

# June 21 Meeting Minutes

## **Lake of the Ozarks Watershed Alliance**

**Public meeting minutes**

**6-21-2010 6:30 pm**

**Sunrise Beach Fire Training Building**

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 pm by Donna Swall, LOWA Executive Director. Introductions were made round robin.

Barbara Fredholm brought up concern of “rock” lawns on the lakeshore that use pesticides to keep the weeds down and the pesticides could be going into the water.

**Ted Fry – U MO Extension Regional Agronomy Specialist; Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists Program Coordinator – speaking on Beautiful Landscapes and Quality Water** – an overview of how landscaping interacts with water quality.

What is water quality? What causes poor surface water quality? Who is affected? How are they affected? With water, we swim in it, drink it, recreate in it, fish in it – all types of good water quality indicators. With Beautiful Landscapes, beauty is in the eye of the beholder. With beautiful landscapes, you have to look at what you’ve got – there are lots of different species and habitats – some plants are pretty, have interesting textures, range from trees to shrubs to herbs and flowers – you need to decide what you want. A low maintenance landscape tends to be more informal. This area of the country has an oak/hickory predominant forest. When you lose trees, you get erosion. An established forest stops erosion well. Often a developer takes out all except for the old trees but we need to leave a variety of ages and species. Along our shoreline can be native hibiscus and button bush, among others. In AmerenUE’s Shoreline Management Plan (SMP), up to 662’ (side note: that elevation varies according to where along the lake you are), native plants are encouraged and there can be no invasive species planted. The SMP talks about buffer zones too.

How can we help? Through education, encouraging diverse partnerships, agreeing to disagree, and identify local water quality issues like erosion, sediments, nutrients, pathogens, toxins, and defoliation and development. Xeriscaping (landscaping for dry conditions) can be low maintenance and is especially good for south-facing slopes; some rock is used and it may be a little irregular. Xeriscaping saves water, too. A person could use lots of trees and one can replace their turf with other plants – especially with native plants which often take care to get started but then they take off. Grow Native! PO Box 180 Jefferson City, MO 65102 or [www.grownative.org](http://www.grownative.org) How can we help? We can do erosion control, riparian buffers, rain gardens, retention basins, properly designed and operated sewage systems, use of low maintenance plantings and natives, safe and conservative use of fertilizers and pesticides, use of alternatives to fertilizers and pesticides, proper storage and use and disposal of toxic materials, and utilize plant and food wastes.

Healthy Yards for Clear Streams is a program used around MO, as well as Show-Me Yards and Neighborhoods (side note: LOWA's LOWA LILs (Low Impact Landscaping) Program is based upon these two programs.) Mini grants are available for \$10,000. Less than half of Jefferson City residents said they live in a watershed so education is clearly needed.

Urban stormwater runoff is a significant source of pollution. Reducing runoff contamination should be our end goal. To get there we could: mow 3-4" high, keep blades sharp, leave clippings, accept some clover, over seed bare spots spring and fall, reduce your lawn area, clean up pet waste – on slopes it can run into the lake – bury it in an area not used for edible gardening, use native plants, mulch when and where possible, plant natives, establish rain gardens, identify weeds, etc, before taking action, Prairie Drop Seed grass gets longer than buffalo grass but it is a nice looking grass. Buffalo grass is hard to get started and it is borderline for this area – needs a lot of sun.

Soil Testing: before establishing a new lawn or garden, every 3 years, annually when trying to correct a problem, to avoid excess fertilizer. Sample about 6" deep in 10 to 12 spots and mix them together. Consider testing distinctly different sites separately.

Nitrogen (N) and phosphorus (P) are nutrients most often associated with nonpoint source pollution (NPS) environmental concerns. Most urban P tests are high so those lawns don't need phosphorus. Compost in place or as close to the source as possible. Green roofs also help reduce the amount of urban stormwater runoff. Permeable parking lots also help reduce the amount of urban stormwater runoff. U MO Extension is a good resource. <http://extension.missouri.edu/> or [www.metrokc.gov/dnrp/swd/](http://www.metrokc.gov/dnrp/swd/) Other resources are Blue Stem Landscapes, Longfellows Garden Center, MO Wildflowers Nursery, and Central MO's Master Gardeners. LOWA could do something like 'Yard of Merit' placements. Soil testing can be done at U of MO Extension office in Camdenton. Pervious pavement is concrete where the water goes straight through the concrete to a retention basin below. July 28 there will be a lunch at the Green Home.

## Committee Reports

**2 Dam Days marathon kayak and canoe race** will take place Saturday and Sunday, September 25 and 26, and is a fundraiser for LOWA. Paddlers will begin at Drake Harbor at the 92 mm, just below Truman Dam in Warsaw, paddle furiously for 57 miles to the 34 mm at Captain Ron's for the first leg of the race. Then on Sunday, paddlers will sprint the last 34 miles to Iguana Watersports at Bagnell Dam for the finish. Saturday will also see the **Just For Fun paddle race** from Halfway Inn at the 48 mm and paddle down to Captain Ron's for their finish. For more information and registration, please go to [www.2damdays.org](http://www.2damdays.org) or link to the races at LOWA's website, [www.sosLOWA.org](http://www.sosLOWA.org).

**Water Quality – Greg Stoner** – The 4<sup>th</sup> season of the DNR LOZ E. coli Cove Study is underway and going smoothly. The first sample set from June 1 came back with only one high count and the second sample set was taken today. Results of this study can be found linked to the LOWA website at [www.sosLOWA.org](http://www.sosLOWA.org). (Greg is a Fisheries Biologist for MDC and has an office down Thunder Mountain Road in Camdenton)

**Wastewater – Jim Rogers** – LOWA is facilitating the development of a 4 County Wastewater Task Force and Jim Rogers and Warren Witt (of AmerenUE) will be co-chairs. The Task Force has had its first organizational meeting and one of the first goals is to determine how we will approach this here at the Lake. Elected officials will be asked to head this committee/task force and there will be 4 quarterly meetings with a meeting in each of the 4 counties surrounding the Lake, Benton, Camden, Miller, and Morgan. In between the quarterly meetings, task force committees will meet and work. The two co-chairs will coordinate these efforts and keep things going in the Task Force. Two of the several committees that will be needed are one to determine what kind of legal vehicle is needed and one to function as a political liaison committee. The Task Force is still looking for many volunteers to help. The Lake needs to get sewage treatment all around its shoreline and it needs to begin now. (Jim has Realty Executives in Laurie and donates an office with all the accouterments to LOWA.)

**Recycling – Gaye Belloir** – LOWA hosted a very successful field trip for the 5<sup>th</sup> graders from School of the Osage to the recycling center in Lebanon at Laclede Industries. Water quality monitoring and an interactive watershed activity was also part of their field trip. Over 150 students and 7 teachers participated, along with 9 LOWA volunteers. The Recycling Committee is also working on bringing another Household Hazardous Waste Reclamation Day to the Lake area. More on that later. The Osage Beach WalMart provides recycling bins for the public to use in their front lobby, open 24/7. They will accept all paper and plastics but no metal and no glass. (Gaye was the driving force behind of the recycling opportunities at the Osage Beach WalMart.)

**Education/Outreach – Cathy Jackson** – We need volunteers willing to help out at LOWA booths and tables during the various festivities and fairs around the Lake area throughout the year. We will be coming out with a schedule of fairs and events that LOWA will be present at soon. Even an hour or two can be a big help. Please volunteer to help LOWA at the LOWA website, [www.sosLOWA.org](http://www.sosLOWA.org) or sign up at any meeting. (Cathy is the Spanish Instructor at Climax Springs R-IV Schools.)

**Stream Team – Caroline Toole** – The Lake of the Ozarks actually does qualify for the Stream Team program and LOWA is Stream Team 3215. We are looking for sites around the Lake where streams and tributaries empty into the Lake and we would like to do some water quality monitoring events at those sites. LOWA also needs volunteers to help out at the water quality monitoring events. Please contact LOWA or Caroline if you are interested at [ckingtoole@yahoo.com](mailto:ckingtoole@yahoo.com) or sign up at any meeting. (Caroline is Stream Team 313, with sites near Climax Springs on the Little Niangua.)

**LOWA LILs – Kathy Fayant** – LILs stands for Low Impact Landscaping and is all about reducing the amount of runoff reaching the Lake. Kathy is working with AmerenUE to develop a brochure on how plantings can affect water quality and Bryan Vance, with AmerenUE, will be presenting a talk on this subject and how AmerenUE's Shoreline Management Plan and the LOWA LILs work together at the LOWA July public meeting. In August, Sid Hime will present at the LOWA public meeting about Grow Natives! and the importance of utilizing native plants in landscaping. LOWA's

LOWA LILs program is based on the Healthy Yards for Clear Streams program, which will be presented during a series of workshops in March. In October, LOWA would like to participate with AmerenUE in some local landscaping and hardscaping projects to help with erosion. (Kathy is a Master Gardener and Master Naturalist and helps coordinate outreach programs for communities.)

Jim Gaughan with the Dept. of Health and Senior Services (the agency that oversees septic tanks less than 3000 gallons) was asked to address **Greywater and Composting Toilets: Will they work at the Lake?** There is no one answer. This depends entirely on the system involved and the site as to whether the existing system, when sewage is bypassed because of the composting toilet, will be able to treat the greywater effectively enough. Most of the treatment takes place in the soil so reducing human waste and total waste may allow the system and soil to effectively treat what's left (i.e., the greywater).

**LOWA Forum** – an opportunity for anyone to voice concerns, comments, or questions.

- Could LOWA include drinking water in its efforts? Yes, and LOWA does. Drinking water issues are addressed in education/outreach projects and LOWA has written a grant to try to determine if leaking and ineffective septic tanks might be polluting drinking water wells.
- How about gas dock pollution? There was a little bit of testing during the Governor's Blitz last fall. Using Dawn or other detergents to clean up a gas or oil spill in the Lake is terrible (and illegal), does not clean up the mess but simply drops it to the bottom of the lake, and produces toxic by-products. Marinas are supposed to know this and have a program to deal with gas and oil spills appropriately.
- We need to keep yard waste out of the lake. People see neighbors dumping big bags of leaves and debris into the lake. How can we emphasize that it is not allowed and why it is so bad? AmerenUE does try to educate the citizens around the Lake and once the Shoreline Management Plan (which does address this issue) is officially approved, that education program will be emphasized more. AmerenUE has put postcards in every mailbox with a website to try to educate people. One suggestion was to put an announcement on Lake32. (side note: Leaves and other organic debris decompose in the water and that adds more nutrients to the lake water. Nutrients include nitrogen and phosphorus and the Lake of the Ozarks is already on the 2010 draft of the List of Impaired Waters put out by the EPA in coordination with MO DNR. The Osage Arm is on the list for nitrogen and the Niangua Arm is on the list for phosphorus.)
- LOWA has written a Watershed Management Plan for the Lake of the Ozarks with focus area of Buck Creek and Lick Branch HUCs and the Plan has been accepted by EPA and MO DNR. This plan describes the watershed, the sources of impairments, and describes thoroughly several suggestions for programs to help with the impairment issues. The Plan can be viewed and downloaded at the LOWA website, [www.sosLOWA.org](http://www.sosLOWA.org).

This meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

These minutes were respectfully submitted by LOWA's Recording Sec'y, C. King Toole.

And approved for distribution by Donna Swall, LOWA Executive Director.