

## BELLA VISTA VILLAGE LAKES JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### MEETING MINUTES April 10, 2019

**Committee Members in Attendance:** Matt Champagne (Chairman), Kelly Austin (Vice Chair), Paul Bickford (Secretary), Marvin Macedo, Harrold Robinson, Gracie Turley, Lloyd Walker, Rick Yorman

**Bella Vista POA Board Liaisons in Attendance:** Tom Judson, Ruth Hatcher, David Brandenburg, Tammie Loyd, Jerry Hover

**Management Liaisons in Attendance:** Rick Echols, John Urquhart, Chris Fuller

**Guests Present:** Dan Gillman, John Nuttall, Frank Kennedy, Steve Curtis

**Call to Order:** Matt Champagne called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm with seven committee members present.

**Additions/deletions to the Agenda:** None

**Approval of the Minutes of Previous Meeting:** The minutes of the March 20, 2019 Lakes' JAC meeting were approved as submitted.

#### **Management Comments:**

##### 1) **Rick Echols** - Lakes, Parks and Fisheries Superintendent -

- Lake rangers completed the first rounds of the boat registrations. Owners of boats without proper registration are called and requested to become compliant
- Lake Winsor is currently down 17 inches and could be restored to normal level with the coming weekend predicted rain event
- Lake rangers made 892 member/guest contacts in March which is down from March 2018 of 1192 because of cold weather. However, 892 is a big increase over February's 379
- The Grounds maintenance crew has been cleaning area cooking grills in preparation for the upcoming season
- Lakes ecology department had a very successful aquaculture season with the collection of Saugeye and Crappie. The Saugeye were spawned within the Avalon enclosed fishing dock and produced about 350,000 eggs which hatched about 200,000 fry which spent six weeks in Berksdale ponds. Today (4/10), 100,000 will be moved to Lake Ann. Another 100,000 will be moved to Windsor Friday 4/12.



**FISH NURSERY**

- Avalon is extremely clear, and fertilization is under consideration
- Spring electro fishing season begins the week of 4/15
- The weekly water quality data collection began 4/1 and **Echols** thanked all those present that participate in this effort
- The GRIP (goose reproduction intervention program) is active. Goose nests have been reported and have been treated. Goose mating remains active; therefore, will probably result in an extended GRIP season

2) **John Urquhart** - Lakes, Parks and Fisheries Assistant Superintendent – See below

**POA Board Member Liaison Comments:**

1) **Tom Judson**, General Manager- See below

2) **Ruth Hatcher**, POA

- This and future Lakes JAC meetings will be video recorded (<https://youtu.be/3MxGjJVePaM> ), and that microphones are very sensitive and maybe turned off if desired

3) **Jerry Hover**, POA Board

- Recreation Committee is working on an archery range proposal. Jerry passed around a layout and information of such and encouraged those interested to help promote a dialogue to exchange comments and suggestions for a future Bella Vista archery range. For more information, visit the POA Website *recreation committee* page to view the March 11<sup>th</sup> Recreation Committee meeting
- **Old Business:** The members of the Lakes Committee volunteered 18.1 hours since their last meeting March 20, 2019

**New Business:**

- **Matt Champagne** and **Kelly Austin's** JAC committee term, which expires in June, was renewed by the POA Board. **Ruth Hatcher** thanked them for their service.
- **Dan Gillman**, long time POA resident, Fly Tyer Club member, and passionate angler, emailed **Judson** and questioned the annual member boat fee rate schedule. **Gillman** personally experienced the substantial difference in fee rates when he migrated from a 14' fishing to a lengthy pontoon boat; therefore, questioned the rationality
- **Judson** explained the current boat fee structure was established about five years ago, and with the *change* in boat technology and the number and use of boats on Bella Vista lakes it's probably time to reconsider the fee rate structure and schedule, *with input from the Lake JAC*, for the 2020 boating season
- Therefore, **Champagne** formed a subcommittee of three JAC members: **Himself**, **Austin**, and **Yorman** to study the boat fee rate structure and schedule and offer recommendations for changes to the POA Board for 2020
- **Gillman** also stressed he sees many boats on lakes he fishes, of all kinds, in addition to ones near the lake's edge display expired registration stickers. How come? **Yorman** agreed but emphasized more Lake Ranger effort is now directed toward policing boat registration policies.
- **Echols:** the first step is to call lack of compliant members, and if that doesn't produce results, may threaten the suspension of member privileges (a last resort). Some members are current with boat registration i.e. pay the fees; however, don't place current registration stickers on their water craft! 70% to 80% of lake boats display current year stickers by mid to late summer. For comparison, Hot Springs village doesn't employ lake rangers and their boat registration compliance is in the 30% range.

- **Yorman:** Do boat registration fees go to the general fund? **Judson:** all fees go to the same fund and are portioned out to each department
- **Champagne:** Lakes budget item suggestions will be developing the next several months and one up for early consideration is a fish cleaning station at Lomond's Granton
- **Robinson:** How many fish cleaning stations are there on the seven lakes? **Echols:** The four small lakes: one. Large lakes: more than one.
- **Chris Fuller,** Lakes and Fisheries staff member
  - Presented a comprehensive review of the 1<sup>st</sup> year results of the largemouth bass diet study

#### Open Forum:

- An in-depth discussion developed on the subject of lake water quality: **Champagne** stated that several lakes look very clear and **Yorman** questioned the definition of "very clear" for water quality. **Fuller** said Secchi disk observations beyond 3 meters deep is of concern, which brings lake fertilization up for consideration. **Champagne** asked why not fertilize given the very clear water? **Echols** stated that swimmers want clear water in which to swim. **Fuller** explained that managing lake vegetation issues are challenging and implied every effort is begin made to keep vegetation under control so lakes are healthy, fishing good, and satisfactory for all other water recreational activities as much as possible.
- **Yorman** asked why Lomond water clarity is 1.5 meters. **Fuller** responded by saying "nature". **Yorman** emphasized that a Secchi reading of 5 meters seems extreme and significantly effects the fishery. **Urquhart:** yes, it does, and because of cold water temperatures this winter, nutrients remained relatively dormant, but are expected to become more active as water temps rise; therefore, should reduce water clarity
- Question from the audience: do leaves blown into Lomond by residence effect lake clarity? **Echols:** yes, it's a factor
- **Yorman:** with the Secchi reading of 5 at Avalon, should it be fertilized? **Echols** suggested that Secchi readings over the next two weeks be observed before making that decision
- **Turley:** what is the down side of the "not to fertilize this early" policy? **Echols:** water clarity, swimmers want and expect the water to be clear. It's primarily an esthetic concern. Also, expense. It's less expensive to manipulate water clarity in the small lakes and the opposite for the large ones.
- **Frank Kennedy:** are you fertilizing to keep the vegetation down? **Echols:** *two reasons to fertilize: (1) promote plankton growth which is the food base for all aquatic life (2) The plankton growth produces a clouding effect which reduces aquatic plant growth*
- **Frank Kennedy:** Do all Bella Vista lakes have a vegetation problem like Lomond? **Echols:** no. Winsor once did; however, with special care and treatment beginning a couple of years ago, Winsor is now self-sustaining.

#### Announcements and next meeting:

- The next Lakes' JAC meeting will be held at the Bella Vista Village Country Club Board Room at 2 pm on Wednesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 3:37pm.