

BELLA VISTA VILLAGE LAKES JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES September 11, 2019

Committee Members in Attendance: Kelly Austin (Acting Chairman), Paul Bickford (Secretary), Lloyd Walker, Marvin Macedo, Jason Adams, Rick Yorman, Gracie Turley

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

Management Liaisons in Attendance: Rick Echols, John Urquhart

Guests Present: Steve Curtis, Dan Gilman, Don Wynegar, Arell Wasson, Scott Neal, Bill Ginger, Andy Grover, Randy Murray, Stacey Sears, James Graves, Jacob Gulbransen, Jackie Gain

Call to Order: Kelly Austin called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm with seven committee members present.

Additions/deletions to the Agenda:

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

Management Comments:

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

- Continue removing trees from lakes that were downed during recent storms
- Tiree and London landing cleanup is progressing
- Removed dangerous blockage from Tanyard Creek
- Lake and Fisheries received 13,000 2" blue catfish, at 50 cents each, to be raised in the aquaculture ponds and save a little money. February 2020 the 8" fish will be released primarily into lakes Lohman, Winsor, and Ann.
- **Yorman:** Do blue catfish spawn? **Echols:** Yes, they do and they grow big (nice to catch) and help control the gizzard shad population; however, they are preyed upon by largemouth bass resulting in a poor survival rate; therefore, we purchase a batch every several years to prevent their extinction from our lakes.
- **Yorman:** How did the application of the perma-seal work on lake docks? **Echols:** Not well! The company did reapply the product, free of charge, and it won't be used again until results are known.
- **Macedo:** Requested rotten board to be replaced on lake Brittany's dock
- **Echols & Urquhart:** Blue Green toxic algae has been mentioned in the news, primarily in Florida, about poisoning people and pets. It's actually a Cyno bacterium and it's everywhere: in the water and soil. We are developing a protocol to manage a possible rare threatening development of this toxin here.
- **Fuller:** Assays for the toxin are in development but not readily reliable and available.

POA Board Member Liaison Comments:

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

Old Business:

- The members of the Lakes Committee volunteered 28 hours since the August meeting.
- **Capital Projects Review:**
 - **Austin:** Are there any changes/additions to the proposed Capital Projects?
 - **Macedo:** The lake Brittany dock is extremely high; therefore, it would be most helpful if a ladder could be attached to reduce the hazard of entering into one's boat
 - **Robinson:** Made a motion to approve the proposed Capital Projects list, as amended. Motion passed.
- **Proposed Changes in 2020 Boating Rules:**
 - **Austin:** Presentations are requested from the Open Forum meeting attendees.

Open Forum:

- **Andy Grover:** Built a house on lake Ann and has 5 youngsters approaching the teenager years and operates a ski boat, 4 kayaks, 2 paddle boards, and a canoe. He's opposed to proposed boating rule changes he views that could significantly inhibit his family's recreational lake use.
 - Ski setback now 100' and wake producing watercraft 150'. Considers change to 200' OK but not 300'
 - Opposed to banning wake boats
- **Bill Ginger:** Appreciates volunteers committing their time to help keep the lakes as safe as possible and hopes the "wake issue", which has been discussed at several meetings, can be brought to a conclusion ASAP. He suggests:
 - Buoys with larger signage displaying specific watercraft rules i.e., no skiing or tubing etc.
 - Signage at each boat ramp displaying area rules
 - Appropriate rule signage at the Marina gas pump and bait store
 - Consider making Tiree neck "no wake" like the other Lohman necks
- **Scott Neal:** 57 Mayfair Dr has lived in Bella Vista for 15 years. His family (wife and 4 Children) selected Lake Winsor on which to live specifically because of the types and variety of watercraft usage allowed with few restrictions.
 - He supports rule changes that will improve safety and changes that are anticipated to reduce property damage caused by watercraft; however, requests that rule changes won't be so restrictive to possibly threaten the prospects for future increases in Winsor property values
- **James Graves:** 27 Heffwood Ln has lived on Lake Winsor for 2-1/2 years and chose to live on this lake primarily to enjoy its varied recreational opportunities. He has invested \$25,000 in a new dock and purchased a boat and hopes to be able to use it to take advantage of all the recreational activities now allowed on Winsor. He supports the suggestions that more properly placed rule signage/buoys would significantly help reduce some of the negative issues mentioned by other Winsor lake residents and users. His concerns are that:
 - Proposed watercraft activities restrictions will significantly impact the now permitted variety of recreational activities.
 - Proposed restrictions could negatively affect future Winsor lake property values.

- **Don Wynegar:** 91 Mayfair Dr. lives on Winsor and also has enjoyed, over the years, the large variety of recreational activities now allowed; however, over time, and possibly as a result of increased numbers and types of watercraft usage or disregard of watercraft rule compliance, his residence privacy is now significantly disturbed and his property is being damaged by large waves as high as 6'
- **Stacy Sears:** 31 Brompton Dr. has lived on Winsor, in a "no wake zone" for two years with children ages 5 to 12 and chose this property to call home primarily for the variety of water recreational activity allowed. She considers reported damage to lake property is caused more by weather than waves generated by wake boats or other watercraft waves; therefore, hopes they won't be banned.
 - **Macedo:** The Lakes JAC hasn't recommended banning any type of boat on our lakes. The POA Board has proposed a recommendation to allow large wake producing boats/watercraft usage on Lohman only.
 - **Bickford:** The No. 1 lake use priority is safety! Damage to lake property considered to be caused by watercraft speed or waves is of concern; however, the primary safety threat is to the large number of self-powered watercraft i.e., kayaks, paddle boards etc.
 - Big waves threaten the safety of small self-powered watercraft which outnumber the large by a significant factor which could be as large as 10 or 20 to 1.
- **Jacob Gulbransen:** An aspirational Bella Vista lake home owner who has lived in Bella Vista for 11 years and is considering buying a home on lake Ann or Winsor ASAP and hopes considered changes in watercraft rules won't be too restrictive. He supports:
 - The possible change of the setback rule to 200' but not to 300'
 - Significantly improved watercraft rule signage to help improve voluntary rule compliance and safety
 - Consider the use of "personal area" buoy placement, at owner's expense, to aid in voluntary rule compliance
- **Randy Murray:** 2551 Forrest Hills Blvd and is a multi-boat owner since 2005. He is a contractor who is knowledgeable about dock construction in Hot Springs and Bella Vista and says the great majority of docks constructed on our lakes is very bad; therefore, implying most of the reported dock structure damage results from improper/poor construction that make them considerably more susceptible to wave damage.
 - Research data available supports most dock structure damage results from poor construction; therefore, more susceptible to waves affects
 - There is ample room for Kayaks etc. to use the no-wake necks/areas on Winsor and Lohman if watercraft captains can't manage the waves in the wake areas.
 - Kayaks, paddle boat captains should use non-wake lakes if they can't handle large boat waves.
 - **Bickford:** In your opinion, Randy, what is the single most important reason Bella Vista docks are more susceptible to wave damage?
 - **Shallow imbedded/anchored foundations**

- **Arell Wasson:** 97 Wayfair Dr. on the main channel of lake Winsor experiences significant dock and lake wall impact from waves 1.5' to 3' high produced by a variety of recreational watercraft, and is concerned about the safety of swimmers near the lake wall. The waves are sufficiently large to push swimmers into the lake wall such that they could be injured. **Macedo:** Are the boats creating these wakes close to shore? No, it seems like most are out in the main channel
- **Dan Gillman:** Regarding changes to watercraft registration fees. The prior POA general manager said the boat registration fees charging method was based upon the AR states.
 - The POA is not AR state and He feels boat registration fees should be the same regardless of boat size and power.
 - The registration fee for a small boat loaded with expensive equipment and a 9 hp engine is a fraction of what a slightly larger length boat with slightly larger hp engine and little onboard equipment.
 - Watercraft registration fee should be like the monthly amenity fee i.e., a large expensive home with many residents pays the same amenity fee as a small inexpensive home with one or two residents.
- **Jackie Gain:** 4 Castleford Dr. lives on lake Ann and an owner of 6 kayaks and a 22' pontoon boat. She is a “tuber” and wake board enthusiast as are her grown offspring and she wants her grandchildren to enjoy the sports as much as she does; *therefore, please don't ban wake boarding on Lake Ann.*
- **Ron Sasine:** see comments below
- **Brendan Hayes:** see comments below
- **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, October 10th, 2019.
- *In consideration of the important comments made about large wake creating watercraft and other concerns expressed at this meeting, please take some time to view the September '19 Lake JAC meetings video that can be viewed at:*
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o-eSmW7bmM4&feature=youtu.be>

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 3:40 pm
 Respectively Submitted, Paul Bickford, Secretary