

YOUR RCD IN ACTION (by Steve Larry, President, RCD)

Like any business, to be successful, you need a clear vision to set your direction supported by goals and objectives that are supported by all that are affected by the end result. In the case of your RCD, it is no different. Our job as elected board members is to set our goals that align with our vision which is to improve and protect the Lost Lake ecosystem as well as support and manage assets such as the Lake Court Center and our parks.

So what are these goals and what are our objectives for this coming year? Let me try to outline them for you.

First and most importantly, our goal is to **improve and protect our ecosystem**. What this means is that the lake and everything that affects it must be the focus of what we do and spend most of our resources on, including our time and your tax dollars. To do this, we have established objectives that insure we make strides to achieve this goal especially as it pertains to silt and affluent entering the lake. They include:

Shore Line Stabilization: This objective is supported by the Lake Management Committee (LMC) headed up by Jerry Sellers and a host of dedicated volunteers. The greatest portion of these efforts surround the current and ongoing riprap program which began with the North Shore riprap completed last Spring; the soon to be completed East (beach) Landing; adoption of riprap standards for shoreline property owners; and institution of regulations to insure that riprapping is completed over a set period of time.

Reducing Silt Entering the lake: Here again, the LMC has the charge. Our Clear Creek silt basin is one of the most visible examples of what

we need to do to lower silt entering and clogging our lake. Last Spring, we completed a major dredging of this basin and will do it again this winter, a clear sign that it is doing what it was designed to do. In the late Fall of '09, we are planning on starting a project to build a similar silt basin for Babbling Brook. Since it involves Schings Park, it will take on a more “landscaped” appearance, but will have the same effect.

Reduce silt currently clogging our lake: The LMC will also be responsible for this program under the volunteer management of Don Finn. With the right planning, we will embark on a major dredging program to “dig out” existing silt that threatens the very existence of our lake. This project will coincide with the Babbling Brook Silt Basin Project so we minimize disruption of the use of the lake (which will have to be drawn down while the work is done); reduce the expense as much as possible while maximizing resources to do the work.

Reduce nutrients entering the lake: This can be summed up under “Watershed Improvement”, a project that I have responsibility for. We must understand that we have a large surrounding land mass that affects the clarity of Lost Lake, and unless we make efforts to manage what enters the streams that eventually enters the lake, we will never succeed in improving aquatic vegetation that supports the fish we like to see in our lake and the recreational use of the lake (swimming, boating, etc.). We have already begun meeting with land owners in our “community” to discuss land use improvement (which includes managing grazing programs, buffer strips, stream management, etc.) and plan to continue these efforts over the next 12-18 months.

Manage current assets: Under the watchful eyes of Herb Hill and Glenn Baldwin, we maintain the Lake Court Center and our properties that

include the swimming beaches and parks. It involves a whole host of things from just upkeep like you do in your own homes to mowing, dock repair, painting, signage, dam management, cleanliness of our swimming areas and beaches, and so on. Both Herb and Glenn put in a ton of time just making sure all these areas are maintained for public enjoyment and use.

Improve volunteerism and support to reduce costs: Betty Lou Finn manages this area and continues to work diligently to reach out to the community for support on any number of projects we are involved in. This is a key area for us as it lends itself to reducing what we need to pay contractors when work has to be done for minor repairs, cleanup projects and building projects.

I have mentioned within the discussions above who carries the load when it comes to responsibility and oversight for these objectives. In addition, your RCD has engaged the services of two key consultants. Joe Rush (JadEco) is a lake management specialist. Joe supports the activities of the LMC, doing lake affluent studies, developing and implementing lake management standards, supporting fish stocking programs, and working as a liaison with other government agencies like the Army Corp. of Engineers and EPA.

Rebecca Olson (Olson Ecological Solutions, LLC) has been working with me for the last 9 months, mainly in the exploration and writing of grants that will financially support our objectives that certainly strain our budget. Along with this, Rebecca is assisting with our Watershed Management program and has been our key contact person when it comes to gaining the cooperation and involvement of watershed property owners, Natural Resources and Conservation Services (NRCS),

endorsements and cooperation from local organizations with similar interests such as the Ogle Co. Soil and Water Conservation District and the Nature Conservancy. Currently we are in the process of writing and submitting a grant for stream management and building the Babbling Brook Silt Basin.