Lakes JAC — Meeting Minutes

Date: March 11, 2026

Location: Board Room

Chairman: Matt Champagne
Vice Chairman: Kevin Attleson
Secretary: Jeff Retey

Committee Members: Michael Coughlin, Brett Arabie, Carol Phillips, Steve Killian, Scott Hawes, Jeff Retey, Rob Montgomery, Kevin Attleson, Matt Champagne.

Meeting Starts

Matt Champagne called meeting to order: Meeting called to order at 2:00 p.m.; agenda adopted with no additions.

Prior minutes: Approved (motion/second; carried).

Board member comments: Tom announced a Meet the Candidates event for Monday at 6:00 p.m. at BVRC; four candidates are running for three positions.

Staff Reports

Lake Management – Rick

Loch Lomond drawdown/refill: Gates were closed March 2. Lake level is roughly halfway back and ahead of schedule due to recent rainfall; staff estimated the lake could be full in about two more weeks, with enough water already moving through the system to continue refill.

Courtesy docks / Granton work: Courtesy docks at Tyree and Stony Kirk were redecked, and project savings allowed the Granton dock to be completed as well. Gravel and wash-in material at Granton were removed, and recent rains did not cause additional gravel intrusion.

Lake Ranger contacts (Feb): 1,119 contacts; 73 non-members removed; 17 contacts by boat; 32 boat hours. January totals were 966 contacts, 65 removals, 8 boat contacts, and 19.25 hours; February 2025 totals were 965 contacts, 44 removals, 15 boat contacts, and 26 hours.

Grounds / habitat work: Staff are shifting from dock work to habitat improvement and kayak rack construction. At least 40 new kayak spaces are planned: 15 at Avalon, 15 at Tyree, and, if feasible, a small rack at Norwood. Habitat projects include cedar structure

placement at Windsor and shoreline habitat enhancement at Tyree near an improved bank-fishing area.

Staffing / systems: Summer ranger positions will be advertised soon so hires can be trained earlier on the new fee schedule and point-of-sale system. Rangers are expected to be able to take credit cards on the water for daily-use fees and verify live member status; collection of violation fees on the spot remains under consideration.

Fisheries / stocking: Lake Brittany received its final spring trout stocking, with unusually large trout averaging slightly over one pound (about 12-13 inches). Stocking was estimated at 471 fish, based on pounds delivered.

Bass population study: Staff will begin a mark-recapture study on Loch Lomond and Rayburn this spring to refresh the long-used estimate of about 40,000 catchable largemouth bass on Loch Lomond. “Catchable” was defined as fish roughly 8 inches and larger. The broader management goal remains encouraging harvest of smaller bass to improve fishery quality.

Grass carp trap / raffle: The grass carp trap remains in place at Tyree and will be checked about once a week, with help from a nearby property owner who can alert staff when fish are inside. The 2026 grass carp raffle will resume at the end of April, with one $100 drawing each month. Staff may bait the trap with alfalfa once the lake refills.

Volunteer request: Chris Fuller needs Secchi disk volunteers for this summer on several lakes. Interested volunteers were asked to call 479-855-4472.

Road / paving updates: The London Landing washout repair has been completed with a concrete section replacing the recurring erosion area. Additional paving for the Windsor dam-side ramp/circle remains scheduled for later this year, likely by piggybacking on city paving work to save cost.

Enhanced electrofishing boat: The upgraded electrofishing boat has been used twice and is performing well. Staff reported a good sample on Windsor, noted very quiet operation, and said it improves on-water communication while sampling.

Public Comments

Habitat questions: Committee and audience members asked for clarification on what habitat improvement means, where it is being placed, and how the structures are built. Staff described bundled cedar limbs and pallet teepee-style structures for better long-term three-dimensional fish cover.

Buoys / lake access: A resident asked whether no-wake buoy placement is GPS-based. Staff said the buoys have not been GPS-shot to date, though historical satellite imagery can be used to restore positions; one reported buoy location will be checked.

Low-water erosion concern: A Loch Lomond resident expressed concern that boat wake during low water could accelerate shoreline erosion before the lake reaches near-full pool. Staff noted the lake was never formally closed and said a newsletter reminder encouraging awareness could be included.

Kayak launch update: In response to a question, staff said the Fly Tyers-sponsored kayak launch is the next project after kayak racks are completed.

Marina / Operations – Trey

Marina update: Docks are back open, the marina job opening has been posted, and applications are being accepted. The marina will open April 1 on spring hours until Memorial Day: 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday, and 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on weekends. Summer boat reservations will begin at opening.

Announcements

Meeting adjourned.