Bella Vista POA Lakes JAC
August 13, 2025
2:00 pm
Country Club Board Room

Chairman: Matt Champagne
Vice Chairman: Michael Coughlin
Secretary: Jeff Retey

Committee Members: Michael Coughlin, Scott Sborov, Carol Phillips, Ross Gerner, Scott Hawes, Jeff Retey, Rob Montgomery, Kevin Attleson, Matt Champagne.

POA Board Liaisons: Deborah Lukotch, Sandy Fosdick, Jeff Hendren.

Lakes JAC — Meeting Minutes (August 2025)

1) Call to Order

- Meeting called to order at 5:04 p.m.

- Agenda: No additions/deletions.

- Prior Minutes: Approved (motion/second, voice vote – none opposed).

2) Management Report (Rick)

- Lake Drawdown: Nov 3, 2025 – Mar 2, 2026; total 6-ft drawdown. Letters to lakefront owners targeted for late next week.

- Ranger Contacts/Removals (July): 12,379 contacts (up from 10,918 in June; 9,800 in July '24). 580 removals (vs. 709 in June).

- Storm Cleanup: Ongoing removal of spring-storm trees; occasional contractor support used.

- Dam Mowing: Second cycle complete; woody tree cutting planned in coming months.

- Dredging: Granton complete; will reassess after fall drawdown. Courtesy dock currently on gravel bar, must be moved.

- Staffing: New hire learning routes. Summer hire reduced to Sundays (key for weekend trash).

- Lakes Ecology: Naiad returning at Loch Lomond; brood fish in ponds for 2026 stocking; good Secchi readings = no fertilizer needed.

- Grass Carp Raffle: 60 carp removed; 4x $100 gift cards awarded (latest: Mike Colgrove).

- Carp Tournament: Oct 11; posters distributed; early registrations received.

- Creel Survey: 53 anglers surveyed; runs through Thanksgiving.

- Water Quality: E. coli results good (except June stream high water samples).

- Trout Stocking: Cleared to begin Nov 2025; permits secured.

- After-Hours Protocol: Emergencies 911 → Lake Ranger line → police non-emergency → Rick/Director backup.

3) Aquatic Improvement / Vegetation Structures

- Grass/Arkansas cubes not yet placed; awaiting tail material. Expected later fall.

4) Carp Tournament – Community Update (Max)

- Posters out in Grove OK, Siloam Springs, local grocers.

- Sponsors pledged gift certificates (Allens, Hook Line & Sinker).

- Volunteer Request: mid-Sept carp chumming program (need volunteers for Windsor, Lomond, Ann).

- Preferred bait: floating pellets. Rangers to donate some feed.

5) Capital Budget Requests

- Committee to force-rank projects by Aug 31.

- Items: Lake Ann spillway, Windsor Dam repaving, London Landing road/drainage (~$5,500), Electrofishing equipment evaluation, Kayak racks/launches.

6) Public Comment (Summary)

- Multiple Loch Lomond residents raised safety concerns (no-wake violations, nighttime speeding, alcohol use, non-member access).

- Serious Aug 1 collision between pontoons reported (damage/injuries avoided, but safety concerns escalated).

- Requests: empower Rangers with progressive suspensions, ramp access gates, night patrols or reallocated hours, nighttime speed limits, stronger police coordination.

- Management Response: Rangers active (12k+ contacts, 580 removals), but limited by no fining authority, max 30-day suspension, staffing/budget limits.

- Next Steps: Elevate to POA Board meeting; FOIA request for Aug 1 police report; encourage residents to send videos with boat IDs; consider night speed policy.

7) Other Business / Reminders

- E. coli lake results acceptable; stream spikes expected in June high water.

- Creel survey continues.

- Volunteers needed mid-Sept for carp chumming.

- Capital force-rankings due by Aug 31.

8) Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned following public comment and committee discussion.

Action Items

- Letters re: Nov 3–Mar 2 drawdown to lakefront owners (late next week).

- Carp Tournament Oct 11: poster distribution; recruit volunteers mid-Sept; coordinate feed.

- Capital Requests: members rank priorities; Chair compiles list by Aug 31.

- Electrofishing Equipment: side-by-side testing; include provisional request.

- After-Hours Protocol: implement/communicate new response path.

- Safety/Enforcement: elevate to POA Board; explore ramp access, night policy, staffing patterns, suspensions.