

UPDATE – TERRIFIC NEWS!

Nov. 9, 2020 Statement from Bob Wise, RBAW President and President of the newly-formed RBAW Marine Park Conservancy – on Lakebay Marina Being Very Much Back in Play

Hello to my fellow RBAW Board Members, to all of our clubs and individuals, and to those who serve with me on the Marine Park Conservancy Board we just formed as a 501(c)3 a few months back. I realize the ***big*** headline news this weekend involves the outcome of a certain Presidential Election – but in our recreational boating world, we’ve got a pretty important headline of our own 😊

To put it succinctly: Our pursuit of the Lakebay Marina is back in play – and maybe stronger than ever!

Remember that a little over a month ago, I shared with you the terrible news that we had to let the Sept. 30, 2020 deadline lapse on the purchase-and-sale agreement the Marine Park Conservancy had negotiated to acquire this historic Marina from Mark Scott. At the time, we were seeking a 1-year extension which included an offer of \$25,000 in additional cash and \$25,000 in monies deposited into an escrow account. The counter-offer, however, would have taken the original base purchase price of \$1.24 million all the way up to ***\$3.135 million***. As much passion, time, and energy as we had put into this project, we could not in good conscience agree an increase in the purchase price of over 250 percent.

Last Tuesday (Election Day), however, there was a significant development. Mr. Scott reached out to me early in the morning, offering to do the 1-year extension under the terms we had initially offered. While we do not know exactly why Mr. Scott had a change of heart we’re just very grateful that he has agreed to go forward with an extension to Sept. 30, 2021.

Once we knew the extension was going to occur, we quickly reached out to the Recreation and Conservation Office and to the Department of Natural Resources, because we had been working feverishly with those two agencies on a “Boating Facilities Program” application that was to have been submitted by DNR. Unfortunately, the ***deadline*** for that application was Tuesday, Nov. 3.

But here’s where our good news gets even better: RCO Executive Director Kaleen Cottingham and her Grants Manager Marguerite Austin agreed to provide us an extension until Monday, Nov. 9, and DNR agreed to work with us on updating and submitted the Boating Facilities Program application! While the paperwork may still shift around a bit, the application at this point is for \$1.75 million and – if successful – would provide funding both for the acquisition of Lakebay and for planning the improvements, phasing, and permitting of the site over the next few years.

As you can imagine, I am thrilled that we have a renewed opportunity to acquire Lakebay and turn it into a future gem for boaters and recreational enthusiasts in the South Sound.

I want to conclude by again sending enormous “thank you” to so many of you that have put incredible time and energy into the Lakebay initiative.

Obviously, we will plan to discuss all this further at the Nov. 14 RBAW Annual Meeting, where, in a moment of perfect karma, our keynote speaker will be the DNR’s leader – State Lands Commissioner Hilary Franz.

If you have questions, please don’t hesitate to reach out either to me or to Doug Levy.

Best Regards,

Bob Wise
RBAW President