Lakes JAC — Meeting Minutes

Date: October 8

Location: Board Room

Called to order: Meeting opened and agenda adopted (no additions).

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

Board member comments: None.

Staff Reports

Lake Management –

- **Lake Ranger contacts (Sept):** 6,313 (↑ from 5,859 last year) — 381 removals; 390 on-water contacts; 108 boat hours.
- **Lake Lomond drawdown:** Begins Nov 3 through Mar 2 (target 3" per day, weather-dependent) aiming for ~6 ft total. Permitting & FAQs posted on the Lakes website.
- **Fall fish sampling:** Trap nets running; experimental gill nets being assembled to assess threadfin shad after the growing season (seeking multiple size classes now and again next fall; possibly again in spring).
- **Trout stocking:** To begin in November when surface temps reach ~64°F.
- **Carp raffle:** September winner Phil Ward.

Q&A: A member asked for a specific data point John didn't have at hand; he'll retrieve it from internal records.

Marina – Trey

- **Marina closed for the season** (reopens April).
- **Lease docks:** Walkways closed during drawdown for safety; no foot access once the lake is down ~2 ft (estimate ≈ one week after drawdown begins). Boats remain accessible from the water only.

Event Updates

Fly Tyers Carp Tournament – Max

- **Date:** This Saturday.
- **Registrations:** 18 verified; expecting a couple more; day-of sign-ups allowed.
- **Schedule:** 7:30 AM rules meeting; lines out 3:00 PM; results 4:00 PM at the pavilion behind Lake Lomond "dog park."

- **Officials:** Three needed; still seeking a couple more volunteers.
- **Chumming program (last month):** Windsor: 2 sites (strong response) — Ann: 3 sites (strong response; observed ~15 carp schooling) — Lomond: 5 sites (carp less responsive so far; visibility may be a factor).
- **Logistics:** Coordinating with staff on trucks to remove carp; multiple vendor giveaways secured (e.g., Bass Pro).
- **Outlook:** Expect residual angling effort after the tournament due to chumming success.

Discussion Items

Stocking of Hybrid Striped Bass ("Wipers")

- **Original purpose (2011 start):** Open-water pelagic predator to keep gizzard shad in check (esp. outside coves and into fall/winter) and provide a different angling opportunity.
- **Biology/interaction:** Wipers target shad; literature and prior state studies indicate minimal overlap with largemouth forage (largemouth focus heavily on bluegill). Sterile hybrids—no self-reproduction; populations reflect stocking only. Very large adult gizzard shad are taken by blue catfish (when present), not by wipers.
- **Recent stocking:** In 2024, staff grew their own and stocked ~1,700 total across Lomond, Windsor, and Ann, at ~2 fish/acre (materially lower than early years).
- **Catch rates:** Fewer angler catches now likely reflect lighter, less concentrated stocking than in the past; some harvest also occurs.
- **Costs/constraints:** Purchased 8" fish are costly; 2024 self-production reduced cost.
- **Strategy going forward:** Near-term focus is largemouth system health—vegetation, habitat, and forage (bluegill production). Staff expects no wiper stocking need in the next year due to bluegill pond production priorities.

Boating Violations — Fee/Citation Mechanism

Status: A draft boating-violation fee framework (tiered offenses; early-payment discount; non-payment may trigger suspension of membership privileges) was reviewed by Rules & Regs and will be discussed at the POA Board work session on Oct 16. Target is inclusion in the 2026 Rules if approved and finalized.

Public Comment / Open Forum

1. **Drawdown scope & methods (Pat Turley):** Asked about ramp/dock repairs and dredging in channels. Response: During low water, staff will remove wash-in (notably near Grenton), inspect ramp toes, and repair courtesy docks (major focus on Lake Lomond) before refill.
2. **"Jugging" identification:** Resident asked about floating "round floaties" moving without boats. Response: That is jug fishing, legal overnight (sundown–sunup) per AGFC. Jugs should be removed by mid-morning; call Lake Rangers if they persist or appear abandoned.

3. **Lake use/access & enforcement concerns (resident):** Issues: limited bank access (e.g., Brittany), dock crowding, ID checks, guest limits, boat/kayak stickers, rumor of removing a "fishing house." Responses: Rangers do conduct checks; call the Lake Ranger hotline for dock misuse/unsafe activity. The "5 guests" limit applies to dependent cards; standard member cards differ. Stickers still required. Trout stocking remains scheduled for November (temp-dependent). No confirmed plan to remove the referenced facility.
4. **Small-Bass Event concept (Max):** Informal interest (not a Fly Tyers event) in a small-bass removal/fillet-fry tournament (e.g., ≤12" or ≤14–15", to be defined). Several committee members expressed support to explore a future event to help rebalance bass size structure.

Announcements

- **Combined November/December meeting:** Wednesday, December 3 (single meeting covering both months). No meeting on the usual 2nd Wednesday in November.

Action Items

- Web/Comms: Keep Lomond drawdown page updated with permits, closures, safety, and schedule reminders.
- Rangers/Marina: Post clear signage on lease-dock walkway closures and anticipated dates.
- Fisheries: Continue fall sampling; begin trout stocking once temps allow (~64°F).
- Fisheries (info request): Pull and share historical wiper stocking figures for member reference.
- Events (Carp Tournament): Recruit 2 additional officials; coordinate trucks and collection logistics with staff.
- Policy: Prepare for Oct 16 POA Board work session on boating-violation fee framework.
- Public Comms: Circulate/confirm the Ranger hotline number in meeting recap and social channels.