



## **Dear Fishhawk Lake Membership:**

This letter is a follow-up to the August 2015 membership meeting providing a number of important facts regarding the emergency spillway and fish ladder replacement project and an up-to-date status on our progress and next steps.

### **Our Concern for a Membership Dues Assessment:**

First, our solutions team is very aware, and wants you to know that we respect and appreciate the need for transparency in understanding how this project is approached and funded. Over the past years a few replacement projects have taken place such as paving the community roads, the wastewater treatment upgrade and various improvements to buildings & grounds. Fortunately, these have been funded through the appropriate use of the Reserve funds. The spillway and fish ladder lay outside the ability to utilize these Reserve funds which results in the potential need for a dues assessment. We share the membership concern and reluctance of a per-lot assessment. It is our intent to approach the funding with the goal to minimize any type of membership special assessment.

### **Why we live here:**

This community comes with all of the amenities without having to camp out in a tent in a remote wilderness. Whether it's the beauty, the quietness, the fish, the recreational water, the community or its natural environment, we all have a reason for being here. It's special and we know it. As community members we are also caretakers of our community. Whether we live on the lake or the periphery, we are in this together, and together we can keep this place special for many years and generations to come.

### **Our Infrastructure and Risk:**

The Fishhawk Lake dam is the major infrastructure that provides the environment that we enjoy. The structural integrity of the dam is very good and is inspected by the State Dam Inspectors every two years. The existing glory hole/outfall and fish ladder are structurally in acceptable condition; however both are inefficient in terms of lake water management, flood control and fish passage.

The lake has experienced two weather negative events, one in 1996 and one with severe consequences in 2007. The probability of future weather events is inevitable and may be exacerbated by changing climate conditions. Along with the risk of personal property damage due to flooding, comes the risk of the dam overtopping with a potentially catastrophic consequence.



Personal property can be repaired at a cost individually, but the personal and traumatic experience of loss may not be as easily resolved. The downstream side of the dam could suffer structural erosion and literally take out the dam. The cost of this repair cannot be reasonably estimated. The probability of a rebuild is not likely due to the cost as well as imposed regulations preventing a rebuild. However, we would still be required to restore the area to its original habitat.

Fish passage is a major component on all streams/rivers throughout the US and especially in the northwest. Even though we have infrastructure for this regulation, we are out of compliance with current Oregon Fish and Wildlife standards and requirements. Even though we have complied with and continually renew the various compliance permits, we could be forced to remove the dam by environmental groups or regulator actions. Either way, a legal battle would likely dissolve our community as we know it today.

As members, we owe it to ourselves to do what is right for the environment by enhancing the watershed. Whether we live on the lake or the hills; regardless if we fish, or just enjoy our pristine water, we need to do what is right for our shared community resources.

### **Our Program Approach and Why:**

Over the past two and half years we have been convinced by our research and achievements, that Fishhawk Lake is much more than just the dam, a spillway and fish ladder. It involves the entire watershed along with many components that enable this watershed to exist. Our long term vision is defined in the program objectives that support the entire watershed and Fishhawk Lake beyond the spillway and fish ladder. Pages 10 and 36 of the 2015 membership presentation illustrate this program.

Now, our focus is the near term project, primarily the emergency spillway and fish ladder. We have gained attention and support from the environmental stakeholders by establishing the knowledge required to undertake a major infrastructure project. We have demonstrated to the regulatory stakeholders our strong desire to enhance this environment. We have cultivated the data, project alternatives, lake condition surveys and preliminary engineering efforts to move forward.



### **The Importance of Now:**

We are now in position to obtain the required engineering that will enable us to obtain funding, regulatory permits and a shovel-ready engineered construction project. We have the momentum and buy-in from the regulatory stakeholders and our partners. Their expectation is that we will continue to move forward and accomplish this watershed and fish passage enhancement. We have accomplished many great things (see 2015 membership presentation pages 11-17) without dues assessments and with minimal expenditures.

We cannot afford to lose this momentum with the regulatory and funding stakeholders. It is for this reason that we are moving forward with the acquisition of an engineering firm to develop the permitting requirements, infrastructure development alternatives and design/construction documents. We have sufficient existing funds to cover this work. These items are a necessity in order to allow construction as soon as funding becomes available.

### **Project Funding:**

With the project engineering effort in motion, our secondary effort is on funding the construction of the project. Tasks are underway for an Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) grant application. Tasks are also underway to collaborate with the Fishhawk Lake Ecological Foundation for potential funding from a wider range of ecological grant and gifting resources that are committed to enhancing native fish, watersheds and environment. The Fishhawk Lake Board deserves significant credit for its foresight in establishing this foundation five years ago. The Foundation offers a non-profit status and the ability to designate Fishhawk Lake enhancements as its funding project.

We know we cannot obtain 100% outside/no-cost funding. However, our ability to attract organizations that want to be a part of our enhancement and a contributor to the native fish and watershed environment is very strong.

### **How You Can Help:**

Please come and help us create our funding campaign and by working with the FLPS team on tasks lined up for this fall. All volunteer efforts help to support the lake and its environment. This is a community endeavor in which we all need to participate. It is with this vision of sustainability and stewardship that motivates our FLPS team.

Best regards,  
Fishhawk Lake Project Solutions Team



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