

**BELLA VISTA PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION LAKES COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES, August 19th, 2015**

**Committee Members/Liaisons in Attendance:** Jerry Argetsinger, Walter Hinojosa and Larry Lamar

**Board Liaisons:** John Nuttall and Dave Barfield

**Management Liaisons:** Darrell Bowman and Vern Olafson

**Guests:** Bill Davis, Ron Blackwelder, Keith Patterson, and Lynn Atkins (Weekly Vista).

**Call to Order:** Chairman Hinojosa called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm. With only three committee members, there wasn't a quorum present.

**Additions/deletions to the Agenda:** There were no changes to the published agenda.

**Approval of the Minutes of Previous Meeting:** The minutes of the June 17th's Lakes' JAC meeting were not approved nor were they accepted due to lack of a quorum.

**POA Board Member Liaison Comments:** None

**Open Forum:**

1) Bill Davis talked about a letter to the editor in the August 19th's Weekly Vista from Mr. Greg Van Horn regarding the restoration of Little Sugar Creek to its natural state by removing the Lake Bella Vista dam. (Secretary's note: Editorial is attached these minutes as Attachment 2 – JLA). One guest expressed concern that the many geese living at Lake Bella Vista would relocate to the Country Club golf course.

2) Guest Keith Patterson asked whether the POA could segregate use areas on the docks so there would be a separate area for swimming and another for fishing and cleaning fish. Lakes and Parks Superintendent Olafson asked for a little more information. From that, it seems as if the problems Mr. Patterson has experienced stem from the bad behavior of individuals rather than with the layout or space allocation on the docks. Vern stressed that all the lake docks were designed for multiple uses and should remain that way. Altercations provoked by individuals unwilling to share dock space with other POA residents should be reported to the Bella Vista police or with the Lake Rangers. The police would be best and they should be contacted at their non-emergency number – 479-855-3771 – unless it is an emergency.

**Management Comments:**

1) Mr. Olafson reported on current Lakes and Parks activities. Although he and his department spend most of their time in maintenance activities, Mr. Olafson will not discuss those activities at this meeting. The other things they are working on include:

- Working on parking and staging at the Grantham Park for the Highland United Methodist Church's 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Homes Tour. One of the homes is on Evanton Road, and there is very little nearby parking. The church will be able to park guests' cars at Grantham and either ferry them by boat to the house or provide golf cart transport to the house from there.
- A contract has been let for repairing damage to the spillway at Loch Lomond. Raging waters have significantly undercut parts of the road to the dam on the north side. The contractor will be filling with roughly 100 cubic yards of a grout-like substance.
- The Lakes and Parks department will install speed bumps on the Lake Avalon dam to deter “high speed” travel.
- Lake Rayburn and Loch Lomond will be sprayed for weeds. It is too dangerous to use string trimmers due to the rocks on the dam faces.

- Mr. Olafson is working with Chief Sims to firmly schedule burnings at all of the dams to control weeds. Shrubs will be cut as needed to improve appearance.
  - Resurfacing on the Lake Ann parking lot and boat ramp has been finished.
  - Rangers completed registration surveys on Loch Lomond, Lake Ann and Lake Windsor.
  - Rangers made 1,714 contacts in July.
- 2) Darrell Bowman reported on current Lake Ecology and Fisheries Management activities:
- LEFM Manager Bowman reported the Mapping Networks Company had completed mapping Lakes Avalon & Loch Lomond, the last two of the seven lakes to be mapped. The maps are useful for determining the amount of natural reclaiming that is occurring in the shallower lake arms. Darrell intends to draft a dredging plan based on the amount of sedimentation shown in the newest maps and comparisons of current shorelines with those in older photographs.
  - Several questions were raised about printing fishing maps like those of Loch Lomond which were for sale several years ago. Of the 5,000 printed, only a few hundred were sold. Darrell would like to get these available to the POA but in an internet format.
  - The POA has five re-circulating units running. Two are on Lake Windsor and are owned by the POA. The three are on Lake Norwood are on loan from the manufacturer for use in support of the University of Arkansas lake quality studies. When the manufacturer wants them back, Darrell will work out a new plan for their dispersal, partly based on the price the manufacturer wants for the used units.

#### **Old Business:**

- 1) The members of the Lakes Committee volunteered 51 hours since their last meeting on June 17<sup>th</sup>.
- 2) Mr. Barfield explained that the POA's attorney had advised the board that attaching the Lakes' committee's request for regulation of the dumping of leaves and trash to the new POA policy on tree cutting was not a good idea. Committee member Rick Yorman is prepared to draft a committee proposal to the POA Board for a policy on dumping leaves and trash into the POA's lakes.

#### **New Business:**

- 1) Larry Lamar met with Mr. Olafson to assist in the formulation of his 2016 budgets.
- 2) Jerry Argetsinger presented a short paper on what he and Rick Yorman researched regarding toys on the lakes. After some discussion it was agreed that regulation may be appropriate, and the chairman referred action back to Jerry and Rick. They should draft a policy for the committee to consider at the next meeting in September.

**Announcements and next meeting:** Chairman Walter announced that the next Lakes' JAC meeting would be at Riordan Hall at 2 pm on September 16th, 2015. He adjourned the meeting at 2:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerrold Argetsinger, Secretary

Attach 1: The Weekly Vista, *Bowman mapping POA lakes*, By [Lynn Atkins](#), Wednesday, August 26, 2015

Attach 2: The Weekly Vista, Bowman is a well respected biologist., Greg van Horn, 19 August 2015

Attach 3: Talking Paper, Bella Vista Lakes and Toys

# Bowman mapping POA lakes

■ Lake research projects ending; Solar Bees may be removed from Lake Norwood.

LYNN ATKINS

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The Lakes Committee met without a quorum last week and used the time to hear from Property Owners Association staff about the lakes.

Lakes and Parks Superintendent Vern Olafson told the group that he's working with the Highlands Church to provide parking for the annual Homes Tour. Because one of the homes on the tour has very limited parking, the plan is to have people park their vehicles near the Granton Park boat launch and give the participants the choice of a pontoon boat ride to

the home or a traditional shuttle ride. The boat launch, Olafson said, will be open that day.

He also told the committee that he's working with Fire Chief Steve Sims on a plan to burn weeds on each of the dams around Bella Vista as part of a regular maintenance program.

Fish biologist Darrel Bowman told them that he's working with a professional to map all the lakes in Bella Vista. It will help determine when or if lakes need dredging because of excess sediment. Although, he explained, the POA board has to make the final decision about maintaining the original shore line or allowing some coves to be filled in.

The research projects Bowman coordinated with the University of Arkansas are coming to a close, he said, and that may mean

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**The Solar Bees pull nutrient rich waters from the bottom of the lake for circulation near the top.**

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that the three Solar Bees in Lake Norwood will be removed. The devices were loaned to POA for research purposes.

They were used to pull nutrient rich waters from the bottom of the lake for circulation near the top. The U of A is now compiling the results of the three-year experiment. Bowman said the company may offer to sell the

Solar Bees to the POA at a discounted price, but he's not sure if that's the best way to use POA funds.

Vice chairman Jerry Argetsinger was part of a committee that looked at possible problems with large inflatable toys anchored in the lakes. He saw only a few trampolines that were anchored away from a dock, but he also found floating pads, about two inches thick, anchored in the water. The pads are very thin and difficult to see, especially at night. He recommended that the POA consider a policy requiring owners to pull their pads in at night.

Last week, the committee recommended a policy that would outlaw leaves being blown or dumped in POA lakes. Board member Dave Barfield reported the POA may need the help of the city to outlaw the practice.

## Bowman is a well respected biologist

Bella Vista POA biologist Darrell Bowman's public comments regarding the benefits of un-damming Lake Bella Vista and restoring Little Sugar Creek are the researched findings of an educated professional in the field of stream restoration.

Mr. Bowman is regarded as one of the state's leading biologists working in the field of stream and lake ecology. He is respected throughout the state of Arkansas for carefully and meticulously managing seven lakes in Bella Vista and their respective watersheds.

His knowledge in his field of expertise is demonstrated by the fact that the Bella Vista lakes

are clean and functional. If algae blooms occur, they are removed with a boat and nets rather than flushed downstream, like Bentonville has done with Lake Bella Vista's algae.

In Bella Vista lakes, swimming is permitted and swimming and fishing decks are maintained; however, Lake Bella Vista is a different story.

Swimming in Lake Bella Vista is not only ill-advised but prohibited by Bentonville city ordinance. Silt and debris have washed into the lake creating a toxic shallow lagoon where large tree branches have settled and can be seen rising eerily out of the water.

The effluence flowing

See LETTER on Page 7A

## LETTER

from Page 6A

into Lake Bella Vista is 20 to 50 times greater than the lakes in Bella Vista, causing massive accumulation of mud and debris on the lake bottom. Lake Bella Vista's 600-foot-long dam stretches across a valley that is only about 1,300-feet wide, leaving less room for park space and walking trails.

But there is hope. Drowned beneath this obsolete reservoir is a beautiful creek ready to be revived, all we need to do is listen to the educated professionals, people like Mr. Bowman. Like the bumper sticker says, "If you think education is expensive, try ignorance."

The crumbling dam offers an opportunity to reconnect Little Sugar

Creek with its headwaters for the first time in 100 years.

The Lake Bella Vista dam is classified as a failed dam due to having been constructed with faulty materials in 1915. Completely rebuilding a dam for a poorly sighted lake is the ultimate misuse of our natural creek.

We have a once in a lifetime opportunity to restore a part of our natural Ozark history and create a park with a natural, flowing waterway for everyone to enjoy. Too many generations have been denied access to this spring-fed water.

It's time to change that. Tell the Bentonville mayor and City Council to listen to the scientific facts and remove this harmful dam so we can restore Little Sugar Creek to its natural state.

**Greg Van Horn**  
Rural Bentonville

## Bella Vista Lakes and Toys

**The problem.** Unattended and seasonal mooring of large water toys and pads on POA Lakes.



Is it really a big problem? Survey of the entire shore line on Loch Lomond and Lakes Ann, Avalon, and Brittany found several instances of a large “swim rafts” anchored well away from the owner's docks for lengthy periods (days). We've had no other reports of similar situations.

Is the scope of the problem increasing? There appears to be an increase in the number and variety of “water toys” nationally as well as on our lakes. Prices are decreasing and toys are becoming more popular.

Is this really a safety hazard? Rafts appear to be quite visible during daylight hours. Not so much at night. Water pads/mats are never visible from any distance because they are so low in the water. What about if they came adrift? If anchored (deliberate or accidental) by only one of anchor the “swing radius” would double the danger area.

Is it a nuisance? All boats utilizing the channel must navigate around it?? Compare to cars parking in the middle of the road as long as there is room to drive around them?? Do neighbors want their views obstructed unnecessarily?

Do we want to address a potential problem pro-actively? Do we need formal rules?? Can we address it under the Lakes and Parks Department “...resolution of any boat *safety* issue on the *lakes*” mandate?

“Swim Raft Permit Requirements” from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources seem to address how one agency regulates these “toys” in a common sense manner.

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/waterways/factsheets/SwimRaftFactsheet.pdf>