



**Environmental Advisory Committee  
Minutes**

April 21, 2009–3:15 p.m.  
McCall Library– Idaho Room



COMMITTEE MEETING – Begins at 3:15 p.m

Kathleen O'Neill, Claire Remsberg, Cindy Miller, and Lindsey Truxel, Michelle Groenevelt (City staff) were present. John Rygh, Jenni Blake, Nathan Wagner and were absent.

**McCall Golf Course Green Projects**

Eric McCormick presented the following information about the golf course to the EAC:

The golf course covers 170 acres. Of that acreage there are 50 acres of rough, 30 acres of fairway, 3.5 acres of tees and 3 acres of green which totals 86.5 acres of maintained turf. The other 83.5 acres is in wetlands, ponds, streams, wooded areas and buildings.

The 3 acres of greens has the highest inputs of chemical and fertilizer because of their unique environment. The rest of the course chemical and fertilizer inputs are monitored and used as needed to maintain quality. We use some organic fertilizers which are usually more costly. We let the grass grow long along the streams to help filter the water. We also have tules growing in most of the ponds for the same reason. Our pond system filters all of the runoff off from spring mountain and spring meadows.

We have participated with the McCall High School science class on their water study and their findings was that the water coming out of the golf course was cleaner than a stream on the west side of the lake. The golf course employs 4 full time employees and 13 seasonal employees.

Recycle project: We sort all of the aluminum cans out of the golf course trash and recycle. We also collect scrap metal and recycle as well. Our used oil is given to a local business to burn in their shop heater.

Tree program: We have been removing dead and dying trees from the golf course and hauling to a local saw mill. We then have them cut into what ever size we need for construction projects. What is not good enough for lumber is cut, stored and used heat in the shop during the winter. We have been planting new 2 and 3 foot trees where trees have been taken out and by trees that are not looking well. We have been thinning and liming up trees around greens and tees to make the turf healthier and save chemical inputs.

We would like to use the bulk of the logs to cut into lumber to build a shed to cover the equipment that we have to leave outside in the winter.

Maintenance Building Power: We have replaced all of the lights in the shop with more efficient bulbs.

Mosquito program: We have 14 swallow houses that we maintain on the golf course. The swallows usually arrive the first of April and are very active during the spring and summer. Two more were built this winter and put on 1 Birch green and 2 Birch tee close to Woolley which has been a bad area for mosquitoes because of the pond across the street. In our pond system we keep fresh water flowing in them which has helped reduce larvae numbers. We also monitor the

number of larvae and treat the ponds with a product that is a growth regulator that doesn't allow them to become adults. We fog the golf course only when adult numbers become intolerable for the patrons.

Chemical/Fertilizer storage: In the past, Chemical was stored in the pump station because it was the only heated building other than the shop that we had to keep it from freezing. This last fall we insulated and heated a new building to better contain it.

Fertilizer used to be stored in the old brown shed with a gravel floor. It is also now stored in a contained building. The soil under the floor has been tested for contaminants.

Growth Regulator: We spray growth regulator on fairways and tees to slow the growth of the grass which allows us to mow less, save fuel and increase turf quality.

New Projects we are working on:

VFD: We have gotten approval to upgrade the irrigation pump station with a variable frequency drive or VFD to operate the system more efficiently. We will be able to save some power with this system. It will be installed this spring.

Organic Fertilizer: I have found a source for composted manure which we could use on Tees, Fairways and Roughs. I am working on transportation and application. The cost of transportation is costly and the equipment that we have will not spread it.

Ozone/Oxygen Generator: The golf course has an old ozone generator that is no longer serviceable. According to the EPA, ozone will eliminate bacteria, fungi, viruses and spores which decrease chemical usage. The system also creates natural nitrogen which will reduce amounts of added nitrogen. The new system cost is \$85,000. Carol is looking for a grant to help us purchase the system.

Solar Charging System: There is a new system for charging electric carts that could be mounted on the club house.

Most of these ideas will have to be funded by other means. Golf courses have been exempt from any stimulus funds and most grants so in order to keep golf affordable in McCall, we can not generate enough additional income to fund them.

Cindy Miller asked about how ponds filters and Eric talked about the overflow of Shiner Creek and the flows. It was asked if the City needs ponds and the response was the ponds act as filter systems, irrigation ponds, and habitat for frogs.

There was some discussion about the wetlands and agreement w/Spring Mountain Ranch to maintain pond level.

Lindsey asked about larvae counts. Eric said they do track larvae counts and when there are 30-40 in scoop then treat. Eric commented that the water movement helps. There was some discussion on BT Blocks (organic to treat larvae) and the growth regulator (chemical.)

The City sprayed 4 times per year (last summer) Eric has to balance the difference needs and desires of the community. Eric sprays the chemical during the evening. There was discussion about if spraying was necessary.

The code does not allow people to be on golf course if not paying customers; however, in reality it ends of being a park for 6 months.

Dave Simmonds mentioned the use of Swallows because they eat during the day and bats eat during the night. Other technique to reduce mosquito's annoyance include:

- 1.Reduce standing H2O
- 2.Bats/Swallows
- 3.Education

Cindy mentioned that the fog contains polystyrenes which are chemicals to affect the nervous system. She asked if signs can be posted when the golf course is spraying.

There was discussion about fertilizers including phosphates and nitrates, the study the high school students completed. Eric stated that the gold course uses less fertilizers than the Boise Valley, the East coast and the South. Eric is looking into different types of manure.

David Simmonds provided the handout for the City Council meeting. He said there is no facility manager for the City of McCall so the duties associated with building maintenance and conservation is not a particular person's job. Energy Seal looked at City Hall installation (R-6) so the buildings are wasting lots of energy. The City and EAC are evaluation the lighting program through Idaho Power. David mentioned the 2005 draft campus plan for new City buildings but a bond is needed. Dave gave a history of the City Hall building. Dave asked for help from EAC on upcoming planning.

### **Updates**

Lindsey gave an update on the dump day.

Claire will email matrix & review action plan.

Idaho Power Project requires the EAC to contract electrician and look into occupancy sensors as the next step.

Michelle explained the Bike to Work/School event with additional police on Deinhard Lane, Star News article, and sponsored events by organizations and businesses.

The following people are working together to promote the events:

Claire will develop graphics for advertising.

Kathy will write a press release (anti-idling, dump day, bike day) and work with Carol Coyle.

Lindsey will try to get the information on a reader board and the radio.

Cindy will work on wording for water bill and email to staff.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 pm.

**Attest:**

---

Michelle Groenevelt  
Community Development Director

---

Claire Remsburg  
EAC Chair