BELLA VISTA VILLAGE LAKES JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES August 14, 2019

Committee Members in Attendance: Matt Champagne (Chairman), Kelly Austin (Vice Chair), Paul Bickford (Secretary)**,** Lloyd Walker, Marvin Macedo, Jason Adams

Bella Vista POA Board Liaisons in Attendance: Tom Judson, Ruth Hatcher, David Brandenburg, Tammie Loyd, Jerry Hover, Jerre Barron, Steve McKey

Management Liaisons in Attendance: Rick Echols, John Urquhart

Guests Present: Steve Curtis, Ed Limehouse, Dan Gilman, Don Weingar, Terry Wilson, JB Portillo

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

Additions/deletions to the Agenda: Rick Echols: Short video on the effects of the Lake Winsor drawdown.

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

Management Comments:

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

- Lake rangers made 8,846 member/guest contacts in July which is up 4600 from July ’18 and up 4228 from June of this year. The increase can be attributed to the increased staff and presence on the lakes. Previous June was 2221. Boat hours 104 with 226 contacts. One boat was in repair which muted these numbers somewhat
- Bob Walker and Lee Kroencke received a celebrating success award for developing and implementing the acholic policy for boat usage in conjunction with the Bella Vista police department
- Continue removing trees from lakes that were downed during recent storms
- Lake ecology and fisheries department continue to see the benefits from the rains that help minimize the need for lake fertilization. Lohman was fertilized for the first-time last week
- Lake Avalon beach E. coli has been in check all summer in a downward trend. Last week measured 9.8 down from 39.9 previously and well below 127 which would require closing the beach.
- Moved 8000 Saugeye to lake Ann this Spring and 5500 to lake Winsor and this last week moved an additional 200 and some were 7” in length
- Discovered that black crappie did spawn in the golf ponds and will be moving them in October.
- Draining two Berksdale golf ponds in anticipation of raising blue catfish. These haven’t been stocked since 2014 because the State stopped giving them to us, and there are few private hatcheries that sell them
- The goose roundup is complete and 57 were captured this year
- Chris and Jennifer from the Water Quality Lab attended the 2019 Arkansas Water Resources Center conference for additional continuing education
- Reviewed the Winsor Lake drawn effects video which allowed renovations and repairs to be made to lake structures/features, property owners docks and lake walls (37

permits were issued by the city for these efforts) and what to anticipate for the Lake Ann's drawdown:

- Removed the gravel bar near the London Landing ramp, repaired it, widened it by 6' and stabilized the bank
- Inspected the spillway
- Removed the gravel and silt at Pontoon Park
- Remove silt at the backs of coves
- Map displaying the setbacks of 150/200 feet no-wake zones

POA Board Member Liaison Comments:

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

- Board drafted documents, see below, for discussion with the Lakes JAC, of legally enforceable changes to boating regulations. ***Champagne:*** When is the Lakes JAC decision needed? ***Judson:*** December 1

Old Business:

- The members of the Lakes Committee volunteered 26 hours since the July meeting.

- ***Capital Projects Review:***
  - ***Champagne:*** Requested committee members review and/or offer additions to the desired Capital projects (document distributed at the meeting) that have been discussed for the past two meetings and encouraged committee members to submit revisions within the next two weeks, if no changes are submitted, the present Capital projects document will be submitted to the Board.
- ***Wake Board Issues:***
  - ***Champagne:*** Requested ***Echols*** to provide a comparison between this year's overall recreational boating season experience, considering the lake ranger manpower increase and the new 150-foot setback boundary (no wake zone) rule enforce, compared to last.
  - ***Echols:*** The few wake boaters active on our lakes (Lohman) are aware of the associated issues and are fully aware of the new rule and are, so far observed, fully compliant.
  - It is believed the few rule violators are young skiers and "tubers" who prefer being close to shore in the event they fall off. Overall, we feel rule compliance is reasonably good.
  - It's helped that members can report suspected boating rule violators via the published lake ranger phone number 855-5067.
  - The wake boat industry now recommends a 200-foot setback zone, and all three of our "ski lakes", Lohman, Winsor, and Ann, can accommodate this recommendation; however, with lake Ann it would be somewhat difficult or restrictive.

  - ***Macedo:*** commented on the WSIA " Wake-Sport Wakes and Their Potential Impact on Shorelines Study". He noted that the study was done using a 2015 Nautique G23 Wake Boat which they loaded with 4250 lbs. of Ballast. Marvin stated that the boat being a 2015 and not one of the current Wake/Surf boats. He also noted that they had a maximum wake of 26.87 inches in their testing. He then stated that wake/surf boats being used today are capable of 60- inch wakes. Therefore, he felt that it was not a valid test for today's standards

- ***Judson:*** It was learned there is no clear definition of a "wake boat"; therefore, Doug and I decided to focus on the description of the activity in creating or revising wake boat rules/regulations. For a variety of reasons, "grandfather" clauses won't work in the implementing a rule/regulation i.e., you do it now or you don't do it.

- ***Macedo:*** Consider placing inexpensive buoys e.g., ones used by some university water ski tournaments ($6.50 each) to mark skiing and tubing etc. boundaries.

- ***Walker:*** Most rule violations are caused by the boat driver. We should continue to focus on enforcing existing rules. This has been done via hiring more lake rangers which has significantly improved rule enforcement and lake use safety; however, upon considering feedback from a small, but important group, of large lake property, as well as large boat owners, and a variety of recreational watercraft users, lake use safety may still be improved. Also, docks and lake walls may experience less damage; therefore, if deemed appropriate existing rules should be modified/added

- ***Bickford:*** The community is growing and the number and variety of small watercraft usage on our lakes has increase significantly (exponentially) in recent years; therefore, whatever lake use rules changes implemented, must permit the greatest variety of safe lake recreational usage to relatively wake free watercraft.
    - It would be most helpful to know, before final decisions are made, as close as possible, the number and types of watercraft now registered. Also, better enforcement of watercraft registration is imperative.

Open Forum:

- ***Dan Gillman:*** Longtime resident and avid Winsor lake blue gill fisherman stated he didn't have any concerns about lake drawdowns; however, has heard from other members that the lakes must be drawn down for lake health reasons, and requested a response about this topic, and the plans for a lake Ann drawdown.
    - ***Echols:*** Our lakes are drawn primarily for the reasons listed above, and they don't harm our fisheries. If desired or needed, lake drawdowns can improve fishery quality by allowing surplus fish production to be consumed by larger fish.
    - Second question answer: Yes, drawdown plans underway for lake Ann and all other lakes.

- ***Don Winegar:*** who lives on Windsor, expressed thanks for considering what has been said and hopes recommendations will be taken seriously. He asked if 5 remains the number registered wake boats? ***Judson:*** it difficult to say, because of the variety of ways to modify a boat to make big wakes. ***Winegar:*** There are a large number of homes on Winsor and we see large wakes crashing over our sea walls and docks when large boats are on the water, and hopes rule changes can be made soon to reduce the probability of someone getting injured.
    - ***Judson:*** Letters written by Winsor lake residents recommended a 300' setback for wake boats; however, implementing the effects of this regulation on any lake but Lohman would significantly reduce the useable channel width and create a serious safety hazard i.e., no room for safe two-way recreational boat traffic.
        - For lake Ann (see below), if the suggested rule/regulation is

implemented, the boating channel would be limited to (735'-600') 135'; therefore, creating a significant safety hazard. Lake Winsor is slightly narrower; therefore, it seems logical, Loch Lohman, being a much wider lake, is the only lake suitable for the implementation of the 300' setback rule/regulation

- ***Terry Wilson:*** 52 Churchill, Winsor dock #12, commented that damage to his dock/lake wall cost $6,500 for repairs he believes was caused by wake boats. He experienced a slight chest injury while painting his dock in 5 feet of water upon being slammed against the dock by a wake boat wave he believes was about 150' to 200' away. He's very concerned that if young children were swimming near a dock experienced such a wave, they could be seriously injured

- ***Alex Allan:*** avid kayak fisherman experienced frightful event when fishing 30 to 40 feet from the shore a skier passed between him and the shore and narrowly missed snagging his fishing gear and swamping his kayak
- ***Todd Garner:*** Lohman property owner, strongly supports efforts to focus on lake use safety, and the primary causes of large wake generation to help maximize the effectiveness of the rule changes under consideration e.g., watercraft speed (35 mph limit), boat weight limit, and type and use of attached recreational watercraft i.e., tubes and skis.
    - He feels most of the damage to his 300' lake wall is caused by weather events not watercraft
    - That most property damaging wakes are generated by modest size boats violating existing rules
    - Using frequently placed inexpensive (lighted) buoys may help boating rule following
    - Concerned that rental home boats and Marina rental boats are frequent lake use violators
    - Increase funds for more lake rangers to patrol larger lakes
    - The community is growing and he hopes that over-restrictive lake use rules won't be implemented that thwart lake usage by most
- **Announcements and next meeting:**

- **T**he next Lakes' JAC meeting will be held at the Bella Vista Village Country Club Board Room at 2 pm on Wednesday, September 11th, 2019.
- *In consideration of the important comments made about large wake creating watercraft during this meeting, please take some time to view the August '19 Lake JAC meetings video that can be viewed at:* https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=vOVDB-9q5Mo

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 2:53pm.

Respectively Submitted, Paul Bickford, Secretary

Current Regulation:

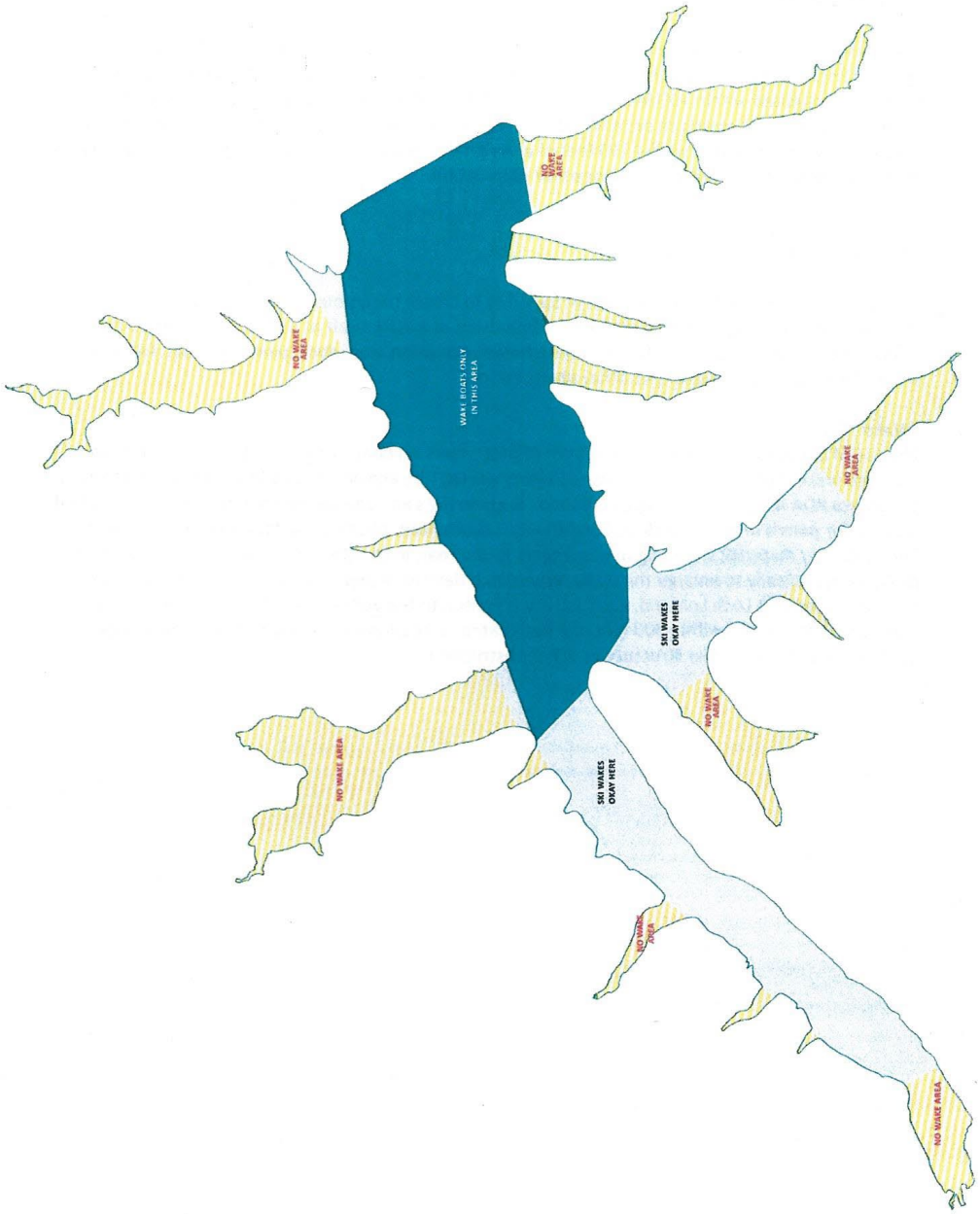
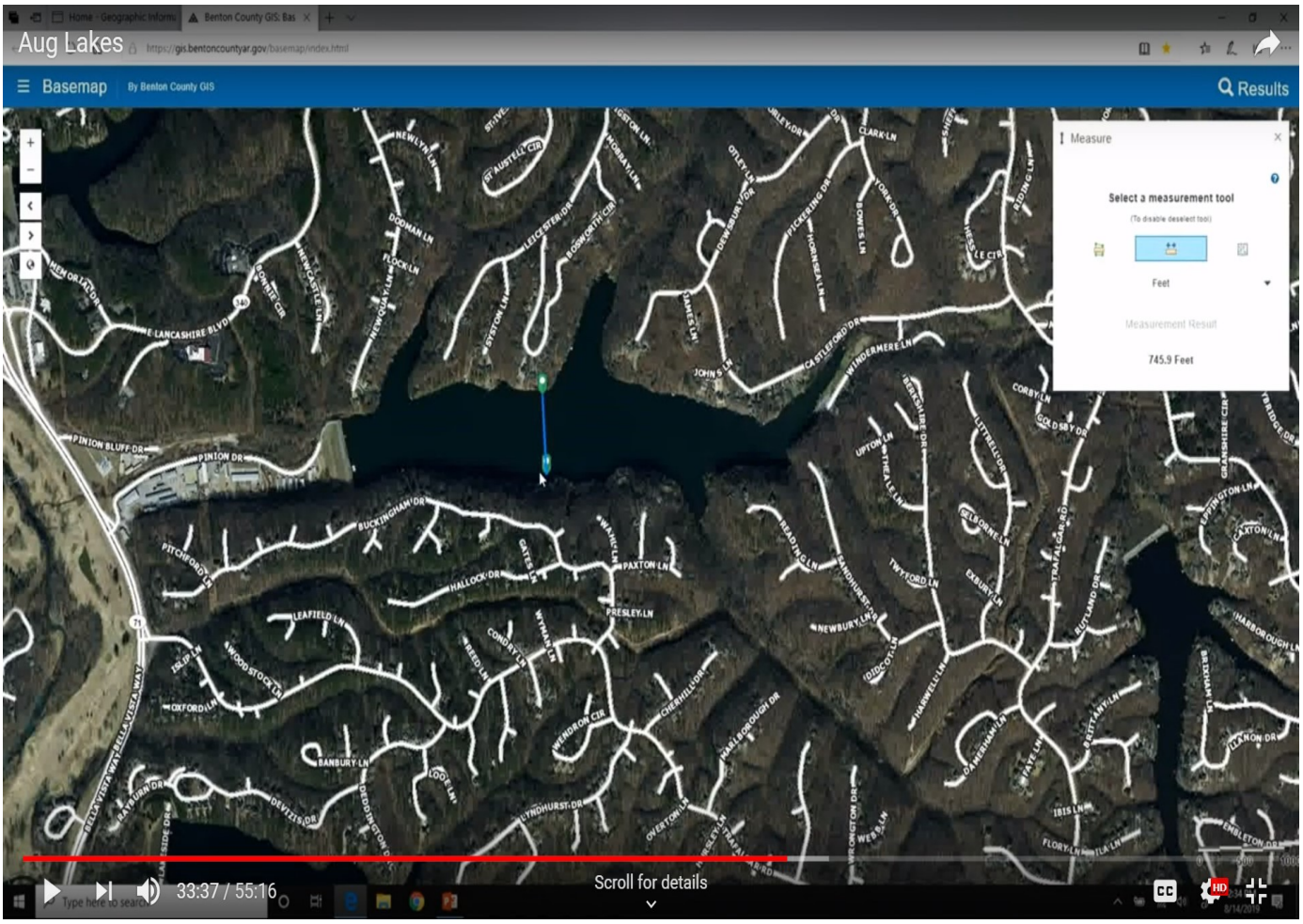
Operation of a watercraft at such a rate of speed as to cr
approaching or passing vessels is prohibited. Operation o
speed" is prohibited within 100 feet of a designated recr
shoreline, dam intake structure or other obstruction. Op
creating wake is prohibited within 150 feet of a designate
boat, shoreline, dam intake structure or other obstructio

Possible Regulation (partial ban):

Operation of a watercraft at such a rate of speed as to cre
approaching or passing vessels is prohibited. Operation o
speed" is prohibited within 100 feet of a designated recre
shoreline, dam intake structure or other obstruction.

"Wake" Boat Regulation
The use of devices, equipment or placement of passenger
enlarged wake is prohibited and the use of which will NO
Bella Vista POA lake, except for Loch Lomond. Such devic
to: exterior panels or wings deployed underwater; rubber
filled with any material; crowding of passengers to the rea
designed specifically to enlarge the wake. When such dev
on boats is used on Loch Lomond, such activity is limited t
map) and is prohibited within 300 feet of a designated rec
boat, shoreline, dam intake structure or other obstruction

Consider: The Only Wake Boat Lake – Lohman



County GIS map of Lake Ann: About 735’ at its widest point