

**Lake of the Ozarks Watershed Alliance**  
**Central Bank, Laurie**  
**11/13/07 General Minutes**  
**(as revised 11/25/07)**

LOWA Executive Director Donna Swall called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Introductions were made round robin. As a reminder of what LOWA is all about, Donna Swall then presented LOWA's Mission Statement: Citizens will preserve, protect, and improve the Lake of the Ozarks, its watershed, and natural resources while maintaining our economic, social, and environmental health. This statement was developed by citizens 1 ½ years ago, when LOWA was just forming.

**Captain Matt Walz** opened the meeting with a discussion of the Water Patrol's proposal to Ameren UE's Shoreline Management team about boat, dock, and slip sizes, and how they relate to safety at the Lake of the Ozarks (LOZ). The Water Patrol voiced concerns over two of the most common complaints at LOZ, over congestion and too large wakes from large boats. Captain Walz explained that the Water Patrol has been trying to address these issues through the Missouri state Congress with legislation. However, Ameren's Shoreline Management Plan is really a much better vehicle for these kinds of regulations. The Water Patrol does not want people to stop coming to the Lake, but also do not want to "shrink" the Lake by too many large docks and too many large boats. So, the Water Patrol is proposing to reduce the maximum size of docks so that large docks don't shrink the waterways and this keeps the navigation channels open. Reducing the maximum boat slip sizes to a 50' slip size for private docks and a 60' slip size for marinas would also encourage people to buy boats of a more acceptable size for LOZ. In addition, the Water Patrol (WP) recommends reducing the maximum dock length size from the current 350' , to 200'. Ameren has adjusted their plan to support these issues.

*As an addendum, Bryan Vance of AmerenUE says, "We have not adopted the changes exactly as outlined in Matt's initial request. After meeting with the dock builders, developers, marine dealers and the Water Patrol, Ameren has adjusted the proposal to state that the maximum slip size for any dock is 60' and for main channel locations the maximum dock length is 350' or 50% of the channel plus the no wake zone must remain open for navigation. The Water Patrol is supportive of this modification, since it sets a limit on slip size where one did not exist. The max dock length is also a reduction in size in those locations where the main channel is not wide enough to accomplish the goal of leaving 50% open. However, the Water Patrol wanted to wait for final comment on these proposals until the public meetings are finished."*

**The Shoreline Management team** is waiting to hear public input at the end of November before finalizing the reports and plans. These issues are all up for discussion. The WP feels that instead of getting bigger and bigger boats and letting things get out of control, start now to turn the corner and maybe even begin downsizing. The WP looks at it from a public safety and damage aspect. They want to see public discussion (rather

than legislation) and they want to work within the Shoreline Management Plan (SMP). They realize that we must look at all sides and think about the people who have already purchased very large boats. Captain Walz commented that marina dealers have been at the SMP planning meetings and the marina dealers felt that just one length would be better than two different lengths and that 60' might be okay.

A question was asked to Captain Walz about whether he thought there was any chance for the legislators to pass an alcohol limit for boaters through the legislature this year and he said that it was too early to tell yet. However, a proposal before the Missouri state legislature is the 30/300 rule. Right now, boats have to slow down to idle speed within 100' of a dock. The 30/300 rule proposes that boats over 30' long slow down to idle speed within 300' of a dock. **Captain Walz encourages people to contact their state legislators to let them know how they feel about this law.** Another question was how many calls did the WP receive about damage from wakes? He replied that there are 55 complaints from this summer (and that a person could find this information on the Water Patrol's website). However, Captain Walz explained, the statistics may be poor because it depends on how the dispatcher records information coming in.

One person asked why it was so difficult for dock owners to get a no wake/idle buoy for their area. Captain Walz explained that too many buoys are not good because they clutter up a cove. He said that if a cove is more than 400' wide, the WP will not approve a no-wake cove and that individual buoys in front of docks cause a lot of confusion because docks are not all the same length and then the cove ends up with a zigzag line of buoys that is confusing to boaters. The WP would prefer to get rid of no-wake buoys except for in the no-wake coves and use signs instead. No-wake buoys are not navigation buoys and they just tend to clutter the Lake when they get too numerous. There is already a law that says boats need to be at no-wake idle within 100' of a dock anyway. The 30/300 law will also help with less of a need for no-wake buoys and will also cut down on the large wakes that have been damaging docks.

**A special committee within the Water Patrol is being formed to look into the buoy situation.** Lots of confusion exists at present about the laws and buoys. If someone sees a boat going too fast near a dock, they should call the Water Patrol and report it with a boat number. The phone number to report the incident is: **573-751-3333**. A last question concerned whether the WP will be getting more officers for the Lake of the Ozarks? Yes, there are 2 new officers coming on, but one other officer is in the National Guard and is being deployed so this summer there will only be one additional officer. LOWA will post information about regulations, docks, etc, on their website at [www.soslowa.org](http://www.soslowa.org).

**Bryan Vance, of Ameren UE**, was next on the agenda and spoke about Ameren's draft Shoreline Management Plan. At the very start he acknowledged that boat sizes and slip sizes are a very important issue, and then presented an overview of the history of the Lake of the Ozarks. Next was a more detailed chronological sequence of events leading to the present draft version of the Shoreline Management Plan, which is part of the relicensing procedure for operating Bagnell Dam as a power generator that Ameren UE

has been going through for the last 4-5 years. Many of the controversies that have arisen over the last few years have been part of this whole process and the public input to Ameren has been incorporated, in part, within this document. This draft version will be presented to the public at the end of November during 4 town meetings. **On November 26<sup>th</sup>, the first meeting will be at the Benton Co. Community Center, then on the 27<sup>th</sup> at the Versailles library, on the 28<sup>th</sup> the meeting will be at the Eldon Community Center and on the 29<sup>th</sup>, the Osage Beach City Hall will host the final meeting.** Dock sizes and slip sizes will be discussed and will be included as an appendix guideline document that can be amended without FERC approval. FERC is the federal agency regulating hydroelectric generating plants. The document can be viewed online at ameren.com and LOWA's website will have a link as well. Current guidelines are also on Ameren's website. Click on environment and then on the left side of the screen will be a menu. New to this Shoreline Management Plan are:

The 10 slip dock proposal, with commercial or >10 slips needing to be reviewed by FERC, be changed to allowing Ameren to review dock proposals for up to 50 slips per project, with a forward to FERC, and more than 50 slips going directly to FERC. Dock location, size, and separation from environmentally sensitive areas requirements have been removed, but dredging restrictions are still in there. Every application will have an on-site visit by Ameren to make a decision about what can and cannot be done at that site. Ameren would like to have a dredging management plan in the SMP and will be presented to FERC. Now, any dredging must be approved by FERC. Ameren would also like to see address posting for docks. The WP and fire districts have requested this to allow for a more rapid response time. Allowing registration of any properties or structures that have been built on Ameren's property has been addressed.

Ameren wants to revitalize their breakwater guidelines in part because they have been receiving many more requests for breakwater structures. All main channel dock lengths must keep 50% of the channel open plus inclusion of no-wakes.

A question was asked if the number of commercial docks that could be put in a cove is going to be limited and Bryan Vance said there were no limits for density in the guidelines. He said planning and zoning could address density issues. Ameren's area of control is elevation based. Another question was asked about sea wall construction and Ameren requires 3-5' of erosion before they'll allow a sea wall to be built. Rip-rap is their preferred method of shore erosion control because rip-rap gets rid of the wave by eliminating the bouncing back of the waves and they feel rip-rap is more environmentally friendly. A last question concerned spraying for mosquitoes at the Lake. The backs of coves still get sprayed for mosquitoes twice a year because that's really the only place mosquitoes can breed at the Lake. The whole Lake does not get sprayed.

After a short break were the **committee updates**. Committees are where the real work of LOWA takes place and presently, LOWA needs volunteers to help coordinate efforts and activities in the Education/Outreach committee.

First up for Committee Updates was Jerry Walker, LOWA webmaster, with web survey results about whether dock and slip sizes should be regulated. 97 said yes to regulations and 64 said no to regulations. Some had suggestions as to what could be done, with many good comments. Yes, there is still time to fill out the survey. This is your chance to have input. No Internet access? LOWA's address is: LOWA PO Box 836 Sunrise Beach, MO 65079. Remember – Our Lake One Voice. Complete results will be posted on LOWA's website and a copy will be given to Ameren for their use.

Searly Nicoli, Chair of Lake Safety, spoke next. The Designated Captain Program (in conjunction with the Lake Safety Council) was to have kicked off during the Harbor Hop but, unfortunately, the floating Captain's key chain order did not arrive in time. Even so, the program has signed up several participants and anyone signing up will receive a map of participating establishments, the key chain, and a decal for their boat to help identify them as participating in the Designated Captain program. The DC's will receive complementary non-alcoholic beverages from participating establishments. Response from the restaurants has been very positive. The spring Harbor Hop will see this program roar into life! 2500 brochures and postcards will go out to participants and the goal is to sign up 1000 boats for the Designated Captain program. Lake Safety Council printed the maps and decals and is responsible for the billboard safety campaign this past spring and summer. Since the Designated Captain program is considered non-educational, most grant monies LOWA is eligible for will not apply so LOWA is seeking private donations to help fund this very worthy program. A suggestion was made that perhaps donation cans could be placed at boat shows, marinas, and boat dealer establishments to help promote the program.

**Also concerning safety is the boat size issue.** Other lakes have limited boat size and LOWA would like to research this issue to see what, if any, economic effects resulted from limiting boat size. Anecdotally, limiting boat size seems to help because it brings back the families that large boats push out. Lake safety is a primary concern, but LOWA is aware of maintaining a healthy Lake economy. Does anyone have any knowledge on this issue?

**Recycling** – Linda Kimrey chair, Donna Swall reporting. Monofilament recycling bins are waiting for volunteers to install them at two marinas that have returned permission letters. A spot is needed in the Laurie/Gravois Mills area to put some recycling bins. A grant has been written, but we need a spot. Also, a spot between Camdenton and Osage Beach is needed where recycling bins can be placed for that part of the Lake community.

**Stream Team** – Caroline Toole reporting. A rock quarry near Woodriver Rd. has applied for permission to operate. Magruder Limestone applied to the DNR for a permit to mine over 200 acres on Woodriver Rd. for 100 years. The property is located directly surrounding the Sewer Plant. The director of DNR has given an initial approval, but the Land Reclamation Board has not given final approval. Area citizens opposed to the rock quarry operation going in attended a day long meeting in Jefferson City and were granted a hearing to address the issue before a permit is issued. The opposing group feels that if the quarry is approved to mine, they can expect blasting and possible damage to buildings

and wells, as well as rock dust in the air, heavy truck traffic damaging an already poor road, damage to the sewer treatment plant, noise from blasting and trucks, and property values to go down. This group wants the DNR to know that a quarry in this residential neighborhood is not acceptable. Numbers matter to them so everyone who can is encouraged to attend the next meeting to show that this community is united in the effort to stop this quarry operation. **There will be a prehearing conference Tuesday, Nov 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at Osage Beach City Hall.** For more information, please call Nancy Viselli at 302-2000.

**Water Quality – the Pump-Out Program** is still alive but stalled temporarily. LOWA is still taking more sign-ups from Camden Co. This program is designed to create awareness within the Lake area of the need to keep a septic tank pumped out. When the septic tank fills, water stops getting filtered and treated and the unfiltered septic water just flows into the surrounding bedrock and travels through cracks untreated. In this area, a home owner won't see any signs that the septic tank is full or have any trouble flushing. Tanks should be pumped every 3-5 years.

**Lake District Plan** – Bob Broz reporting. The plan is a crucial step for LOWA in terms of being able to apply for much needed grants, but even more so, this document will be invaluable to municipal and local governments and organizations as they plan for their futures. LOWA hopes to make this a living, usable document.

Donna Swall report on her presentation to Regform, a lawyer group concerned with, among other things, water quality at the Lake of the Ozarks. While we say we have a clean, healthy lake, this summer's cove testing program has shown us all that our Lake can be and is being stressed. We, as a community, are trying to come up with a good way to grow. **The Lake of the Ozarks is not now on the 303d Impaired Waters List**, so LOWA cannot apply for several very high dollar grants, but we don't want to be on that list of impaired waters! However, at the Regform conference, Donna and Bob were told that in January, it **will be considering recommending that the Lake be put on that list.** The main issue with LOZ and the impaired waters list is what's called nutrient loading, i.e., too much food for algae showing up in the lake's waters. People need to be aware that their actions do affect the Lake. The way that construction is proceeding around the Lake has effects and even the type of detergents we use have a great effect on the Lake. Algae, when it grows too much, can be not only very unsightly and smelly, but algae blooms can cause fish kills and even put out toxic chemicals. Here at the Lake of the Ozarks, the water is fairly nutrient rich and supports healthy populations of not only algae, but also other tiny creatures that all act as the base of a food chain that culminates in the fine game fish that attract so many fishermen to the Lake of the Ozarks. One nutrient that algae needs is not as abundant as the other nutrients so algae at the Lake is kept somewhat under control at present. That one nutrient is the mineral phosphorus (usually in the form of a mineral salt called phosphate). More phosphorus in the water allows for more algae to grow. Detergents, like laundry detergents and electric dishwasher detergents, tend to have a lot of phosphates. That means that we here at the Lake of the Ozarks need to start watching our use of phosphate-

rich detergents. There are detergents in the stores that are phosphate-free. You have to read the labels and look for them. But won't you feel so much better using phosphate-free detergents knowing that you are doing your part in preventing algae blooms at the Lake of the Ozarks? If the Lake of the Ozarks were to be put on the 303d list of impaired waters, some restrictions in how the lake is used could result. Since the lake is used for whole body contact at present, that is one use that could be restricted. Once on the list, there is a minimum of 5 years to get off the list assuming you can correct everything that put you on the list to begin with. They may say no more building within 500' of the Lake. They may say no more septic tanks unless they are an approved system. But before we start panicking, be aware that there must be several public meetings before a body of water can be placed on that list, and many different agencies must examine and have input on the issue. However, we are a society of perception. The media picks up a news item and the ripple effects can be devastating. For example, this summer when monthly results of the testing for bacteria in the coves was being reported, news reports would tell of the one high result but not mention that rest that were fine. In these times of the short sound bite, news is not always put in its proper perspective and misconceptions can easily arise. Misconceptions are very difficult to undo. In the 70's and 80's, LOZ was showing high nutrient levels and at that time that culprits were major agricultural areas (hog farms) upstream. There is money out there for farmers who want to implement more environmentally-friendly (and cost-effective!) practices but many farmers do not see their activities as impacting something as distant as the Lake. Watersheds show us that water can flow and impact areas far away, which points to the need to protect an entire watershed. Nutrient loading doesn't just come from one source. Nonpoint source pollution can come from many different sources. We need to remember that the Lake of the Ozarks watershed really reaches to the middle of Kansas.

Water Quality – Greg Stoner, chair, will be putting together new teams for the upcoming season of water quality testing in the coves at LOZ. He hopes many volunteers will stay on to lend their expertise and for consistency.

Shoreline Clean Up – Ginny Stroger. The Sunrise Beach Condos have said ok to putting up a LOWA Shoreline Adoption sign. In order to organize for the spring shoreline clean up campaign in April, LOWA will have a working meeting (no guest speakers) in January, TBA.

These minutes respectfully submitted by C. King Toole, LOWA Recording Secretary.