

Lake of the Pines Meeting Minutes -- 2018-2020

This spreadsheet represents a twenty-four-plus (24+) month analysis of LOP's Board and Committee meeting minutes pertaining to the geese. The review resulted in twenty-nine (29) entries during this period.

NOT ONE ENTRY IS IN OPPOSITION TO THE KILLING OF THE GEESE!! This contrived PLAN to kill the geese is a travesty!!

Equally as important - Why were our voices silenced?

<i>DATE</i>	<i>LOP Board Minutes</i>	<i>Lakes & Parks Committee Minutes</i>	<i>Wildlife Management Service Team AGENDA</i>
1/16/2018		Samples received very good reports. From the perspective of body contact with waters, bacterial levels and other measurements reviewed are very good. County officials are primarily concerned with Bacteria for public health reasons. Usually the LOP bacterial levels "barely show up on the radar". Even seasonal spikes in warmer weather are historically well below levels of concerns. Roger summarized county official's comments as: LOP is a model lake in the county" - confirming that maintenance and monitoring by LOP staff is very good.	
3/1/2018	Wildlife Service Management Team Charter is approved by the LOP Board.		
9/5/2018		General discussion was held on the subject of reducing the geese population on LOPA lakes. Paul Brown reported the results of his research and discussions with agency officials (e.g., Dept of Fish & Game, Ian Berry), including times of year when 'harvesting' of geese could legally occur, what type of techniques were generally accepted and so on. Many LPC members volunteered to be part of planned removal of the geese from the main lake, based upon BOD directive on the matter. No official position was reached, but all agreed to ongoing research and discussions.	

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9/19/2018	<p><u>Reducing Canada Geese Population</u></p> <p>WMST members reviewed extensive efforts over the years in trying to control resident geese problem through treating eggs, and the increased health and hygiene issues we are facing from our growing geese population. Bomhoff presented the service team recommendation to seek permission from the federal government to reduce the adult geese population <u>like Lake Wildwood</u> has done. Bomhoff noted the water quality concerns that Lake Wildwood has had which they attribute, in part, to their large geese population.</p>		
10/3/2018		<p>Geese management-Ron Bomhoff report.</p> <p>Introduced a plan to gain support for euthanizing a selected amount of resident geese.</p> <p>Estimated timeline May 2019. BOD approved recommendation for removing geese and LPC support development of a geese management plan like Lake Wildwoods.</p>	
1/16/2019	Robin Porter, Lot 1031 about the proliferation of geese		
6/19/2019	<p>Barney Pugh, Lot 500, regarding the geese population</p> <p>Lakes & Parks is looking at equipment to sift the sand to clean up the feses, rocks, weeds, etc on the beaches....</p> <p>GM Bowman noted the WMST treated 124 eggs this year, and he has asked them to do a full goose count to compare our current goose population with the population in 2018.</p>		

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7/10/2019		<p>Geese Management Update - State/Fed Removal Permitting Process Bowman reported the association continues to treat eggs, treating 124 eggs this year. Wildlife committee is to obtain a count of geese Effectiveness of attempts to remove geese was discussed without any real answers. Geese and geese dropping is a subject that is reportedly raised frequently. Management reports that there has been some success repelling geese from areas like public boat docks (with associated reduction of need for maintenance and cleaning) by use of coyote images. It was suggested that this be explored further as a remedy.</p>	
8/1/2019	Sue Baker leaves LOP around this date. Addling program stops?		
7/31/2019	<p>Director Bomhoff and Chair Bock will meet with Lake Wildwood to discuss geese and the state and federal removal process. Bomhoff & Bock will meet with Lake Wildwood to discuss geese and the state & federal removal process.</p> <p>GM Bowman noted that the WST recently counted 80 Canada Geese compared with 148 that were present on June 20, 2018.</p>		
8/7/2019		<p>Geese Management Plan Update - Steve Bock Discussed, Ron Bomhoff goose management plan with possible next step permit for trapper. Committee supports.</p>	
8/14/2019	<p>Cliff Davidson, Lot 1446 requested more aggressive action on geese control. Dir Bomhoff noted that he and Roger White plan to meet with the folks at Lake Wildwood to review how they are controlling their goose population.</p>		

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9/21/2019	<p>Dennis Barrier, Lot 1440 expressed his concern about the Canada Geese population. Director Bomhoff explained the Wildlife Management Service Team's current process and invited Dennis to volunteer to work with the group. President Fowler explained the lake water quality and our regular testing. Director Brown added that members with questions should come to the monthly Lakes & Parks meeting.</p> <p>Mary Johnson, Lot 1486 discussed the difficulty launching her kayak at Park 4 with the geese mess and the lake weeds.</p> <p>Terry Fenstermacher talked about the parks and beaches being covered with goose poop.</p>		
10/2/2019		<p>Water Fowl Management Update - Ron Bomhoff</p> <p>The Lakes and Parks committee unanimously approved a motion for the board to start a federal permit process for downsizing the population of resident geese. This could be a health concern if we cannot reduce the rising geese populations. That could entail, federal trappers and removal, <u>legal hunting (small recognized hunters) within the fish and game laws</u>, sound noise type gun. A further survey to come, of how many geese and which method and/or approach would be best for the community.</p>	
10/15/2019	Max DuPont hired to LOP staff as Public Works Manager		

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10/16/2019	Federal Permit to Euthanize Geese Dir Bomhoff presented on behalf of the Lakes & Parks Committee their recommendation that LOP apply for a federal permit to euthanize geese. He and L&P committee member Roger White would be willing to work together on this. Approved federal permit to euthanize adult resident Canada geese. Recommendation from WMST to have a Board Liaison appointed to their Service Team.		
11/6/2019		Mr. White and Ron Bomhoff are working on addressing option for relocation of geese to control and reduce organic contamination by resident geese population. They have obtained paperwork needed for permit and are working on the same. Bomhoff has been in contact with a federal trapper and federal authorities regarding the process.	

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11/13/2019	<p>CORRESPONDENCE TO THE BOARD</p> <p>The Board reviewed several letters and emails received from members, regarding the 2020 Budget, drainage issues below and dam, remote-controlled airplanes, the depredation permit for geese and other topics.</p> <p>Use of Bird Bangers to Encourage Geese to Leave - Dir. Bomhoff explained that a bird banger is a noise maker used to scare off geese. He has purchased bird bangers and wants to use them to harass our Canada geese. Pres. Fowler said he saw a video and they seemed to work well, but he would want to see them done over the lake, not over dry grass. Board approved Dir Bomhoff to do a limited number of tests on the bird bangers on teh lake and reimbursed him for the costs.</p> <p>Dir. Tokmakin is not sure this will work and is not in favor of turning LOP into what potentially sounds like a shotgun range. He'd rather deal with the geese directly.</p>		
1/15/2020	Lakes & Parks Committee noted that our lake is well within CA standards for water quality. The federal app for a permit to euthanize geese has been submitted.		
1/29/2020			<p>Wildlife Management Service Team – Jan 29, 2020 meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team will be doing the Nest Location Surveys beginning on Wednesdays at 1:00 PM until the end of the nesting season, weather permitting. • Team discussed general strategies and plans for control of Canada Geese

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2/5/2020		Geese Population Concerns Roger White (Vice Chair) explained new evidence of bacterial issues in the lake are linked to an ongoing increase in geese populations in LOP, which affirms Director Bomhoff's efforts to acquire a depredation permit from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Roger thanked Bomhoff for his foresight and efforts to get a permit.	
2/5/2020	Permit application reported 92 Canada Geese were counted at LOP on this date.		
2/18/2020	Depredation Permit Issued		

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2/25/2020	<p>Canada Goose Depredation Permit Dir. Bomhoff, Board Liaison to LOP's Wildlife Management Service Team (WMST) and Mr. Roger White, representing LOP's Lakes and Parks Committee made a presentation regarding the concern of the growing goose population and the resulting water quality impacts. Dir. Bomhoff noted the overall high number of resident Canada Geese inspite of the Service Teams ongoing efforts to harass the geese and disturb the nests. Mr. White spoke to our water quality tests that have shown an increase in bacteria levels, although not yet above the levels established for body contact. The presentation included information from the Nevada County Health Dept. and from <u>Lake Wildwood Assoc</u> regrding the serious health issues <u>that swimmers at Lake Wildwood encountered due, in part</u>, to their resident Canada Geese population. In order to be able to control this growing problem and reduce the potential of serious health impacts on LOP residents and their guests, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife has issued to LOP a Migratory Bird Depredation Permit for up to 80 Canada Geese during 2020.</p> <p>Member questions and comments in support of the need to control the goose problem were made by several members, including: Ron Trimble, Lot 72; Chris Katlin, Lot 1403; Bill Stanford, Lot 1357; Contad Rogh, Lot 1796; Kristy Sweeter, Lot 1043; Bob Koenitzer, Lot 1419; Lyn Stanford, Lot 1357.</p> <p>Board members asked questions about how the Service Team intends to carry out the permit. Dir. Bomhoff</p>		

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	<p>noted that he was preparing a standard protocol for the team to follow, which would be supervised by himself or a qualified representative. President Fowler suggested the protocol include notifying the Nevada County Sheriff each time. Treasurer Tokmakian recommended management notify our legal counsel and insurance broker.</p> <p>Motion and second to authorize the WMST, under the direction of Dir. Bomhoff, to take resident Canada geese in accordance with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Depredation Permit #MB69661D-0</p> <p>AYES: Bomhoff, Brown, Chandler, Fowler, Rollins, Tokmakian - NAYS: None - ABSENT: Fenstermacher</p>		
3/4/2020		Roger White reported on the Canada goose federal depredation permits obtained by LOP. He and Ron Bomhoff had a meeting with representatives from Lake Wildwood who used their permit in 2018. Roger said their experience was valuable to our efforts. It is the L&P committees' opinion that use of this permit is important for community health.	
Around 4/1/2020	LOP General Manager John Bowman resigns		
Around 4/1/2020	At least 80 Geese Culled		
5/15/2020	Richard Mattison, Lot 1009, addressed the Board about water fowl in LOP.		
6/17/2020	<p>Liaison Reports: WMST - The Team has stopped shooting geese under the depredation permit for the summer due to increased member usage on the lake. The Team is pleased with the results of the goose depredation <u>although many of the non-nesting geese have returned.</u> At this time the Team anticipates asking the Board to apply for another permit for 2021 later this year.</p>		

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7/15/2020	<p>Goose Hunting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director Bomhoff asked the Board to consider whether they could use hunting season to reduce the goose population. He has contacted the Department of Fish and Wildlife to determine whether or not this is permissible. This would be done with the same protocol as on the Federal Depredation Permit. There being no dissent, Director Bomhoff will continue to discuss it with the Department of Fish and Wildlife and bring it back to the Board. 		<p>Wildlife Management Service team</p> <p>a. Met on 7/8/20 to discuss Richard Mattison's article for the August LOP News. The article focused on the Team's progress with the depredation program and future actions to be taken.</p>
7/31/2020	<p>Dir. Bomhoff & Mattison met with Craig Ferrari, Nevada County Fish & Game Commissioner appointed by Nevada County Supervisor Ed Scofield. Ferrari "is very supportive of our efforts." ...Consensus is that LOP should continue to pursue our formal Depredation Permit to take RCG and in fact request that our quota be increased. ...start application process ASAP since F&W personnel are on reduced workloads due to COVID-19. LOP will also apply for an additional Nest and Egg collection Permit.</p>		
8/5/2020		<p>Jack Kaiser Lot 259: I see geese feeding on weeds 50' out from the shore so we have too many weeds. The water is green and water clarity is low. If you sprayed yesterday I'd like to know where you sprayed? Water is supposed to be blue and we have green water. The visibility is only 12-18" and I know that because I saw a bass trying to figure out where he was. We have all these studies and not any action. Like to see less studies and more action.</p>	

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8/5/2020		<p>Parks Report by Greg Bastian The goose poop on the beaches is currently being raked into and mixed with the sand. Greg recommends that we revisit the sand-sifting device that has previously been discussed as a remedy.</p> <p>Parks Report by Greg Bastian included updates on park inspections, the impact on geese poop on our beaches and his recommendation that we purchase a sand cleaning machine to remove the poop from our beaches.</p> <p><u>Swimmers Itch and Resident Canada Goose Update to Community - Richard Mattison</u> - Richard provided an overview of the definition of swimmers itch and says the likely source of the problem is the Resident Canada Geese. He further said that the RG population is one of the biggest threats to overall water quality affecting human health at LOP. Richard then provided another view of the Wildlife Management Service Team's plans to continue our community efforts to control the RG population through the continued depredation efforts. Richard said he understands the concerns and disruption to the community of these actions and that the WMST would do everything they could to minimize the disruption to the community and asked that they support the efforts of the WMST to control the goose numbers.</p>	
8/19/2020	Approved the Wildlife Management Service Team proposal to shoot Resident Canada Geese (RCD) during hunting season and to file for a 2021 Federal Depredation Permit.		
9/2/2020		Committee deferred discussion on Geese Depredation Report - Richard Mattison	

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9/16/2020	<p>Wildlife Management Service Team Public Statement and Equipment Request</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director Bomhoff provided information on the goose depredation plans. We are required to follow hunting rules and therefore need a hunting blind. • Richard Mattison discussed how this will be different than the depredation earlier in the year. The criteria are different. We could encourage the geese to go out to the middle of the lake and shoot from the boat (motor must be out of the water). This encourages us to get the birds out to the middle of the lake from a safety standpoint. If we keep pressure on these birds, he believes within 1 – 1 ½ years it will be much better, and we will not have a public health problem like we do now. <p>R-20-119 Motion by Director Bomhoff, seconded by Director Fenstermacher, to approve the public statement for the fall depredation program and the purchase of an Avery Hunting Blind not to exceed \$300 from the Operating account.</p>		<p>Waterfowl Management Service Team</p> <p>The Team has prepared a public statement to inform members of our continued depredation efforts and this statement is on the current agenda for approval.</p>