Bella Vista POA Lakes JAC
May 14, 2025
2:00 pm
Country Club Board Room

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

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.

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

Previous meeting minutes were approved.

Bella Vista POA CEO Tom Judson reminded members to vote on POA Board members.

Rick Echols, POA Lakes and Fisheries Superintendent reported that the Lake Norwood drawdown is complete. Lake Brittany is also at full pool level. Lake patrol contacts were up slightly. The Bella Vista Fly Tyers dock at Loch Lomond has been repaired. Buoy checks are being completed. At London Landing, the stream bank has been repaired.
Fisheries and Lakes Ecology has placed Bella Vista Fly Tyers created lake habitat structures. Three of four aquaculture ponds are now stocked with bluegill. Lake fertilization has begun at Lake Ann, Lake Rayburn and Loch Lomond. Spring electrofishing is complete. The Kids Fishing Derby was a success with 67 participants. The largest fish was close to 12 lbs.
The grass carp raffle has completed its first month with the winner receiving a gift card. Bow fishing for grass carp iis allowed at night. Creel survey activity continues and may be accessed via the POA website.

Chairman Champagne shared that Scott Sborov and Ross Gerner will be leaving the committee. POA members interested in joining the Lakes JAC may find an application on the POA website. Also, Jeff Retey will replace Carol Phillips as Lakes JAC secretary.
Kayak Demo Days was approved for June 28rd, 2025. Ozark Kayaks will be the provider of kayaks for the event to be held on Lake Ann.

Max Scholfield of the Bella Vista Fly Tyers addressed the committee concerning a proposed grass carp tournament to aid in the removal of grass carp from our POA Lakes.
Asking for input from the committee, the conceptual plan allows for a maximum of 50 boats to be divided among POA Lakes. The event will be held for seven daylight hours, on a weekday, to minimize impact on POA members. With a proposed $50.00 entry fee, there will be monetary payouts to those who remove the most grass carp. Due to the benefits of grass carp removal, a POA Lakes JAC variance to allow non-POA member participation is requested.
While still in the initial phase of planning, the concept was well received. A draft proposal is in progress.

Rick Echols' request that Loch Lomond be the POA Lake to be drawn down for the fall of 2025 was approved by the committee.

Meeting adjourned at 2:33 pm.
Next meeting is June 11, 2025.