

Silver Lake Advisory Commission Minutes: October 16, 2025

7:00pm KRC Meeting Room

Members in attendance:

Gary Pugh, Randy Ammann, Bill Blechinger, Don Romirschirchen, Colby Schruppf, Ron Wagner, Dave Frey, Natural Resource Manager Ryan Hummert

Guests: David Todd

Motion to approve minutes made at 7:01 pm

Staff Reports:

- Gary Pugh informed the Commission of the tie back construction to be completed on the spillway wing wall on the south side of Rt 143.
- Manager Hummert advised the Commission of the completion of the Chuck Urban sediment basin project, which includes the new dam construction, grading and re-seeding as part of the 319 IEPA grant funds, which will limit nearly 150 acres of sediment from entering the lake.
- The commission was informed of the plan to complete additional shoreline rip rap in the most heavily impacted areas of Silver Lake, as well as the sediment basin construction to be completed in the cove adjacent to the emergency boat launch on Silver Lake Road.
- The Silver Lake brood pond was successfully drained on Thursday October 16th, which resulted in over 3,000 large mouth bass with an average length of 8.5" to be deposited into the main body of the lake. The City along with assistance from IDNR fisheries division, has deposited over 9,000 bass into the lake over the past 4 years due to the success of the fish hatchery located within Silver Lake Park.
- Manager Hummert informed the Commission of the future shoreline rip rap work to be completed along the north dam of the brood pond, in order to combat the muskrat damage being done to the dam itself, as well as the water control structure.
- Fall trout season will begin Saturday, October 18th in the Old City Reservoir. Rainbow Trout were deposited into the lake on Thursday, October 16th. The City pond is one of only 3 other fall trout lakes that are remaining on schedule for the season opener. Other ponds have been delayed due to warmer than average water temperatures. The Highland City reservoir remains one of the most successful fall trout programs in the state, due to the cooler water temps and diverse habitat found in the lake.

New Business:

- The Silver Lake Advisory meeting structure will be adjusted for the 2026 season, with meetings occurring the 3rd Thursday of the months of March 19th, July 17th, and October 16th at 7:00 pm at the Korte Rec Center.

Commission Requests:

- Colby Schruppf addressed the Commission concerning the Silver Lake sign located along Rt 143. The sign has been in this location for 20 plus years and has become hard for potential park guests to see due to vegetation and tree canopy. Manager Hummert brought up the idea of

relocating the entrance sign to the north side of the highway and possibly doing some type of stone or rock design accompanied by landscaping in order to create much better visibility and curb appeal for park guests. The Commission was in favor of this and Gary Pugh advised we could incorporate some of the utility hydrants into the landscape to reduce mowing and spraying. Manager Hummert will speak with Clarity Ponds about a design and price for a stone design similar to that of the T-Mobile playground.

- Bill Blechinger addressed the possibility of reviving the Spring Shoreline Cleanup on the lake.

Motion to adjourn was made and seconded at 7:55pm.