

Interviewer: So, we are recording. This is Mark Solomon. I'm sitting here on March 28th with Richard Jurvelin.

Interviewee: Right.

Interviewer: Do you want me to call you Richard?

Interviewee: That's fine.

Interviewer: Okay. The purpose of the interview is to talk about Fernand Lake and the blue green algae blooms and the perceptions of how they may be affecting the community both now and in the future. So, Richard, how long have you lived in the Fernand Lake Watershed?

Interviewee: Oh, you're going to ask me that question. I'm trying to think. First of all, my parents built it in 1967 and Fernand Village there. After they passed away, it had to be 2005. I can't believe I don't remember. We've been there about 7-years now.

Interviewer: Did you live there with your parents?

Interviewee: No. I didn't. I never did. I was in the service, so I came back and forth to visit. I grew up as a kid in the area. I went to junior high and high school here. I know of Fernand Lake from that perspective.

Interviewer: So you were one of the kids that was participating in one of the keggers up the lake?

Interviewee: No. I was too young then. We used to go down in the wintertime and go out on the ice and play hockey, but I'm not a skater. We used the lake periodically. Every once in a while I would go fish, but not to any great degree. As a kid I never lived down there. I always lived further north in **Quarterlane**.

Interviewer: What prompted your parents to build there?

Interviewee: My dad was a realtor there. I think when they opened that up as a subdivision that he saw an opportunity to build and to move from where they lived, obviously. I don't think it was because of the lake per se, although he was a fisherman and a sportsman. He didn't use the lake that much for that purpose.

Interviewer: What do you most value about living there now?

Interviewee: What do I like about living there? It's quiet in the neighborhood. I wouldn't say there's a lot of activity out there, but it's right on the periphery of Quarterlane, so it's close to all the City of Quarterlane amenities. We get service by the school district 271. It's easy access to the lakes, especially on the east side, as I said, Lake Quarterlane. There's a little park there on Fernand Lake. It's just a couple of blocks from where we live, so it's nice to go for a walk in either the morning or the evening. I don't fish, so that's not a drawing card. It's a nice community.

Interviewer: Do you get out on the lake?

Interviewee: No. I don't. I have boats, but I pretty much restrict it to Quarterlane.

Interviewer: That pretty much answers how you use Fernand Lake.

Interviewee: Yeah. If you look at it from a perspective of use of being able to go down to the lake and watch people on the lake either on the docks fishing or the rowing crews out doing their thing, I just walk around and enjoy the little park. I consider that use of the lake. Anytime you're by a body of water for some reason or other, there is a calming aspect of that. It's a change from the downtown humdrum noise and all that.

Interviewer: I wasn't aware there were rowing crews out there.

Interviewee: Yeah. I think it's called Quarterlane Rowing Club. During the wintertime they don't have anything down there, but now, as the season gets better, they have a place down there where they can put their boats and prop them up. They actually have a couple of docks they got through the county up there. They teach rowing. I don't know if they still do it through the NIC down here, but I know there's a number of folks involved in just doing it for exercise. There's a club where they do actually train to race.

Interviewer: Are there ever interclub races?

Interviewee: They've had one on the lake that I can recall. They seem to go other areas like over to Seattle or over to tri-cities where they have other places. I think last year they had a meet. That was about it. They train to race. It's pretty cool.

Interviewer: Sweet. Have you noticed use of the lake changing either for yourself personally or those that you just observe?

Interviewee: I'm trying to think. I really haven't noticed the use personally. I go down there during the summertime on a – I won't say frequent basis, but every once in a while just to see how many cars are down there. It seems to be pretty stable in terms of numbers. They fill up the lot in the summertime. There are a lot of boaters down there and people are just up there fishing off the dock, in particular. I recall a comment from Nick Snider of the County Parks and Rec that Fernand is the most fished lake in the state of Idaho.

Interviewer: Chip Corsey of Idaho Fish and Game told me the same thing. He told me that on a per acre basis, it is the most heavily used recreational fishery in the state.

Interviewee: Right. Actually, any time of the year you can go down to Fernand off the docks there and you'll see people fishing. They're either fishing on the shore or they're out on the docks. If they can't get

on the docks, they fish from the shore or from the roadway even if the water is up high. In the summertime there are kids and adults – you name it. It's a good recreational lake for everybody.

Interviewer: **Excellent. Regarding the blue green algae blooms, do you perceive any change in how often they've been occurring?**

Interviewee: I don't personally. Only from the residents there, it seems to have increased. Normally there's one time of the year that it always seems to occur.

Interviewer: **Which is?**

Interviewee: It's generally in the August time period, but it's also come about earlier than that. I think it was last year. I don't remember the exact time, but that was a concern of many of the residents because now we're getting it twice a year. Of course, once it's spotted, DEQ gets involved and they put out a notice, "Don't use the lake," etc. It's interesting from my perspective because I know when a notice comes out, and then within a few days it's gone, i.e. you can go back and use the lake. For me personally because I'm not a big user of the lake, there's no personal impact on it. A concern, yes, but a personal impact, no.

Interviewer: **You mentioned that you receive notice through the paper. Are there other ways that you get information about how the lake is doing?**

Interviewee: The county Parks and Rec will post a sign in the park area. I know they do it on the east end of the lake, too, when there's some access there. They'll use that – other than that, no.

Interviewer: **The only other person I've interviewed – Susan – mentioned that she could often smell the bloom when it happens. You don't smell that?**

Interviewee: I can't answer that.

Interviewer: Okay. Who do you believe is taking responsibility for the algae blooms?

Interviewee: Who's taking responsibility for it – the increase in it?

Interviewer: Yeah. Who's leading the charge in addressing the issue of the algae blooms?

Interviewee: Well, there's a couple like Doc Miller who is on the lake. There's another person who would also be good to interview if you haven't already, and that's the Ackah family – Pat and Heidi Ackah. Pat probably knows as much of what's going down there or more because they live on the lake than a lot of people. The Friends of Fernand are obviously pushing the proponents of keeping this place clean. So, there's a small group, if you will. I really don't think there's any governmental group that's doing anything that's significant, which maybe they should. DEQ gets the work because the residents report it or Friends of Fernand report it.

Interviewer: That leads into the next question. Who should take responsibility for reducing the algae blooms?

Interviewee: I'm not too sure I know how to answer that other than – I guess you would say Parks and Rec, but the Idaho Waterways – inland waterways. Is that how you say that?

Interviewer: The County has its waterways that's funneled through the state.

Interviewee: Right. There are a couple of them funneled through the state there. I believe they should take at least a little more concern, awareness, or monitoring of it to see what is in fact going on and then to look at potential ways in which they can help mediate the problem or recognize the problem and the cause of it, which I don't know what it is. It's too biological for me.

Interviewer: It is definitely biological. So, that would then lead to who do you look to for leadership in reducing those blooms? Is it the same people?

Interviewee: It's a good question, but I'm not too sure that there's a great answer, other than the fact that I think it's everybody's responsibility in the long haul just the way we're set up around here. Somebody is always regulating somebody else. So, if you really want to get down to the nitty gritty, it's the users of the lake that are ultimately responsible for what happens, and they should be the ones ultimately responsible to change their behavior so that it doesn't happen. There are agencies. Let's just go the next step up. There is an organized group Friends of the Lake that has folks on there that are very concerned about it and take their time and energy and try to monitor it or try to participate in telling people there's a problem, and then it goes up the line to the Parks and Rec to the waterways to DEQ. So, it's just like _____ waterways. It's the same thing. So, trying to pinpoint somebody specific – I'm not too sure that you could say, "Okay. You're in charge." The city of Fernand Lake Village – we're just a little portion of that whole lake. We do things, though, that we try to control. We have residents there like the Ackahs and the Millers who obviously watch the lake and see when there are problems and when it's okay and are obviously very, very concerned as the rest of the lakefront owners are – the Chatterdons and a few people like that.

Interviewer: Sure. If worse came to worse and the lake became unusable for recreation, how would that affect your willingness or continued ability to live there?

Interviewee: I'd like to answer from the standpoint, but I don't know if I can make it happen. I think the effort and support that we're trying to – when I say "we" I mean myself and the Friends of Fernand and the City of Fernand Lake Village. What can we do to ensure that the lake stays the way it is as best as it possibly can? It would be disastrous, I think, if something happened to the lake and it just went away. I guess some people see in a long-range projection that will eventually happen, but I don't want to see that on my watch. It will have an impact. It will have an impact on the people that are living on the lake now. It will have an impact on the people who reside in the Village of Fernand Lake. It will have an impact on the previous users now from the kids and all that that

fish there and just go there and even use the park or the shorelines just to sit back and have a lunch. So, it will have a major impact on – I would say – the impacting on the recreation – how do I want to put this – on the recreation assets available to the community. The users are people out here, not Fernand Lake Village or the people along the lake. The users are the people in the City of Quarterlane, the City of Hayden, Puttigny County, _____.

Interviewer: Do you have any personal hunches as to why the algae blooms are increasing?

Interviewee: No. I've heard a lot of people say in the summertime heat that the way the biological system is put together that it's kind of a natural occurrence. There's phosphorous involved. Then, the increase now, people are throwing the blame towards the feds – the state, especially, when they redid the Fernand Lake Road. So, they are throwing stones in those directions as to how they did that. Obviously, they're saying that they did not pay attention to what they were doing and just let it go by the wayside. That's hearsay. I have no proof, but you will hear that, I'm sure – if you haven't already time and time again. They caused I-90 when they put the interstate in there, the engineer screwed up on the "culvert" that the lake drains through, and that may have an impact on it. I have no idea. I have no idea what the real cause of it is. I would venture to say part of that – at least the ones you hear – is a natural occurrence based on the lake configuration and the surrounding resources around it – the hillsides, etc. I guess it all has to do with phosphates.

Interviewer: That's what we're being told. I think we've touched on this, but let's go through it directly. How do you get information on Fernand Lake water quality?

Interviewee: How do I? I don't get anything direct. What I get is from what I hear from either residents or reading the paper or when something happens and everybody starts to jump through hoops and then you start seeing more reports on the quality or Friends of Fernand start to raise up the black flag.

Interviewer: Is the information distribution such as it is adequate to the issue?

Interviewee: It depends on what information. Probably the answer to that is, “No.” For the layman, the answer is, “No.” If they got that information, who they got that from, and what it entails – would that mean anything? I don’t know.

Interviewer: Rather than trying to understand the scientific but just the information regarding when you can use the lake and when you shouldn’t use the lake.

Interviewee: I don’t think there’s anything. The information when you can’t, that’s when the algae issue comes up that I can say it’s either put in the Quarterlane Press and posted on the various user sites whether they fish or boat. So, if you’re a user, then you’ll see that. If you’re not, then you may read it in the paper and say, “Oh. There it is again.” It’s kind of a flipped way of putting it, but that’s the way I would see it.

Interviewer: There are a number of distinct communities – I guess I would call them – around the lake. If you would just block them, I would say you have Fernand Lake Village. You have the people who live along the lake, outside the village, you have people off the creek, and then you have people on each hillside up above with some impact on the lake. Is there any communication amongst the group?

Interviewee: I think only through maybe the Friends of Fernand Lake. Other than that, I know of nothing.

Interviewer: With your hat on as mayor, how often do issues of the lake come before you and the council?

Interviewee: Not very often. I guess I can say maybe – I’m just throwing this out. I’ll say four times a year. Two of those times may or not be at least one, and that’s when the algae comes up. The last time it

was twice. We are advised about it, but there's not a whole lot we can do about it. So, we talk about it maybe, but that's about it. The other two times are in the wintertime and in the summertime. Those are all times that led up before that. That has to do with lowering the level of the lake by control of the check dam and making sure the lake comes back up by controlling the check dam. Those are two times, if you will, in the year. When we get close to getting a flood, we get a little more calls, but it's basically twice a year I would say.

Interviewer: Right. As I understand it, you are the person that gets to place the boards.

Interviewee: Right. I help if I can. Pat Ackah is the one who could tell you more about that to be frank with you because of his longevity there and his parents use to live there, too. I guess there's always been a, "Who does what and who owns it," and all of that. Because we're the city and it's close to us and there were residents who had concern before about it, especially controlling the level of the lake so that you can fish and it's as nice and deep as you can get it, and at the same time that we don't have flood issues. The city has kind of picked up that responsibility. There's nothing in writing that I'm aware of that says we should or shouldn't, can or cannot, or have funds, which we don't, so we allocate our own to do that strictly based on the knowledge that the lake to keep it going for safety purposes, somebody has got to pick up the bulk.

Interviewer: Do you know how long the city has taken on that responsibility?

Interviewee: I'm trying to think. I don't. I think it's almost – I want to say 30-years, but I can't validate that.

Interviewer: Pat would be the person to talk to.

Interviewee: Pat would be the person to talk to. There was a resident of the lake or the village. I don't know if it was Doug or not. Anyway, they're the ones that basically had to put in the check damn in after some other issues and discussions. Nobody else would do anything, so they said, "Okay." Nobody said anything otherwise.

Interviewer: In my experience, one of the more unique situations regarding the dam-

Interviewee: The water guy came down. He was a brand new engineer in the area. He called and came down and said, "I want to see the dam. I need to make a safety inspection." Go right ahead. I walked over there with him, he looked at it, and I haven't heard from him since. I guess there was one other time that somebody had told Idaho Waterway, "Listen, we need a dam there. We need a good dam there." They said, "Good. Put one up." That's \$90,000.00 worth of dam. You want the City of Fernand Village to come up with \$90,000.00 to put a proper check dam in there? We can't do that. It does need to have something probably other than what it has there.

Interviewer: I've never looked at the records, but whose property does the dam actually sit on?

Interviewee: That was the question I had, but it's on a right of way through there is my understanding. In fact, one of your professors – the younger guy that's doing the sampling-

Interviewer: Frank.

Interviewee: Yeah! Frank said, "Did you realize on the map – I thought it was on _____ property, but there is evidently an easement through there that does not belong there."

Interviewer: I'll talk to Frank about that, but, generally speaking, if it's a perennial stream, the state retains the ownership of embedded banks between the high water mark.

Interviewee: They probably do. It probably states that, and there's no doubt about that, but as far as the check dam and now that – there is a sign up there, "Don't screw with this because you're violating the state." We went out there and did some things that we felt were essential to make sure the water flows and nobody gets flooded. In the summertime, the fish are still there, but it is a concern and we recognize that fact.

Interviewer: Does the City of Fernand Lake Village own public property? Is the park city property?

Interviewee: No. It's in the City of Fernand Lake Village, but it's owned by the county. We don't own anything per se. All of the partials are individually loaned. There is a small piece of land on the east side of the village that was dedicated for use by those who did not have waterfront rights, but that's another issue. It's not very big and nobody wants to play with it. The other properties – there's a commercial section there that we have that's on the west side of 90. You've got the interstate and then Gordon Lake Drive. Between there there's four partials in there that are actually in the City of Fernand Lake Village, and that is our commercial area with nothing else. We own nothing.

Interviewer: Well, you've now heard all of the questions I had prepared. Is there something that I'm not asking that I should be?

Interviewee: I think the questions are good. I think you're trying to get a sample of a diverse group of people as how they see the lake. I think that's obviously a necessity for the long-range study itself. To get facts, unfortunately, I've just got some general ideas. I just don't have the real facts. Ackah's probably going to be one of the better ones to talk to. Chatterdons live on the lake.

Interviewer: Would you suggest that I talk with Nick Snider?

Interviewee: Oh, yeah. Definitely. See how he sees it. He may look at it a different way, too. Other long-time residents there – the previous mayor Mary Anne Tierney – she's on the council, but Mary Anne has got a wealth of knowledge and opinions.

Interviewer: One does not run for mayor without opinions.

Interviewee: She's a good lady. Don't get me wrong there. As far as corporate knowledge, she's probably one of the better ones there, too. Just as a resident – I think she got there in the 80's. It might have been before that, but she's been on the console and has been mayor and runs that whole gamut.

Interviewer: **Okay. Well, in that case, I won't take anymore of your time.**

Interviewee: I'm off the hook.

Interviewer: **Thank you for your willingness.**

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