

**Lake of the Ozarks Watershed Alliance, Inc. (LOWA)**  
**Public meeting 7-19-2010**  
**Tan-Tar-A Salon B**

**This public meeting of LOWA was called to order** by Donna Swall, Executive Director of LOWA, at 6:30 pm. Introductions were made round robin.

**Bryan Vance, AmerenUE**, Proposed Shoreline Management Plan for Vegetative Cover Policy at the Lake of the Ozarks. The watershed for the Lake of the Ozarks (LOZ) is over 14,000 square miles and stretches out to Kansas. LOWA is to be commended for focusing down on projects that can affect our Lake locally. The Lake is over 93 miles long and what do the West coast and LOZ have in common? All that shoreline! LOZ has over 1,150 miles of shoreline. LOZ covers over 55,000 acres and contains over 600 Billion Gallons of water. In 1982, UE started issuing residential permits at lakes. In 1987, commercial permits were issued. In 2001, the first Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) meeting, as part of the relicensing process was held. In 2005, IMZs were proposed, and then dropped because of the public's response to the proposal. In 2007, FERC issued AmerenUE (AUE) their license; and in 2008, the SMP was submitted to FERC and is still under draft, waiting approval.

The SMP highlights Wetlands, Heads of Coves, and Vegetative Cover Policy, all only on lands owned and controlled by AUE. AUE's land is elevation based and ranges from 662' to 674', contour interval, based on where the site is around the lake. Wetlands are subject to restricted activities and, around the lake, are found in the backs of coves and up parts of tributaries. Restricted activities include no removal of vegetation or native trees, no dredging, no seawalls, no facilities with toilets or other wastewater-generating devices, and no boat fueling areas. Heads of Cove are very important as nurseries of fish and are determined by drawing a line across the cove at the point where the bottom hits 652' elevation and then everything back from that line is considered the head of the cove; or, no more than 1/3 of the cove. Heads of coves have the same restrictions as a wetland except for dredging, may be allowed under existing structures if the proposal complies with our dredging management plan currently being reviewed by FERC and the dock was installed before March 30, 2007.

The Vegetative Cover Policy is 4-pronged. Vegetation below the project boundary should only be removed in order to provide for a reasonable view of the water, to construct access paths to the shoreline and/or dock, to construct erosion control measures, or to perform general maintenance to the vegetated area. Furthermore, these modifications to the existing vegetative buffer zone on AUE's property must be approved by AUE as part of the permitting process. Vegetated buffers can provide benefits to Lake water quality and provide unobstructed lake views by incorporating native vegetation into the existing shoreline vegetation. For more information about native vegetation, visit <http://grownative.org> For more information about AUE property lines or other permitting requirements within AUE's project boundaries, please contact AmerenUE Shoreline Management at 573-365-9252.

How can we help out? Maintain a vegetative filter and install a rain garden; both benefit by filtering runoff pollutants and they create habitat for desirable song birds and other

native species. In addition, vegetative buffers and rain garden can increase the aesthetic beauty of a property year round.

AUE is developing a water quality brochure in partnership with Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, and LOWA for the lake on ways property owners can help maintain and improve the water quality of the lake by reducing the amount of runoff reaching the lake. It's not only what is in the water, but also the quantity of water. An example of an area business going beyond the minimum shoreline requirements is Old Kinderhook which has a no mow vegetative buffer strip along the lake in their golf course. In addition, Old Kinderhook leaves their streams and creeks undisturbed.

AmerenUE is also working toward a demonstration site to establish a vegetative buffer strip and a rain garden on a representative, steeply sloped, lake shoreline property that all may come to look at.

In response to some audience questions, Bryan said that AUE draws down the Lake in the winter to 654' for flood protection of the river downstream, and raises it to 659' in the summer for recreation. And, in a side note at the end, Donna Swall remarked that LOWA's LOWA LILs (Low Impact Landscaping, designed to reduce the amount of runoff reaching the Lake) project has a cost share portion incorporated into a grant that LOWA wrote last winter. This means that if LOWA is awarded that grant, property owners can work with LOWA in establishing LOWA LILs on their property and get part of their costs reimbursed.

**Education/Outreach – Cathy Jackson:** Cathy acknowledged and thanked all those who signed her volunteer sheet last meeting and then asked those present to please think about signing up, even if only for a one or two hour stint at a LOWA table at one of the many area festivals and fairs. An actual committee is needed to help in the process of determining what information LOWA wants to present at the outreach tables and booths and then preparing and obtaining the materials and supplies needed for presenting LOWA at the Lake area events. Volunteers are needed for manning booths at events like the Shoot Out, the Fall Festival in Osage Beach, the Apple Festival in Versailles, and any of the many other events throughout the year all around LOZ. Cathy and LOWA are open to ideas and offers of help. As a side note, Cathy discussed an easy way to backyard compost. Get a large trash can with a good fitting lid (plastic or metal will work). Drill some holes in the trash can. After putting some vegetable/plant material in there (and water), tip the trash can over, with lid firmly in place, and roll the trash can to mix the contents inside the trash can. And, as another side note, at the next Household Hazardous Waste Reclamation Day, they will accept old prescription medicines.

**Water Quality - Greg Stoner:** The LOZ DNR E. coli Cove Study is now in its 4<sup>th</sup> year out of 5. The goal of the study was to have a snapshot of the state of the Lake in terms of E. coli in the coves. So far, from the dam to Hurricane Deck bridge plus both the Niangua Arm and the Glaize Arm have been sampled. This year the study includes from Hurricane Deck bridge near the 34 mm to the 60 mm and the Gravois Arm, as well as a couple of sites that tested very high in the first year. All has been quiet so far. One sample in the Gravois Arm and 2 samples in Porter Mill cove have tested high (not sure of source for Porter Mill cove yet) and all sites will be tested again before the season is over. Only a couple of strains of E. coli are dangerous, but E. coli is like a canary in a

coal mine. The presence of any kind of E. coli indicates other types of disease-causing pathogens may be present. Heavy rains can wash material with E. coli into the Lake so a high reading does not always mean a failing septic tank or facility.

**Lake Safety – Donna Swall for Carroll Vogel:** When LOWA first formed in 2006 and polled the citizens all around the lake, Lake Safety was the top #1 concern. LOWA began the Designated Captain program in response to this citizen-led outcry, got the program running and well established, and then gave the program over to a different lake area group called Lake of the Ozarks Water Safety Council (WSC). Carroll Vogel is LOWA's liaison with WSC and Carroll is also a U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary member and LOWA liaison with that organization, as well.

Questions and concerns were taken from the audience and Bill Holder spoke: Boats are going too fast and wakes are getting too big. We need a water speed limit here at the Lake of the Ozarks. And the Water Patrol should have the tools it needs to work with establishing and enforcing speed limits. Safety is a big issue.

**Recycling – Caroline Toole for Gaye Belloir:** LOWA has written a grant to the Solid Waste District T to hold a Household Hazardous Waste Reclamation Day 2011 (HHW 2011) at the Camdenton High School parking lot on April 30, 2011 from 9 am to 2 pm. Volunteers will definitely be needed. Training for volunteers begins at 8 am. Start saving your hazardous waste and don't send it to the landfill! Tell your neighbors. Tell the weekenders. Form carpools to take several household's HHW in one trip. Call LOWA at 573 374 8360 to volunteer or contact LOWA at [ckingtoole@yahoo.com](mailto:ckingtoole@yahoo.com) or through the LOWA website at [www.sosLOWA.org](http://www.sosLOWA.org).

**Wastewater – Warren Witt for Jim Rogers:** The 4 County Wastewater Task Force is forming to look at wastewater treatment and improvement to the Lake. The Task Force has had one meeting so far and is open to volunteers to work on one of several subcommittees. Subcommittees will meet and work and then report back to the Task Force during the quarterly meetings. Education will be needed to inform and engage the citizens of the lake on the entire process of regionalization and what regionalization means for the lake district. The Task Force is open to many ideas and approaches so please volunteer and be heard.

**LOWA LILs – Kathy Fayant:** LOWA is working with AUE, Master Naturalists, and Master Gardeners to produce a brochure about LOWA LILs and water quality at LOZ. Kathy has a presentation she can present to groups about what people can do in their yards for water quality. LOWA LILs committee is also working hard to design Knock-Out Yards that will showcase beautiful rain gardens, buffer strips and other LOWA LILs for lake shore and watershed yards. LOWA LILs committee is also designing a cost-share program to help property owners be reimbursed for part of their expenses in establishing LOWA LILs on their property. Kathy has arranged for Syd Hime to be the guest speaker at LOWA August 16<sup>th</sup> Public Meeting at Port Arrowhead.

**2 Dam Days – LOWA's Marathon Kayak Race from Dam to Dam in 2 Days:** Trevor Dowdney is the Race Captain and Donna Swall spoke in his place tonight. LOWA is

hosting a 2 day paddle race from Truman Dam to Bagnell Dam, September 25 and 26, 2010 to celebrate the beautiful healthy waters of the Lake of the Ozarks. Racers will blast out of Drake Harbor near the 92 mm Saturday morning at 7 am and paddle furiously to end the first day at Captain Ron's, near the 34 mm. Their first checkpoint is Holiday Hills Marina near the 66 mm and their second checkpoint is at Red Fox, near the 50 mm. A Clean Water Festival at Captain Ron's on Saturday will help to celebrate water quality. Then on Sunday, the racers take off for Iguana Watersports on the Bagnell Dam Strip to end the marathon race and celebrate LOZ up at the stage area on The Strip with live music, food, and clean water festivities.

**Just For Fun – the Recreational “race”:** Not so sure about a 92 mile marathon? How about a 14-mile, just plain fun paddle from Halfway Inn near the 48 mm to Captain Ron's near the 34 mm? That's the Just For Fun race that's not really a race. Sponsored by Dan Dougan of Oz Cycles and Kayaks, participants will be in a drawing for a kayak to be given away by Dan as well as other lake area prizes donated by area merchants.

**More information on both races can be found at [www.sosLOWA.org](http://www.sosLOWA.org)  
Trevor Dowdney can be contacted at [2damdays@gmail.com](mailto:2damdays@gmail.com)  
[www.2damdays.org](http://www.2damdays.org) is the official website for the 2 Dam Days race**

LOWA will need volunteers all up and down the lake to cheer the paddlers on and to help them keep on the main channel.

**LOWA Forum – a chance for citizens to voice comments and concerns:**

The NW Fire Protection District has boats at Mimosa Beach, down Lake Rd. 7-13 (Bollinger Creek Rd.) and they can get EMTs. LOWA should get docks with emergency services up and down the lake.

The Coast Guard will be there for safety.

Bill Holder mentioned that the Kemps who were thrown into the water off of their pontoon boat by large wakes went to the WSC and told them of their experience. The WSC said they'd have the newspaper write some safety articles. He said he thought this would be ineffective because the people that made the big wakes probably wouldn't read the articles. Bill called for a study of the effects of wakes at LOZ. For more information on this issue, Bill has a website at <http://home.earthlink.net/~makelakeozsafe/>

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

These minutes respectfully submitted by C. King Toole, LOWA Recording Secretary.  
And approved for distribution by Donna Swall, LOWA Executive Director.