

**Lake of the Ozarks Watershed Alliance, Inc. (LOWA)**  
**August 15, 2011**  
**LOWA Public Meeting**  
**Inn at Grand Glaize, Osage Beach**

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm by LOWA President Christy Fera with a welcome and a round robin of introductions. Lake TV 32 broadcast tonight's meeting live.

Donna Swall, LOWA Executive Director then introduced tonight's first speaker.

**Joe Baisa, veteran marathon kayaker** and avid enthusiast spoke about the competitive and recreational aspects of kayaking. A person can start inexpensively by buying used, but quality, equipment. Many kayakers upgrade their equipment from time to time and Craig's List, EBay, and other online sources are often good ways to get kayaks and accessories at good prices. Starting with a smaller boat is also a good way to keep costs down at first.

There are many aspects to recreational paddling. Paddlers can sit on top or down inside a kayak. Some kayaks are made to be paddled and steered with one's feet, which can then leave the hands free for fishing or photography! With a kayak, exploring little inlets and creeks opens up whole new waters. But above it all, investing in a good paddler is very important and worth it. With a heavier paddle, you can't paddle for as long or go as far. Light weight paddles are made of carbon fibers or fiberglass and weigh as little as 23 – 31 ounces.

What kind of paddling you will be doing determines the type of boat you will want to get. The many different aspects of kayaking mean there will be many different types of kayaks to choose from. Going to discussion forums on websites like the one for the MR 340 (a long paddle race down the Missouri from KC to St. Louis), is a good way to ask questions about different kayaks, equipment, etc and get help from a large paddling community. The website is at [www.rivermiles.com](http://www.rivermiles.com), which, with the race, has helped bring a lot of attention to paddling in the Midwest. This website has lots of information about topics like equipment, hydration, training, and sports medicine and a chat/forum where you can ask question about all aspects of the sport.

The best way to get started is to get started. There are many different races out there, including the 2 Dam Days here at the Lake of the Ozarks. He and Eric paddled and floated along the State Park on the Grand Glaize Arm today and it was beautiful.

A sit-on-top kayak is traditionally a wider boat and a beginning boat. It is very stable and your feet are exposed. Enclosed kayaks, where your feet are covered, like in a traditional sea kayak, are the other major type of kayak. This type usually has foot holds inside.

One of 2 racing kayaks on display is 21 feet long and 17 inches wide and weighs around 30-35 pounds, which is on the heavy end.

The lighter the boat, the more expensive, but one can always buy used.

**Eric Verbosky – Marathon and Distance Paddling** – you probably need to be a little crazy to sign up for these marathons.

To participate in a marathon kayak race, have a plan! Research the entire body of water and get to know everything there is to know about that body of water. Have a map and a

gps. Have proper food and plenty of beverages to keep hydrated – energy bars, goo energy gel, and goo chomps is what Eric likes to take with him. Hydration is more than water – replace your lost electrolytes with something like Gatorade. Energy bars can replace electrolytes too. Use a life vest that breathes so you don't get too hot. Have a small hand pump to bailing water out of the boat (there is always the danger that rocks or debris could put a hole in your boat). Having a ground crew helps a lot too, especially on long paddles where you might not be getting adequate sleep. The ground crew makes sure you have enough food and water but also that you are well enough to continue. To be competitive, you often need to be used to and able to function under conditions of sleep deprivation.

Then practice. Go places and kayak – paddle. Start with smaller races – there are a lot of different races out there. For training – go out and paddle, 15-20 miles at a time – and get experience in your boat.

No swim – no learn. Be prepared to tip over and practice safely existing and getting back in your boat.

Two main types of paddles – a wing paddle uses more upper body rotation and a touring paddle involves more shoulder rotation. Wearing gloves while paddling can help. You might also want to get a “leash” for your kayak – something that attaches you to your kayak in case you tip over and get separated from your boat so that it won't float away from you.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Carroll Vogel – Lake Safety**

Carroll is also with the US Coast Guard Auxiliary here at the Lake of the Ozarks and is LOWA's liaison with the LOZ Water Safety Council. The WSC has come out with their new brochures and key chains for the Designated Captain program where restaurants and bars will provide a free non-alcoholic beverage for the driver of the boat to keep the drivers sober while piloting the boat. The brochure has an updated map and listing of all participating facilities around the lake (up to about the 66 mile marker).

The 2 Dam Days race will have several US Coast Guard Auxiliary vessels on the lake to be with the various racers, helping to keep the 2 Dam Days participants safe. 2 Dam Days needs more volunteers with boats all along the race way to be out there helping to slow the power boats down and keep the racers safe. Let LOWA know if you can help. Saturday, boats are needed from Truman Dam to Captain Ron's. Sunday, boats are needed from Captain Ron's to Bagnell Dam. All volunteers will be meeting before the race to coordinate efforts.

Call LOWA if you are interested – 573-434-4400. or go online to [www.soslowa.org](http://www.soslowa.org).

### **Greg Stoner – Water Quality**

Greg is LOZ's Fisheries Biologist and runs the MO Dept of Conservation office in Camdenton. We are in the 5<sup>th</sup> year of the 5-year E. coli Cove study at the Lake, sampling from around the 60 mm to Truman Dam. With July's results now in, the only high readings so far were at 3 sites in May.

A question was asked about Public Beach 2 in the Lake of the Ozarks State Park. MDC and MDNR have been discussing the goose situation. People feed the geese and this must stop. Landscaping the beach in such a way that the geese won't want to come up on the beach has been discussed too. Rounding up and removing the geese has also been discussed. Do geese come back to the same place they were born? They come back to the same vicinity.

### **Gaye Belloir – Recycling**

LOWA has now hosted 2 years of Household Hazardous Waste Reclamation Days and both have been tremendous successes. District T has okayed LOWA's grant for another HHW Day on April 28, 2012, again at the Camdenton High School parking lot and we are now waiting on final approval from Solid Waste in DNR. It's possible a permanent facility for disposing of HHW could be set up in Camden County.

### **Carolyn Solomon – Education Outreach**

LOWA welcomes Carolyn as the new Education Outreach Chair! Thank you, Carolyn! LOWA is looking for clubs, agencies, businesses, or anyone interested in having a booth at one or all three of LOWA's Clean Water Festivals at the 2 Dam Days Paddle Marathon Races on Sept 23-25, 2011. Non-profits can have a booth for free. For Profit groups and businesses the cost is \$50 for a booth at all 3 events! Call LOWA if you are interested – 573-434-4400. Or go online to [www.soslowa.org](http://www.soslowa.org).

LOWA also needs volunteers to help out at various festivals and fairs where LOWA has booths.

LOWA also needs individuals wanting to work with schools and teachers and in the classroom.

Call LOWA if you are interested – 573-434-4400. Or go online to [www.soslowa.org](http://www.soslowa.org).

### **Kathy Fayant – LOWA LILs (Low Impact Landscapes)**

LOWA's Trained Volunteer Evaluators (TVE) Program is underway. Volunteers have had one training session and more are planned. TVEs will be helping LOWA evaluate people's yards, condo projects, and properties for low impact landscaping that will help to keep storm water runoff from reaching and polluting the Lake. TVEs will also help with soil samples for soil tests and in interpreting the soil test reports. If you have a soil erosion issue at your place or storm water issues or if you'd like to learn more about LOWA LILs and Lake Protector Yards or if you'd like a soil test – please...

Call LOWA if you are interested – 573-434-4400. or go online to [www.soslowa.org](http://www.soslowa.org).

There are some difficult issues at the Lake and LOWA will be working closely with landscaping professionals to help. If you are a landscaping professional and you'd like to be part of the LOWA LILs Project, please call LOWA if you are interested – 573-434-4400. Or go online to [www.soslowa.org](http://www.soslowa.org).

The lake area will be seeing a workshop about Landscape Design with Missouri in Mind sometime late this winter as LOWA partners with Grow Native and MDC to host a workshop – Friday for landscaping professionals and Saturday for home owners and property owners. More information will be forthcoming on that.

### **Alice Walker – 2 Dam Days**

How can you get started? Pick a race to participate in, be a volunteer, or be a sponsor!

**Pick a race to participate in:**

**1. The 2 Dam Day Marathon Event** – 2 day paddle race beginning Saturday morning in Drake Harbor, stopping at Captain Ron’s Saturday and then picking back up and racing to Bagnell Dam on Sunday. Must complete both days.

3 Types of Marathon Event:

A. Unlimited Marathon: Unlimited with respect to boat specs. Guaranteed cash purse in all contested categories. Entry fee of \$150 per paddler.

B. Unlimited Masters Marathon: 50 and Over. Cash purse based on number of entries. Entry fee of \$100 per paddler.

C. Rule 3x27 Marathon: Rule 3x27 applies. Cash purse based on number of entries. Entry fee of \$100 per paddler.

**2. Adventure Series** – Need not complete both days. Cash purse based on number of entries. Entry fee of \$100 per paddler covers both days even if only one day is paddled.

Day 1: Holiday Hills to Captain Ron’s – 33 miles

Day 2: Captain Ron’s to El Capitan’s – 21 miles

**3. Just For Fun** – Saturday only. No cash purses. Entry fee of \$25 (or \$30 the day of the race).

A. Just 4 Fun Open – paddled canoes and kayaks - 12.5 miles from Halfway Inn to Captain Ron’s

B. Anything Goes – anything that floats and has no motor - 3 miles from Bear Bottom Resort to Captain Ron’s

**Be a volunteer!**

LOWA needs all kinds of volunteers for 2 Dam Days! You could:

- Be a checkpoint volunteer and help keep track of the different racers, when they come past a checkpoint, their times, etc.
- Volunteer on the water in your own boat or pwc – boats, etc are needed all up and down the lake on different days at different spots to help protect the racers as they go by.
- At LOWA’s booth at any one or all three of the Clean Water Festivals going along with the 2 Dam Days Paddle Marathon. Friday evening will be in Warsaw, Saturday will be at Captain Ron’s, and Sunday will be at the Bagnell Dam Strip.
- Be out on your dock and cheer on the racers as they come by on Saturday or Sunday.

**Be a Sponsor**

Your business can sponsor one of the races or a race division and have your business name displayed prominently on a banner at the Clean Water Festivals. Or you could simply sponsor a racer and put your logo on their boat to be displayed throughout the race. Or sponsor 2 Dam Days with a booth at the Clean Water Festivals and show the Lake what your business has to offer!

**Listen for the 2 Dam Days jingle and sing along!**

Paddle, paddle, paddle your boat  
Fearlessly down the lake!  
Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily  
Life is really great!

**LOWA Round Table**

Will there be a shuttle for race participants to get back to their cars? Yes!

Following are comments and questions from the audience at the meeting:

Causeway for Isla del Sol (used to be Hawaiian Island and then it was Atlantis Island). This is a private venture that wants to build a road (causeway) from the main shore to the island now called Isla del Sol to save costs of maintaining and operating a ferry. This will destroy exceptional and valuable fish habitat. Where is the impact report? They claim they will replace the fish habitat but the type that will be destroyed will not be able to be replaced and there is only one other place at the lake with similar fish habitat.

At a meeting in the past, 179 people opposed this project. What do we have available to us to oppose this project now?

People who bought understood accessibility when they bought. People here were against it. There's already been one death with a jet skier trying to access the dock area. And, there's already an accessibility issue to get in and out of that cove.

The taxation is confusing – many streets are still not paved.

They don't have enough people to be a CID (Community Improvement District).

They own the ramp for the ferry (and there are questions about that issue too) and they can't maintain the roads now? How long will they be able to maintain the causeway?

Wake is very strong in that area.

Docks are already blocking access to the cove and now they are going to put in a causeway that will block it even more. There are already ingress and egress issues.

The Bagnell Dam Special Road District was established on W-12 but that road district is broke and can't maintain the roads there already.

They say they'll pay for the causeway but there aren't enough people.

The end of W-12 is deeded to two people's property – then the people of Atlantis Island claimed to have exclusive rights to the ramp – when it belongs to two private individuals!

LOZ shouldn't have to suffer from a private company trying to finish their own project.

Miller County said they'd form a CID for the people that live on the island. What does this mean? Full time residents? Part-timers? And only they'll be able to vote. A NID (Neighborhood Improvement District) was used to build the road to the ramp. Miller County said they'd try to fix that road.

What about starting a precedent? Do we want other islands to get roads built out to them?

If the CID happens and the road goes through, who will fix the road to the ramp? It's in poor shape now.

Ameren worked with DNR and MDC on environmental impact. The biggest impact is recreational – especially for fishing. But if state agencies say it's acceptable, Ameren has to go with it. It must be backed by public funds because a private company could go bankrupt and leave a big unpaid bill or a mess for someone else to clean up.) A CID is considered a public entity.

The best route to take to stop the causeway is to convince Miller County the causeway is not in their best interest. Also, FERC has the last say, so individuals can send comments to FERC. Ameren submits according to what the agencies say. People can supply comments to FERC but first supply comments to Miller County because the causeway must be stopped, at this point, at the county level.

<http://www.isladelollakeozarks.com/causeway.php> shows an artist's rendering of the proposed causeway project that seems to show no relationship to the actual site.

The proposed causeway is also a huge safety issue – people won't be able to safely transport people on and off.

LOWA will provide a web page on which citizens can signify their position on the causeway issue, provide comments which will then be passed on to the Miller county commissioners, and directions on how to comment to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). That page can be reached by going to:

<http://soslowa.org/causewaysurvey.html>

If participants at tonight's meeting who have expressed their opposition to the causeway project will get it organized, LOWA has made the offer to host a public meeting on the matter.

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