MEETING AGENDA – MAY 21ST, 2019

1. **Introductions and Friends of Cottage Lake Status**
    a) Friends of Cottage Lake has been a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit since 2006, but has been an active group focused on lake health since the 1980s.
    b) The group was very active between 2003-2011 when we worked with King County on a Centennial Grant (focused on reducing phosphorus and improving water quality) and treated lilies and milfoil.
    c) Still active, but we need more volunteers to continue the efforts.
    d) Current finances: $10400 in the bank
    e) Recent fundraising – $790 raised via Facebook fundraising (Nov 27th), $47.44 from AmazonSmile
    f) Direct 2018 fundraising: $9970 (including matching funds and volunteer match)

2. **Milfoil treatment**
    a) Milfoil was first reported in 2007.
    b) In 2009/2010 King County worked with Friends of Cottage Lake (FOCL) to treat the milfoil with triclopyr using a grant from the state (early infestation grant)
    c) The treatment was successful, but the milfoil was not eradicated and began to spread again.
    d) The lake was treated in August 2017 and June 2018 with 2,4-D
    e) The 2017 treatment was very successful, and, combined with the follow-on treatment in 2018, little to no milfoil has been seen in the lake in follow-up surveys.
    f) We need to continue to monitor throughout the summer in 2019 and decide on future steps.

3. **Lily treatment:**
    a) We treated in 2017 in combination with the milfoil treatment
    b) Based on the survey last summer, we did not treat in 2018
    c) Next steps – monitor the lilies and determine if additional treatment is needed

4. **Aquatic plant survey – July 2018:**
    a) Summary from Ben Peterson (Aquatic Noxious Weed Specialist, King County):
    "I surveyed Cottage lake today for purple loosestrife. Things looked pretty good. We only found purple loosestrife plants at 6-7 locations. We pulled all that we found. However, it's still pretty early in the season so there are likely many plants that are still hiding in the Spirea and reed canayrgrass. The milfoil 2,4-D treatment looked very effective. I didn't see any milfoil at all. It looked like the 2,4-D might have affected the spatterdock at the north end of the lake (plants had sort of curvy stems and the leaves weren't propped up out of the water). We did see many native aquatic plants persisting though, including, big-leaf pondweed, American/Canadian waterweed, and coontail. I saw hardly any fragrant water lily plants at the lake and the south end of the lake looked great."

5. **Volunteer Lake Monitoring:**
    a) Water quality samples collected between May and October with a focus on water clarity, nitrogen and phosphorus levels
    b) 2018 Report: https://your.kingcounty.gov/dnrp/library/water-and-land/science/stewardship/2019-Cottage-2018-Lake-Stewardship-Monitoring-Report.pdf
    c) The Lake Stewardship Program recommendations:

i. Stay alert for toxic algae blooms in Cottage Lake – increase people's awareness of toxic algae, and their ability to identify which algae are potentially toxic.
ii. Any potentially toxic blooms should be reported to the King County Lake Stewardship Program and sampled for toxin analysis.
iii. Explore options to reduce the frequent, prolonged toxic algae blooms in Cottage Lake. Quantifying the sources of phosphorus to Cottage Lake is likely to be an important

6. Algae Blooms and Cyanobacteria (blue-green algae):

a) Due to the high phosphorus levels in the lake, Cottage Lake is home to a lot of algae (microscopic single-celled plants). During hot, sunny weather, the algae multiplies quickly and this is referred to as an "algae bloom"(algae forms large dense patches visible on the surface of the water). Most species of algae are harmless and the blooms are just a nuisance.
b) Cyanobacteria (commonly referred to as "blue-green algae", but really a bacteria) is another organism living in the lake that multiplies during warm, sunny weather - again, cyanobacteria is generally harmless, but some can produce toxins which can be harmful to animals and humans.
c) In particular, Microcystis (a type of cyanobacteria) has produced toxin blooms in our lake for the past three years (in September/October) - the lake was closed (no swimming, keep pets out) for several weeks (until the samples were below the health limit).
d) Given the continued closures from toxic algae, I think we need to start looking into additional options for reducing phosphorus (education and possible lake treatments)
e) An alum treatment is an option, but very expensive ($15000-$20000) – King County small lakes is interested in partnering on a grant opportunity (possibly for 2020).

7. Volunteer Opportunities:

a) Fundraising – general mail campaign, concert, social events
b) Grant exploration: e.g. https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/How-we-operate/Grants-loans/Find-a-grant-or-loan/Freshwater-algae-program-grants
c) Community involvement – mailings, website updates, etc.
d) More board members needed

Contact Information:

FOCL Board Members:

Jonathan Morrison (jonathanmorrison@hotmail.com, (425) 788-8087)
Sally Maimoni (s.j.maimoni@gmail.com) - Treasurer
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Website:

http://www.friendsofcottagelake.org

Public Facebook page:

https://www.facebook.com/pg/FOCL.Woodinville/

Facebook group:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/friendsofcottagelake

Official Mailing Address:

Friends of Cottage Lake
c/o Jonathan Morrison
17214 185th Ave NE
Woodinville, WA 98072