

Lake of the Ozarks Watershed Alliance (LOWA) General Meeting Willmore Lodge 9-17-07 6:30 pm

After a brief introduction by LOWA Executive Director, Donna Swall, introductions were made round robin. A thanks went out to some of the area's media, WestSide Star, LakeSun Leader, and KRMS radio have all been very supportive of LOWA's efforts and LOWA thanks them tremendously.

Seary Nicoli – **Lake Safety** committee and Lake Safety Council reported on their Designated Captain/Captain On Board program to help reduce alcohol-related accidents at the Lake of the Ozarks. This program will be launched at Harbor Hop and various area restaurants will be giving Designated Captains free soft drinks to help keep pilots alcohol-free. Names and addresses of participating establishments will be available in a brochure, boats will receive a decal for their boat saying they will have a sober captain, and establishments will have a decal on their door. So far, 2000 cards have gone out. People will get a packet when they sign up for the Harbor Hop on October 13th. The key is to get people to sign up and this will be an on-going campaign. Establishments will sign up for a year at a time. In addition, LOWA hopes this program will raise awareness for safety, wearing life jackets, and having a sober captain. LOWA will be starting with 1000 keychains and plans to keep printing and expanding this program.

People who wish to donate to this program specifically can contact LOWA. The more key chains we can purchase, the more we can build the program. A decal for the boat helps to remind the boat owner to designate a captain.

Carol Lee Prosser – **membership** has added 3 levels: Platinum - \$25,000+, Gold - \$10,000, and Watershed - \$5,000, in addition to the other levels, including a kid's level (bucket). Members bring not only their expertise, energy, and advice, but also money to help sustain ongoing programs.

Bacteria Testing – **Greg Stoner** Committee chair. Scott Robinett of MO DNR, and lead scientist of the Cove Testing Program, reported. This Cove Testing Program is a 5 year study and October 9th concluded the sampling and testing for this first season. The program monitored 120 sites this year, starting at Bagnell Dam and working up river for a couple of miles. Next season will incorporate a few of this year's sites, but will be focusing on a new set of sites further up river from this first set. September's sampling showed 3 samples out of 62 samples with bacterial counts higher than the standard of 126 counts per 100 mL of water, and October had none. Please go to the LOWA website at www.soslowa.org for more complete information. Lakes of Missouri Volunteer Program also has data on this bacterial study, as well as water quality data on all of the lakes in Missouri, including Lake of the Ozarks, from their water quality monitoring program at www.lmvp.org. A lot of confusion exists about *E. coli*, the bacteria being studied in the Cove Testing Program. One high reading is really just a warning of a possible problem. One high reading does not make a problem, which is why studies are set up for multiple testing and sampling times. This program is a general survey of conditions at the Lake of the Ozarks. Four coves this year had greater than or equal to 1 spot of concern. This came to, in total, 8 samples out of more than 300 samples that showed more than the standard of 126 counts per 100 mL of water. The running average for all samples so far is less than 27 counts. Warnings are issued for public swim beaches only. The Lake is moving water and thus changes constantly. All summer long, 2 samples per week are

taken at each public beach in state parks by the park naturalists (totally separate from the Cove Testing Program described above) and when samples are high, beaches can be closed and other tests are initiated. Their protocol looks at averages over the weeks and they do not react on one sampling.

Next year, the sampling for the Cove Testing Program will probably be May-Oct, again, with new sites moving up the Lake. New testing crews will be needed. Contact LOWA for more information if you are interested in being part of the sampling crews for next year. There will be a summary of this season's data coming out soon. The first summary will be out in late October and more analyses in December.

David Morgan – Waste Water has received the first \$5000 and has 50+ people signed up for the Pump Out Program. If you know of a group of house owners in one area that are interested, please have them contact LOWA. In order to make the discount economically feasible for the pumping companies, the pump outs for the day should be in the same area (preferably even the same road) to cut down on driving expenses. This year, Camden County is the focus and in upcoming years, the other counties of the 4-County Lake District, Miller, Morgan and Benton Counties, will receive the focus, and need to start organizing. The average cost for a home owner will be \$75.00 and this price reflects both a discount from the pumping company and a discount from LOWA. There is also an educational component to the Pump Out Program. Some home owners have agreed to let their pump out and septic system become a visual display for the public so that everyone can gain an awareness about how important proper maintenance of a septic tank is and how the whole system is supposed to work. LOWA is still looking for a few more volunteers for this aspect of the program. LOWA's Pump Out brochure is the first of its kind in the Lake area and features a map showing boat owners and RV owners where they can Pump and/or Dump.

Caroline Toole – Stream Team has a water quality monitoring day coming up on October 13th. Discover Our Niangua Rivers Day at Bennett Spring near Lebanon. Open to everyone with an interest in streams. After all, where does the water that fills the Lake of the Ozarks come from? That water comes from our rivers and creeks, so we need to take care of the sources of the Lake, as well as the Lake.

Christy Fera – Education/Outreach is in dire need of help. Are you willing to represent LOWA at an area Festival or Fair or Tournament? Help spread awareness about good stewardship for our Lake of the Ozarks and volunteer with the Education/Outreach committee. The Education/Outreach committee also wants volunteers to help put out a newsletter (maybe quarterly?) from LOWA similar to the newsletter put out by the James River Basin Partnership). And finally, we are very open to suggestions for future guest speakers and we are in the process of brainstorming ideas for a LOWA t-shirt design. Any ideas? Please go to the LOWA website at www.soslowa.org and click on Christy Fera's name or on the Education/Outreach link. The next part of the meeting was for public comments and questions and one suggestion for a guest speaker was Angie Corson from the MO Dept of Conservation in Sedalia about Stream Dynamics and low water crossings.

Finally, the meeting adjourned to committee meetings.

The next LOWA meeting will be in November TBA.

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