

I am here today as a Black Lake District resident and Co-Chair of Citizens for a Clean Black Lake to submit a petition signed by residents of the Black Lake District to dissolve the Black Lake Flood Control District as per RCW. 85.38.220.

The Black Lake District has made it very clear that their interest in Black Lake is strictly for recreational purposes and nothing to do with flood control. Their website states its purpose is to keep lake water clean of weeds that prevent lake enjoyment and damage boat and watercraft engines.

Boat owners at Black Lake represent a minority of the people who live in this District, yet their voice is the only one heard when actions to manage the Lake are considered. This undemocratic situation shuts out the majority of people in the District whose interests extend beyond recreational boating to larger issues of environmental stewardship and the protection of water resources and wildlife. A 2013 survey conducted by the County found a large majority of people around Black Lake most valued the natural environment and scenery. 69% of respondents said they were concerned about water quality in the Basin, and saw the greatest risks as urban development, stormwater runoff and septic systems. Boating was not even mentioned.

Last summer at the request of the 3 boat owners of the Board of the Black Lake Flood Control District, the Commissioners approved a 1.4-million-dollar bond to pay for an Alum treatment to treat the ongoing problem of toxic algae. The Alum treatment is done and all of the 1.4 million is spent. At best, this treatment will last long enough for the shoreline owners to pay it off for the next 20 years with unknown environmental consequences. But prior promises about the longevity of these treatments suggest that it is much more likely the expected effects of the alum will wear off years before the bond is repaid, leaving these shoreline owners, and only these shoreline owners, stuck with paying for the consequences of pollution whose causes extend far beyond lakeshore boundaries. Is it right or democratic that this high cost be borne solely by we shoreline owners without any vote?

The County has known since the 2015 Guiding Growth/Healthy Watershed study that faulty septic and stormwater runoff are the primary causes of pollution at Black Lake. The County has never addressed these issues. In fact, soon after the \$1.4 million Alum treatment was completed, high levels of Ecoli and Phosphorus were found in 3 streams flowing into Black Lake, yet the County has not allocated resources to take care of this.

As we stated last summer, that money would have been much more wisely spent assisting homeowners to repair their septic systems, thereby addressing the real problems.

Black Lake residents are also concerned about the District's use of toxic chemicals. The original Vegetation control Plan of the District authorized herbicide use for 2 years to be followed by mechanical harvesting. That is what the original Black Lake residents voted on when this District was created. No one besides the 3 Board members have voted for the continued use of these chemicals since 2012.

~~*Imazamox, the active ingredient in Aquathol, is a chemical that causes changes to the liver and pancreas in animal studies. Imazamox causes cells to die through a series of molecular steps. This is one method the body uses to get rid of unneeded or abnormal cells, also called programmed cell death.*~~

~~*Diquat dibromide is a derivative of paraquat which is known to cause Parkinson's disease and is currently being litigated in a class action lawsuit. The County considers it too toxic for use at its other lakes, but because the Black Lake District is not under the County's authority, it is regularly sprayed on the lake. Diquat is being applied to the lake now, and warning signs are posted for humans, but the wildlife are on their own.*~~

You probably won't have time to say these 2 paragraphs when you speak, but you can include them in the written comments you submit.

The measures being used by the Black Lake Flood Control District to clean up the lake's algae blooms and to create pathways for boats through the aquatic vegetation are at best, stop-gap measures, and expensive ones at that. None of the County's other lakes are being managed in this manner or with the use of toxic herbicides which the County recognizes as environmentally harmful.

The waters and waterbody of Black Lake do not belong to any individual, whether shoreline owner or otherwise. Black Lake is not owned shore to shore by Thurston County. It is owned by the State of Washington on behalf of all the citizens of the state and comes under the State Shoreline Management Act. Thus all the State's residents have an interest in the health of this lake.

Given that funds are available to deal with the nutrient loading problems, it is time for Thurston County to stop abrogating its authority to 3 boat owners on the Lake and handle this situation correctly by dissolving the Flood Control District and establishing a Lakes Management District with a diverse and

representative citizens advisory board to deal comprehensively with the restoration of a healthy and safe lake environment.

Thank you.

Suzanne Kline

Black Lake resident and Co-Chair of Citizens for a Clean Black Lake