Lakes JAC — Meeting Minutes

Date: May 13, 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; agenda adopted with no additions.

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

Board Member Comments

Tom reminded members that one week remained in the Board election and encouraged everyone to vote.

Staff Reports

Lake Management – Rick

Loch Lomond/refill: Loch Lomond returned to full pool on April 26.

Lake Ranger contacts (April): 2,422 contacts; 119 by boat; 68.25 lake hours; 135 non-members removed. New tracking showed 1,555 anglers and 1,112 recreational users.

Point-of-sale system: Connectivity issues continued, but staff were able to make some sales and expect improvement going forward.

Kayak racks / facilities: 32 new kayak spaces were added and all filled. At least 20 more spaces are planned, with more than 100 people still on the waiting list. Horseshoe pits at Lake Avalon were rebuilt.

Dam Safety Workshop: Northwest Arkansas workshop scheduled for September 29 at the police station conference room; committee attendance encouraged.

Staffing: One lake ranger hired; three positions remain open.

Fisheries: Spring electrofishing samples completed. Largemouth bass population studies on Rayburn and Loch Lomond are wrapping up, with numbers expected next month. A post-spawn Loch Lomond largemouth measured 23 inches and weighed 8.22 pounds.

Beach / grass carp: Beach treated for algae; at least one more treatment planned before Memorial Day. Mike Colgrove won the April $100 grass carp raffle after removing 30 grass carp, including 29 from Loch Lomond and one from Avalon. Staff also discussed baiting and evaluating the funnel trap.

Kids fishing derby / volunteers: The Metfield derby had 150 children participate. Arkansas Game and Fish donated 300 fish, and Fly Tyers volunteered and provided prizes. Secchi disk volunteers are still needed for Lake Avalon and Loch Lomond.

Public / Committee Discussion

Lake Ann drawdown: Committee began discussing Lake Ann as the next drawdown candidate. Preliminary timing would be November 2026 through March 2027, similar to Loch Lomond. A decision is needed by July.

Kayak launch / future launches: Lake Anne kayak launch materials have been ordered. A future Windsor launch, possibly at Pontoon Park, was discussed as a potential capital request.

Buoys / access points: Staff will correct a misplaced Loch Lomond buoy. Stony Kirk was confirmed as the construction ramp/staging location for shoreline work; Granton should not be used for unloading gravel.

Aquatic vegetation / habitat: Discussion covered grass carp removal, water willow, aquatic plant risks, native vegetation sourcing, and habitat restoration. Staff said long-term fishery improvement depends on harvest, habitat, vegetation recovery, and grass carp reduction.

Marina / Operations – Trey

Boat registration review: Total boat registrations have increased about 21% over five years, largely from kayaks and non-motorized craft. As of April 30, registrations were down 3.9% year-over-year, while revenue was up about 42% due to fee changes.

Lake security: Committee discussed unauthorized lake access, after-hours use, gates, cameras, access-control systems, lake ranger coverage, and potential security options. No formal recommendation was made.

Capital budget preparation: Members were asked to continue identifying lake and park needs before recommendations are due, expected by July 31.

Committee Business

Capital budget review: Committee reviewed prior capital recommendations and removed or updated completed items.

Projects discussed: Lake Ann spillway repair remains in future years; Windsor dam resurfacing is scheduled for this summer; Avalon kiosk relocation remains planned; Rayburn kayak racks remain on the list.

Future needs: Avalon and Lake Ann dam roads need resurfacing. Additional kayak launches and structures to screen portable restrooms may be considered for future capital recommendations.

Drawdown decision: Members were asked to think about voting on the Lake Ann drawdown at a future meeting.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned.