

Notes taken during an on-site visit to the HOA irrigation pond with Jim Zamzow and Alan Mills on 9/23/04

Attendees: Kaye Kimbrell, Morgen Kimbrell (lot 40B), Calvin McDonald, Jim Zamzow, Alan Mills

Stage: Toni DuGal and Calvin McDonald, in working with Alan Mills on general pond maintenance issues, agreed at Alan Mills' suggestion to have Jim Zamzow come and provide a free consultation on potential maintenance activities that would help maintain better water quality in our irrigation pond. Alan Mills arrange this and Jim kindly attended. The meeting lasted about 1 hour and was held standing on the west side of the HOA's irrigation pond.

Intent: It was the intent of the meeting to tap whatever knowledge Jim has about ponds and explore his ideas to make improvements. Jim was given a brief introduction to the system, when it was installed, and Alan provided a short description of the original intent of the pond as an irrigation facility. We also describe the canal flow-through plumbing, its intent, past success and its failure this year due to the canal lowering.

We asked Jim if there was a quantifiable way to measure the condition of the pond in general and the quality of the water. Jim just smiled and said "no way". Water quality changes almost daily and it would be very costly and time consuming to test it. The general condition of the pond (weeds, moss, algae, etc.) is very much subjective and not measurable. Jim stated that the pond was "very healthy", showing signs such as frogs and other indicator species.

When asked about chemicals, Jim didn't have a strong preference for or against but over the course of the visit it became clear that he favored no chemicals and offer several options he thought would clean up the pond without their use (cover below). When asked about "harsh" vs. "organic" he didn't really think there was a distinct difference and that what some would call harsh others wouldn't. When I said we were leaning toward chemicals he didn't oppose and started offering suggestions on what to use. When we mentioned the cost of chemicals as per the quotes that Bailey's have obtained he started there were expensive - "full retail + large application fees". To make his point he said, "At that price I'll come apply the chemicals myself". He suggested several times that obtaining these same chemicals and applying them on our own would both be easy and much cheaper. Jim suggested if we wanted to save money on chems that we should request from Clearwater what they are intending to use and purchase these chems ourselves. He suggested calling Jim Martin at the Zamzow's Fairview store if we have questions and suggested the following companies for buying them from in bulk – as his stores (Zamzow's) doesn't typically carry these types of chems in large enough quantity for a pond like ours.

- Wilber Elis (sp) in Caldwell
- Steve Regan (sp)

Jim didn't seem too fond of the canal flow-through idea but did give it a little merit. He was of the opinion that if we do chemicals that we would not want canal flow-through for

2 reasons. 1. Discharge water contaminate liability. 2. Expense of diluted chemicals. If the chemicals are done right, they alone will control the weed problems without the need for flow-through. When I asked if the flow-through would deliver “dirty” (chems, weed seed, etc.) water to the pond relative to a shallow well, Jim said the airborne nature of elements combined with the mire 25’ of gravel the canal has to flow through to get into the pond make it irrelevant. Jim stated it is “near impossible to control the nature of the pond”.

When asked about pond water level, Jim asked Alan what the intent of the pond was. Alan said it was an agricultural ground-water feed pond intended primarily for irrigation. Jim then said that it would be natural for the pond level to fluctuate with the water table and the water draw from the pump. Alan then added that it was the intent of the system and yes it would fluctuate and might “as much as a foot or two”. We then commented that there was a desire to maintain the pond at a constant level to which Jim responded that this would be unrealistic and we’d spend a fortune trying to do that. He said we’d have to line the pond. He than asked Alan “Isn’t this an irrigation pond?”.

When asked what he would do, Jim responded by saying his first move would be to get two geese, preferably African Grey geese. He claimed two geese would eat all the duckweed and surface moss. He also suggested several other types of geese and swans (Mute (sp) and Trumpeter (sp)). This combined with a simple self applied chemical program or a canal flow-through he thought would significantly help.

Jim did give several references to locals successfully dealing with similar pond issues who he said would be more than willing to help. They are:

- Dr. Bob Moore (sp) Lives on bench above Star
- Dr. Mark & Patty Hensley (sp) Lives near Linder and the river

Jim also mentioned contacting the DEQ and the DWQ for help.

Chemicals Jim mentioned:

- Copper Sulfate
- Aqua-treen (sp)
- Rodeo (sp)

The topic of digging the pond deeper was discussed. Both Alan and Jim claimed it would help. Alan favored this idea but Jim favored cheaper ways to deal with the problem. He mentioned that over time pond banks will gravitate to a certain slope and digging the center of our pond much deeper would likely cause erosion of the banks and the dirt gravitate to the center. He also mentioned the danger of steep slopes to children.

When asked about fountains and perimeter sprinklers Jim said they help but he thought there were much cheaper ways to deal with our problems (those mentioned above). He did mention a technique he uses in his own pond. He has strung Soaker Hose across the bottom of this pond and he occasionally connects an air compressor to them and aerates. He said it works well but there is a bit of a hassle dealing with a compressor.