

BELLA VISTA VILLAGE LAKES JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES May 8, 2019

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

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

Management Liaisons in Attendance: Rick Echols, John Urquhart

Guests Present: Steve Curtis, Darrel Lawson, Roger Sobeich

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

Additions/deletions to the Agenda: None

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

Management Comments:

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

- Lake rangers made 1313 member/guest contacts in April which is up 852 over March. Also up 1025 over April 2018
- Four lake rangers have been hired, two of which replaced ones that retired. This brings the total to eight all which will be trained and ready for duty June 1st
- Hired one additional grounds maintenance worker that will start to work next week
- Junior fisheries water quality staff person Rachel Grundal (?) resigned to accept a position in the Florida Department of environment protection; therefore, now looking to hire Rachel's replacement
- Stonykirk parking lot washed out via recent heavy rains. Plans are under consideration, as funds become available, to pave the lot to make it less vulnerable to washouts
- Flood debris collection is underway; however, leaf litter will remain, except for the Avalon beach area, and eventually fade away
- The beach did suffer extensive damage via a clogged drainage pipe: a retaining wall collapsed and beach sand washed away. Efforts are underway to complete repairs by opening day
- Golf ponds used for aquaculture survived the flood and remain in good condition
- Heavy rains flushed more nutrients into the lakes; therefore, that should minimized the need for fertilization
- The "Spring" electrofishing samples are now complete on all lakes and the fish condition and health seemed to have improved over the past year. The Bass, regardless of size, are shaped like footballs
- E.coli levels at Avalon beach are undetectable
- Sent Avalon water samples to Arkansas State for analysis to comply with rules regarding a public beach. No word yet on the results.
- **Hatcher:** Are lake rangers "part time"? **Echols:** Yes, or seasonal.

- **Roger Sobiech** submitted a list of eight repair projects to be considered/completed during the next Lake Ann drawdown. **Echols** asked for approval to drawdown Lake Ann beginning November 15th 2019 through March 1st 2020.
- **Yorman** asked for a JAC vote to approve such which was seconded and passed.
- Lake rangers are in the midst of the 2nd round of checking current year boat stickers and discovered, roughly, about 50% or those who were tagged for missing stickers on the 1st round have purchased them; unfortunately, some still haven't placed them on their watercraft. **Judson:** instructed **Echols** and **Urquhart** to give registration/dues payment enforcement topic further consideration and provide some guidance on what they feel is reasonable to help improve it

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

- A discussion developed on the future sequence of lake drawdowns. Lake Rayburn, which hasn't experienced a drawdown in many years; therefore, is next in line which would be done in 2020/21. It only has a drain stand pipe; therefore, a previously assembled makeshift system of siphon tubes would be used. After Rayburn's drawdown, the lakes routine drawdown cycle (except for Brittany and Norwood) would begin again starting with Loch Lohman.

POA Board Member Liaison Comments:

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

- The POA is now responsible for "stump dump/Trafalgar Road fire" management. Visit the POA website to view the 24 minute especially prepared video that will help answer many questions and presents the most up-to-date information. Another video is planned; therefore, feel free to send/ask additional questions that will be addressed in the next issue.

2) **Ruth Hatcher**, POA Board

3) **Jerry Hover**, POA Board

- Expressed the need to remove tree saplings from lake dams and close animal dens. **Echols:** Efforts will begin soon to cut down the trees and treat the stumps and rock fill animal dens.
- **Old Business:** The members of the Lakes Committee volunteered 26 hours since the April meeting.

New Business:

- **Bickford:** While other major Bella Vista amenity usage has dwindled in recent years; watercraft ownership/usage has increased significantly on most, if not all, POA lakes (primarily kayaks now in the thousands) and this trend is likely to continue as Bella Vista's population increases; unfortunately, many, if not most, don't register their watercraft or display yearly required stickers. Diligent efforts by lake rangers to tag/track non-fee paying watercraft owners has helped reduce the numbers significantly, thereby moving the compliance rate to as high 80% during the peak summer water recreational period
- With the use of a simple, relatively easy to implement procedure, non-paying member watercraft users can be tracked such that "fee paying compliance" might reach 90%
- This increase would help finance the ever increasing maintenance requirements to keep our lakes healthy and increasing enjoyed by Bella Vista members of all stripes

- Yes, with the click of a mouse button by interested supporters, the names, lake and dock number etc. of non-fee paying lake users in the “*Lakes section of the POA website*” could motivate non-compliant members to pay-up and also display required stickers. **Judson:** this idea has been considered before for non-payment of monthly POA fees and not implemented; however, the suspension of membership privileges is up again for consideration for those who consistently ignore paying membership and amenity use fees
- **Champagne:** Effort was given this past month to “Boat Registration Fee Simplification” and a spreadsheet was reviewed displaying a variety of “schedule simplifications”; however, the issue to create one that is revenue “neutral” i.e., keep at \$370,000 per year or increase it will be challenging. Discussions continued about fee variations as a function of boat length/size and engine HP.
- **Yorman:** Other factors besides boat length and power, should be considered such as effects on the environment plus possibly other factors. **Judson:** Consider removing the “fee” aspect from the set of variables/parameters. **Walker:** risk to the POA i.e., the lake environment maintenance needs should be included based upon the anticipated effects of combinations of physical watercraft components.
- Efforts will continue during the next couple of months and include input from **Echols** and **Urquhart** with the hope of developing a *simpler* fee schedule/table that will possibly help increase revenue. (see table below)

Open Forum:

- **Darrell Lawson:** wake boats (which can produce waves 2’ to 3’ high) are allowed on Lake Winsor among kayaks and paddle boards and he asked if the POA is protected from the liability of a serious accident or death. **Judson:** Owners of boats operated in a non-prudent manner are accident liable; otherwise, the POA is insured for exceptional accidents.

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, June 12th, 2019.
- Lake JAC meetings are video recorded and can be viewed at: <https://youtu.be/3MxGjJVePaM>

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 3:03pm.

Boat Fee Reconstruction Work Table

Current	Fee	2018 Registrations	2018 Ann \$ Rev
under 10 hp	\$ 108.00	47	\$ 5,076
under 15' 11	\$ 130.00	135	\$ 17,550
16' to 19' 11	\$ 160.00	1,002	\$ 160,320
20 or more	\$ 210.00	553	\$ 116,130
no motor (kayak or canoe)	\$ 20.00	3,549	\$ 70,980
		5,286	\$ 370,056

Proposal #1	Fee	2018 Registrations	2018 Ann \$ Rev
under 10 hp	\$ 108.00	47	\$ 5,076
10 hp to 19' 11	\$ 160.00	1,137	\$ 181,920
20 or more	\$ 210.00	543	\$ 114,030
Wake Boats (water ballast)	\$ 300.00	10	\$ 3,000
no motor (kayak or canoe)	\$ 20.00	3,549	\$ 70,980
		5,286	\$ 375,006

Proposal #2	Fee	2018 Registrations	2018 Ann \$ Rev
Any motor under 20'	\$ 150.00	1,184	\$ 177,600
20 or more	\$ 210.00	543	\$ 114,030
Wake Boats (water ballast)	\$ 300.00	10	\$ 3,000
no motor (kayak or canoe)	\$ 25.00	3,549	\$ 88,725
		5,286	\$ 383,355

Proposal #3	Fee	2018 Registrations	2018 Ann \$ Rev
Any motor boat	\$ 165.00	1,727	\$ 284,955
Wake Boats (water ballast)	\$ 300.00	10	\$ 3,000
no motor (kayak or canoe)	\$ 25.00	3,549	\$ 88,725
		5,286	\$ 376,680

Proposal #4	Fee	2018 Registrations	2018 Ann \$ Rev
Power Boat under 16'	\$ 110.00	50	\$ 5,500
Power Boat 16'to 18'	\$ 140.00	550	\$ 77,000
Power Boat 18' to 20'	\$ 180.00	550	\$ 99,000
Power Boat 20' to 22'	\$ 210.00	353	\$ 74,130
Power Boat over 22'	\$ 250.00	200	\$ 50,000
no motor (kayak or canoe)	\$ 20.00	3,549	\$ 70,980
		5,252	\$ 376,610

Click [here](#) for a link to a list of State Revenue Office locations and hours of operation.

The fees to register your motorboat are:

- Motorboat less than 16 ft. long \$ 7.50
- Motorboat 16 ft. to less than 26 ft. long \$ 15.00
- Motorboat 26 ft. to less than 40 ft. long \$ 51.00
- Motorboat 40 ft. and over \$105.00

Registrations are valid for a period of 3 years.