

Lake of the Ozarks Watershed Alliance
Public Meeting
6:30 p.m., Monday, March 21, 2011
Sunrise Beach Fire Protection District Administration Building

President Christy Fera: Welcome and introduction of new officers: LOWA Board Vice President Tom Wilshire and new Corresponding Secretary Lee Stanley.
Introduce: Caroline Toole:

Caroline Toole: We are going to change the agenda and let the committee chairs report before talking about LOWA LILs and the 319 grant.

Committee Reports:

Alice Walker 2 DD: We had a great event last fall. It was the first year and now we know what were doing. The paddlers say they had a great time and they plan to come back this year. Thanks to a lot of people in local community especially the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary for their help. We already have 12 volunteer USCGA coming from out of state with 12 jet skis. We need volunteers with boats to help out coast guard. It's a long lake. We have added 2 divisions to this year's race: the 3x27 which just means there specs on the canoe, (at racers request). And then we have the over 50 and the can also get in on the marathon if they want to. We also added an Adventure race that is 34.5 and 20 miles long.

The Just 4 Fun paddle has no money prizes but we will award a ribbons or trophies to recognize those that participate. We also added a three mile Anything Goes: Anything you can paddle can go. We invited everyone to come and have fun and bring friends.

Wastewater: Jim Rogers: The 1st organizational meeting was in January. The commissioners planned to meet afterwards and had to cancel because of the snow storm. They did have a meeting 2 weeks ago. Jim introduced the commissioners to scientist who said if they can get the data they think they can and predict if there is going to be a problem and when the counties will get data together. The name of the element has changed from the 4-county wastewater task force the Clean Water Initiative. We need to see what the positives are out there if it proves were not going to have the problems when the baby boomers are here. We are changing direction and looking for volunteers. Jim introduced: Camden County Commissioner Kris Franken saying he was state certified for onsite septic.

Franken: DNR can do it fast. (we don't need help). Will you be out sampling?

Caroline: No not yet we are in final stages of which coves we will be focusing on we should start in May and test for a 20 week period (good more people will be here) How far up the lake? Caroline: The first 19 miles of the lake. What about the five year cove study?: That is a monthly sample of 13 coves in higher mile markers. This year the coves tested were on the 60 mm to 9 mm. They plan to test from Bagnell Dam to Truman Dam.

Rogers: A new Camden County Ordinance: Franken: If they suspect a system is not working they are no longer grandfathered in. Most of these in the health department who handle onsite septic systems have a good idea of who is not complying. They will be testing and if they are found lacking they will be required to make some changes.

Rogers: The only county that has an ordinance that allows them to go in and test. If you had your system in the ground before 1995 you were grandfathered in. After 1996 you have to have 130 ft of lateral line, 100 ft from a well, 10 feet from your neighbor and 50 feet from the lake. That is providing you have good soil. Who do you report to if you're aware of a problem?

Franken: The Wastewater Department in Camden County. The rest of counties you report the problem to the health department.

Starting to prosecute and they are getting stricter. Franken: e coli could run 60 to 100 week / Nitrogen and phosphorous more expensive. I'm working hard to put a program together to try to do that. If they are discharging into the lake failing onsite septic system: can they condemn? If you see someone that has onsite septic system malfunctioning make a complaint and we will dye test and if it shows it is stressed; they will get a registered letter stating their system does not meet criteria and they will be given 90 days to get an engineering report and another 60-90 days to build and correct the system. We have to do this to keep us out of liability. We have to give a fair and reasonable time frame to be sure that if someone tries to challenge us legally it will stand up in court. There is a new attitude in prosecutor's office that gives them teeth to take action that we have never had before the ordinance.

LOWA LILs: Kathy Fayant: We have had a busy winter and with the help of the Master Gardeners we have completed the 50/50 soil testing. Property owners can still get a \$2 discount on soil testing and have it done for \$13.

We found in the test we completed that 40 percent were low for phosphorous and 42 percent were high. 12 were at a healthy level for a lawn and they did not release excess phosphorus into the lake.

A Beautiful Yards for a Healthy Lake Workshop is scheduled Saturday, March 26th.

At the Lodge of the Four Seasons. This workshop is filled with 88 people. We will give property owners tips for healthy lawn care and how to keep the lake healthy. Virginia Smith with Prairie Hill Farm and Tiffany Rieman with Lake Area Industries will provide native plants. LAI Gifted Gardens greenhouse will carry native plants at the lake but won't be up and running for awhile.

We are in the process of planting a demonstration garden at Wilmore Lodge with Ameren Missouri. We are using native plants to control erosion.

My tip of the month is that it is the time of the year that if you have bald spots in your yard, you want to use compost, composting your leaves is good, put it on the compacted place and the seeds will have a chance to start.

Recycling: Gaye Belloir: Nancy Pope is co chair this year for our Second Annual Household Hazardous Waste Reclamation Day. Last year was a success. This year's event will be Saturday, April 30. Last year we helped 255 cars, 324 households. The Habitat for Humanity will take the old paint and recycle it for use in their homes.

This year we will also be offering an RX Take Back. The Camden County Sheriffs department will receive old prescriptions.

Water Quality: Greg Stoner; We are starting at the 61.5 mm to Warsaw. There are not as many coves as down in the lower 60. We are testing 13 coves with 7 teams. We could use a team of volunteers with a boat at the 83.5 mm on north side of the lake. We have 50 sample sights and each sample sight will be sampled monthly. Last year it was bi-monthly. This is the last year of this project.

Education Outreach: Cathy Jackson was unable to attend: Janet gave Caroline a list of the schools she has contacted and booths dates.

Caroline Toole:

Schools: We have done three educational outreaches at the Hurricane Deck Elementary School in Sunrise Beach at their outdoor classroom. We have four schools scheduled to do Earth Day projects: The School of the Osage, Camden Christian School, Lake West Christian Academy and Climax Springs. K through 12.

Booths:

We had a booth at the LOZ products and Services Show and we have plans to have an educational booth at the Dogwood Festival, the Oma and Noma Days, the Westlake Aquatic Center Event, the Shootout, the Osage Beach Fall Festival and the Warsaw Heritage Days. We are in need of volunteers in the class rooms at booths.

Speaking: We need volunteers to help with presentations to garden clubs and other organizations.

A Shoreline Clean Up: is scheduled April 1. We need six volunteers. We will meet at Bass Point Resort in Laurie 8 a.m. Friday, April 1.

Caroline: Grant: I am the LOWA recording secretary and I take take notes. I am also the LOWA Project Manager. I left teaching 2 years ago to help LOWA as an AmeriCorps Member with the Missouri Clean Water AmeriCorps program to get people to help watershed organizations.

I wrote a Watershed Management Plan and I wrote two \$1 million grants. You have to get a WMP approved and then submit the grant. DNR liked our grant a lot and we were approved for old 2008/2009 money. They asked us to take the 2 \$1 million grants and put it into one \$750,000 grant, which was hard to do.

LOWA LILs for a Healthy Lake of the Ozarks.

LOWA is partnering with the Missouri Master Naturalist, the Master Gardeners, the University of Missouri Extension, Prairie Hill Farms, Missouri Department of Conservation, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, The LAI Gifted Gardens, Lake TV, Ameren Missouri, Lake Media, and Realty Executives. We would not be here if it were not for our partners.

LOWA's Mission Statement: Citizens will preserve, protect and improve the LOZ, its watershed and natural resources, while maintaining our economic, social and environmental health.

Population is the issue, the first 19 miles of the lake is dense. We chose that as our focus area. We can keep our lake healthy.

Osage River Watershed has millions of acres. DNR asked us to narrow our focus down. 12 digit hucs = hydrologic unit codes, technical names, define these areas of land by these numbers. The focus area is made up of ridge tops and main highways. The WMP focus is in the first 19 miles of the Lick Branch huc and the Buck Creek huc. These are major creeks in our watershed area. These are our focus boundaries but we will still look at areas outside of our focus area.

What is a watershed: Land: that drains to a body of water such as a creek, river, lake or ocean. We all live in a watershed. The Mississippi water shed is largest watershed in North America.

The focus area: ridge top highways are also our major watershed boundaries.

Why do we care about watershed? Our lake is healthy; we want to keep it that way. In 1999 the James River overnight turned into pea soup and the tourist went home, too many nutrients were washing into the water. We care about property values, swimming in the lake and the economy. We like to learn from other peoples mistakes. Water treatment plants were mandated and they were very expensive. We want to keep regulations out. We are working with proactive effort to keep that from happening here at the LOZ.

In 1972 Congress passed the Clean Water Act: Rivers were actually catching on fire. Point source pollution: You could look at a pipe coming out of a factory and see what was happening.

This did not take care of everything because of runoff. In 1985 non-point source pollution: or urban suburban storm water runoff comes from many areas.

Bringing many types of sediment and too much bacterial and nutrients, we do need some nitrogen, phosphorus, algae. There are more fishing tournaments at lake than anywhere in the states. But where is the fine line between good fisheries and pea soup. We need to be careful about the phosphorus levels because we want good fishing and not pea soup. The first wash of runoff is the worst it picks up everything off the streets and lawns. We have to work to keep the first flush off the lake. We need to slow it down and help it to soak in keeping it out of the lake and still replenishing the aquifer for drinking water supply, keeping it recharged,

The number one pollutant is stormwater run off.

LOWA LILs Low Impact Landscape. Here is a picture of the typical lake home with a steep slope and not much soil.

Rain Gardens: We want to plant native perennials, and dig in a depression and fill it full of well composted soil that will absorb moisture with roots that will break through the clay subsoil and will go down deep and withstand droughts. Plants that are acclimatized to this area, that needs less fertilizer. They will be beautiful and take care of run off.

A four tiered set of rain gardens. LOZ is different than other places we are going to become a model for the rest of the country, this is the start. We will attract hummingbirds and butterflies and use a variety of different colors and textures.

Rain barrels catch the water coming off the roof. Roofs are impervious surfaces. Water comes off roof and fills up a couple of rain barrels and you can use this water to water plants by attaching a hose at the bottom.

Gifted gardens will be building rain barrels and hope to get the school shop to build them also. We would like to offer a rain barrel art contest next year as a fundraiser.

Infiltration systems, vegetated buffer strips, vegetated channels, terracing, pervious pavement, riparian zone, channels are other practices that will stop rain water runoff; We can channel water with big rocks that slow water down and put plants in with deep rooted perennials. Pervious pavements: paver stones where the water can go through them. This is a surface that allows the water to go through. We have a list of companies that are experience and certified to put in these kind of practices that let's water go through instead of running off.

Soil Tests: 50/50 testing. If you're thinking about planting, get a test instead of buying fertilizer. LOWA has developed a nutrient management plan. We will help you understand your soil test results and we will help you plan your rain garden and vegetated channels. The LOWA LILs program will work with anyone around lake to help reduce runoff. The University of Missouri Extension will do tests for \$13, a \$2 discount.

Pump Out program: We have offered a pump out program in the past with little grant. We will teach why you need to pump out septic tank. We will contract with a reputable company and get a pump out discount.

Pump don't dump: Some actually empty their holding tank in the lake. Please take the extra time and go to pump station and get your holding tank pumped out properly. Law enforcement agencies say if the head does not have lock on it the boater can get fined.

Monitoring: The Lakes of Missouri Volunteer Program measures nutrients and clarity in the main channel. We do not do eColi testing. We have been testing for 20 years and we have some good data.

Ameren Missouri talked about the water testing.

MDNR: LOZ cove studies is in the 5th year in the coves only ecoli

Stream Team: We care because they flow into the lake. Has caught a couple malfunctioning treatment plants and has done a lot of good. Caused problem because of the media and educating the public, it is hard to undo a misconception we are trying to undo misconceptions.

The grant is looking at nutrients as well as eColi focused in coves.

2 Dam Days: We will be showcasing the Lake of the Ozarks to the nation. No matter what your level there is a place for you. Need volunteers.

Forum: Questions / Comments:

What about junk vehicles? When it rains you get oil and grease into the lake why doesn't Camden County make people get rid of these? In Osage Beach if your neighbor doesn't like what your yard looks like they report and you have to clean it up.

Franken: We do have a nuisance ordinance. You have to get the prosecutor involved. Now would be a good time to report the problem because wastewater is slow due to low construction.

Meeting adjourned