

BELLA VISTA VILLAGE LAKES JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES February 9, 2022

Committee Members in Attendance: Rick Yorman, Paul Bickford

Committee Members in Attendance via Zoom: Committee Chair Matt Champagne, Committee Vice Chair Ross Gerner, Secretary Carol Phillips, Arell Wasson, Jason Adams, Kelly Austin

Bella Vista POA Board Liaisons in Attendance: Jerre Barron, (via Zoom) Sandy Fosdick (via Zoom) and Corporate Secretary Corinne Morin.

Management Liaisons in Attendance: Tom Judson, Rick Echols, Trey Anson, Chris Fuller, and John Urquhart (via Zoom).

Guests Present: Dan Gillman

Call to Order: Rick Yorman (filling in for Matt) called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm with eight committee members present

Additions/deletions to the agenda: Added "Recommendation for Pan fish limits"

Approval of the Minutes of Previous Meeting: The minutes of the January 2022 Lakes JAC meeting were approved as submitted

New Business:

Management Comments:

- **POA Board Members:** None
- **Tom Judson**, General Manager
 - Not much to cover on my side; therefore, let Rick jump-in with his comments.
- **Rick Echols**, Lakes, Parks and Fisheries
 - The Lock Lomond drawn-down is steady and maintaining at between 48" to 52" and will be held at this level interval until March 8th at which time the valves will be closed to let Mother Nature refill the lake to its normal level.
 - Dredging projects on Lomond are underway and several have been completed and looking good. We continue to receive "last minute" requests for more dredging and are happy to comply.
 - POA Lake rangers made about 1070 contacts. Ten people were removed with 23 by boat. Rangers spent 23 lake hours on lakes in January. December was a warm month and January was much different with numbers down; however, we do expect them to increase as we move toward Spring.
 - Ground Maintenance removed downed trees in the wooded area at Tiree, and cleanup at the Granton ramp is planned for next month.
 - The Fisheries and Lake Ecology department stocked Lake Brittany with trout in January, and the February stocking has been delayed because the necessary permit hasn't been received yet; therefore, a double stocking will occur in March if the permit is further delayed.
 - Christmas trees fish habitat have been placed in lake Winsor; however, if we receive a few more stragglers, we will place them in the lake as well.
 - We are preparing some pallet and PCV fish habitat structures.
 - Preparing to again use the golf ponds for aquaculture, hopefully for the last time. We continue to move forward with the construction, this summer, of two new aquaculture ponds.

- **Wasson:** Question for Rick. Who is responsible for removing downed trees in a POA lake?
- **Echols:** Technically, it's the property owner; however, my department assists where we can because "tree pruning/removal" companies aren't trained to removed downed trees from lakes. Property owners can place fish habitat trees in the lakes providing they don't inhibit lake safety
- **Judson:** Regarding the Lake Ann sink hole and spillway repairs: A contract has been signed to perform the sink hole repair work which should begin in late March. Efforts to learn the extent of and costs for repairing Lake Ann spillway issues are ongoing.
- **Echols:** Regarding improving bank fishing near the Tiree parking lot: trees were removed that blocked access to the bank fishing location. Fish habitat will be placed in the open area near the ramp. The excavator that will do the channel dredging 30 to 40 feet off shore is waiting on drier weather to prevent turf damage with moving heavy equipment.
- **Yorman: Regarding the renewal of expiring terms in June '22 for Lake JAC members:**
 - Term limits for Matt Champagne, Kelly Austin, and Jason Adams expire and can be renewed
 - Jason Adams chose to leave Lakes JAC membership in June '22
 - Motions were made and approved to extend the terms of JAC membership and duties to Matt Champagne, and Kelly Austin
 - **Corinne Morin:** will publish a solicitation in the next POA newsletter for applicants to fill Jason's Adams expired term
 - **Regarding the use of POA common property to access community lakes:**
 - **Judson:** POA common property is for community member use i.e., it can be used to walk on, play on, access lakes etc., but can't be used, with few exceptions, to build permanent or temporary structures, permanently store, or moor equipment. *The POA has thousands of acres of common property; therefore, if one notices a violation of common property use ... please report it and it will be investigated.*
 - **Recommendations for Pan fish harvest limits:**
 - **Echols:** We are recommending changes to POA fish harvesting rules, (not State law), as follows:
 - **Bluegill / Redear Sunfish in combination:** Original harvest request was to go from 50 per day to 25
 - A better request from a biological need basis would be to go from 50 per day to 15 per day.
 - **Walleye/Saugeye**
 - Lower the harvest length from 20 to 18 inches
 - Increase the number of fish one can harvest from 2 to 4
 - **Largemouth Bass**
 - Encourage aggressive harvest of largemouth bass 10 to 13 inches on all lakes except Brittany
 - Encourage "Catch and Release" of largemouth bass greater than 15 inches on all lakes except Brittany
 - **Crappie**
 - 10-inch length limit
 - 10 fish per day
 - **Otherwise, Statewide regulations apply**

The Lakes JAC voted 2/15/22 via email to approve the above recommendations.

Open Forum:

- **Dan Gillman 36** Kirkcaldy
 - An avid Pan fish angler over many years on BV lakes stated that his usual day fishing catch limit is 5 nice sized fish ... which produce 10 filets. He exceeds this self-imposed limit if the hook injured the fish and would unlikely survive if returned to the lake. He mentioned that on large lakes in the north America ... the Pan fish catch limit is 5; therefore, implying the POA Lakes, Parks and Fisheries department's (LPFD) new lower recommended 25 Pan fish daily harvest limit is more than reasonable.
 - **Champagne:** After discussions with LPFD department management about the recommended new harvest rules, I feel they are reasonable.
 - **Gerner:** During this meeting discussion I googled a variety of states and countries and observed that Pan fish catch limits of 4, 5, or 6 are common. I appreciate the comments and support the LPFD's recommended catch limit of 25 for a Pan fish catch limit starting point.

Yorman: Other comments or issues to discuss for this meeting? If not meeting adjourned.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned about 2:50 pm

To Review the meeting video place cursor here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SmLMnDrnook>

Respectively Submitted, Paul Bickford, assisting JAC Secretary Carol Phillips