Bella Vista POA Lakes JAC
January 8, 2025
Country Club Board Room
2:00 pm

Chairman: Matt Champagne
Vice-Chairman: Michael Coughlin
Secretary: Carol Phillips

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

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

Chairman Champagne called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm.

Previous meeting minutes were approved.

POA COO Tom Judson encourages members to consider running for the POA Board of Directors. An informational meeting will occur on January 21 at 4:00 pm at the Country Club Board Room.

Rick Echols, Superintendent of Lakes and Fisheries, reminded members that the Lake Norwood drawdown began November 4, 2024 and will continue until March 3, 2025. Dredging on the back of the lake will take place as soon as possible. The boat ramp on Lake Norwood will also be lengthened.
The water level of Lake Brittany has been down for some time. A water pump is now on line and is flowing and doing what it can to raise the lake level. Rainfall will help as well. Lake dam controlled burns will take place later this winter. London Landing and Granton dredging will take place in warmer weather. Aquaculture ponds allowed for stocking of striped bass in lakes Lomond (800), Ann (300) and 600 in Lake Windsor. All lakes were stocked with channel catfish. Trout have been stocked for the second time on Lake Brittany. Christmas trees for lake habitat are being collected at Lake Ann park. Some of the artificial habitat structures provided by the Bella Vista Fly Tyers will be going into Lake Norwood later this winter.

60,000 threadfin shad will be added to Loch Lomond this spring. A creel survey will be implemented in the spring, as well. Next month, Rick will share the results of fall fish electro-shocking.
Rick also presented a program on largemouth bass management on POA lakes, with particular attention to Loch Lomond. This detailed report may be viewed in its entirety on the Bella Vista POA youTube channel as well as the POA website. Highlighted topics include years of peak productivity for largemouth bass, fertilization of lakes to revive productivity, nutrient management plan, aquatic weed control, invasive parrot feather and resulting grass carp stocking, aquatic vegetation, Arkansas Cube use, other forms of artificial habitat, fish stocking, aquaculture and trends for bass and bluegill populations.
Rick encourages members to keep smaller bass (less than 15 inches) which helps create a population of larger bass. Also, grass carp should be caught and removed from our lakes. A raffle will take place in the spring with a monetary payout for those who catch and remove grass carp. Specific information will be available in future “Sporting Updates” emails and the POA website.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:45 pm.
Next meeting is February 8, 2025.