

be charged for any use beyond their allocation. Frisch said the town was not currently charging for use over allocation, but that the board should enforce that in some way when a mechanism to do so could be designed.

Frisch said that better management of residential wells could allow the town to make up to 1,145 water taps available since the current upper limit on water taps was calculated using only surface water rights.

Resident Matt Stephen asked Frisch to speak to the issue of water table depletion. Frisch said the Denver aquifer was dropping about 16 feet a year in the Palmer Lake area. In other areas the Denver aquifer was dropping 20 feet a year, Frisch said. As the number of wells increases, the likelihood that aquifers will be depleted also increases, Frisch said.

Frisch told the board that there were three possible responses to the depletion of aquifers: not to allow any new residential or commercial development, develop other water resources, which would also require increased costs for infrastructure, or move to a regionalized water distribution system if one is built in the future. All three options would be costly, he said.

**Low water level in lake prompts action**

At a previous board meeting in March, Collins told the board that the Parks Commission suggested cancelling activities at the lake due to its low water level.

At the April 8 meeting, Frisch said water had been added to the lake from the town's reservoirs two times in the last two months. Frisch said the lake covered about 10 acres, that the maximum the town could add to the lake was 8.4 acre-feet per month, and at that rate he calculated the maximum the town could raise the water level in the lake in a year was 6.7 feet.

Hulsmann commented from a business standpoint that cancelling activities at the lake would be catastrophic since the trails and the lake are "huge draws."

At the April 22 workshop, Bass commented on the higher water level in the lake.

Parks Commission Chair Reid Wiecks told the board that in response to the higher water level, Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) had reversed its decision not to stock the lake with fish. Wiecks went on to suggest that, rather than closing the lake, different parts of the lake be dedicated to different activities, for example designating one area for wading and another for fishing. Buoy lines would be used to mark boundaries between areas, he said. The south end of the lake could be used to create a wildlife area and for launching boats, kayaks, and paddle boards.

Wiecks also mentioned that people who park to the west of the lake and cross the railroad tracks to reach the lake are violating the town's agreement with the railroad, and steps will need to be taken to steer them to the bridge. He suggested repairing the existing fence and adding barbed wire.

The board voted unanimously to authorize the Parks Commission to proceed with Wiecks's suggestion, except for adding barbed wire to the fence.



**Above:** Eagle Scout candidate Jacob Unwin of Boy Scout Troop 9 is recognized with a certificate of appreciation for his work on a wildlife conservation area on the west side of Palmer Lake. From left are Bill Bass, Palmer Lake mayor; Unwin; and Mike Pietsch, Palmer Lakes Parks Commission member. Photo by Jackie Burhans

**Noise ordinance reconsidered**

At the April 22 workshop, Bass opened discussion of the town's noise ordinance by pointing out that it was difficult to enforce.

Two residents said the ordinance represented the response of the community to a business that hired bands that were too loud and played objectionable music two years ago. Both liked the provision of the ordinance that specified quiet time on weekends.

At the April 22 regular meeting, Police Chief Jason Vanderpool told the board the current ordinance was hard to enforce because the specified decibel level was too low. He suggested raising the maximum decibel level allowed. He said it was easy to enforce the ordinance's quiet time provisions.

Stuth moved to table further discussion of the ordinance until May. The motion was unanimously approved.

**Fourth of July fireworks on track to return**

Cindy Kuchinsky, director of the Palmer Lake Fireworks Committee, told the board about plans for a "Festival on the Fourth" that would include a fireworks display and asked the board to approve a special event application.

Because there is always some uncertainty about whether fire conditions will allow for fireworks, Kuchinsky said the committee envisioned a festival possibly ending with fireworks.

The committee is seeking sponsors for the event, Kuchinsky said, adding the town web page would have a link enabling donations from residents.

Kuchinsky said safety and security are primary considerations, and the committee has met with Police Chief Vanderpool and Fire Chief McCarthy. AMR will provide two ambulances and two EMTs, and there will be two buses on opposite ends of the lake, she said. Between 50 and 60 security staff are in the plan, as are a beer garden and a concession stand at either end of the lake.

The board voted unanimously to approve the special events permits and to waive the permit

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