn, etc.) are low in protein and are very poor substitutes for natural foods. For instance, geese have to eat more than their usual 4 pounds of lake grass a day to make up for the poor nutritional quality of the food. This increases their droppings each day above the normal 2 pounds, which then wash into the lakes when it rains, adding nitrogen and phosphorus to the water which contributes to algae blooms as well as fecal coliform pollution. Feeding also keeps geese from migrating, which doubles or triples the quantity of droppings, since they stay here year round instead of just for the breeding season.

Each person can make a difference and let nature maintain the balance. The best thing we can do for the overall benefit of native fauna is to stop artificial feeding. Let's enjoy the wildlife in their natural state in our beautiful rural environment.





*Dunes City's Potluck
In April*

- A fun Spring get together -

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PROTECT THE LAKES---THE FRONT LINES KEEP THE PROTECTED SHORELANDS INTACT

It is very unlikely that there is anybody in Dunes City who doubts the importance of keeping our two beautiful lakes clean and healthy. We all drink the water, either directly from the lakes or from underground aquifers that are connected directly to the lakes. There is, however, some misunderstanding about exactly what keeps our water clean. This article is a very brief overview of one of the ways to do that---with nature's water filter.

All water in our lakes fell out of the sky. What didn't fall directly into the lake landed on the soil and ran into the lakes in one of two ways. It got there by soaking into the ground and seeping into the lake or a stream feeding the lake, or it got there by flowing over the top of the ground into the lake or stream. The difference is crucial to the health of our water. Rainwater on top of the ground is loaded with pollutants. Rain is great at cleaning out the air of dust and airborne pollutants such as sulfur compounds, petroleum by-products, agrochemicals and lots more. It may also contain petroleum contaminants from roadways and surface runoff.



When
do I need
a permit?

Ask our friendly staff.

The only way to keep these chemicals out of our drinking water supply is to use nature's filter---the soil. The soil acts as two filters, both physical and biological. As a physical filter it catches the dust in rainfall and also any soil particles and bits of organic matter knocked loose by the impact of raindrops. In other words, it keeps what's suppose to be in the soil *in the soil* and out of the lakes. As a biological filter, it uses an incredibly powerful ally---bacteria and their cousins, the fungi. Healthy porous soil with a good amount of organic matter contains inconceivable numbers of bacteria that eat everything. Besides taking up nutrients and fertilizers that would otherwise feed the algal bloom and weeds in the lake, they eat grease, gasoline, detergents and just about everything else. They even sequester (lock up) heavy metals. They are an amazingly effective filter. However, they don't work at all if the water doesn't get down into the dirt. Rainwater that simply runs over the surface of the ground never gets filtered.

Now here's the hard truth a lot of folks won't want to hear. Lawn grass promotes runoff, not infiltration of rainwater. It encourages soil compaction by encouraging foot and vehicle traffic. It adds little organic matter to the soil. It is mono-culture and the soil under it typically has a less diverse and active biomass. The runoff effect increases with slope and is most destructive closest to the lakes. This is the reason that Dunes City ordinances mandate a 50 foot setback Protected Zone around all the lakes and along the riparian corridors and wetlands. These areas are by law protected from development to maintain the natural soil filtering so vital to our water supply. They are the last chance for runoff to soak in to the soft loamy soil under the trees and underbrush and get cleaned. The City laws allow some modification to allow a view or recreational usage.

Some shoreland owners may believe their shoreline grass is as good as natural and they may even believe their non-natural shoreline vegetation is grandfathered and not a violation of the Dunes City shoreland protection ordinance. With increasing algal blooms caused by excessive nutrients in the lakes, it is important to follow the spirit as well as the letter of the law.

If you are in any doubt as to what's permitted, call City Hall, 997-3338. Members of the Conservation Committee will be delighted to work with you to help you maximize your enjoyment of the lake while doing your part to protect our community water supply. Help support our front line troops, the natural vegetation and healthy soils in the Protected Zone around the lakes.

- * Rainwater and surface water need to be filtered
- * Soil is an excellent filtering medium
- * Water must soak into the soil in order to be filtered
- * Grass promotes surface water runoff'
- * Surface water runoff pollutes the lakes



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This newsletter was
prepared by the
Dunes City
**COMMUNICATIONS
& EDUCATION
COMMITTEE**

Editor: Susie Naveta
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Navetta, Richard
Koehler & David
Bellemore.

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