Lakes Committee
Meeting Minutes – April 13, 2016

• Attendees: Charlie Hartmann, George Maxey, Peter Trabant, Len Dombrowski, Joanne Pegler, George Parker, Jeff Meek, John Garison, Bill Goodwin, Craig Schilling, Don Langston, Bob Trowbridge, Katy Harmon, Brad Meredith, Jason Temple, Bob Cunningham, David Childs, Horace Potter, Lloyd Barber, and Greg Gillis

• Horace Potter and Bill Goodwin were introduced as new Committee members replacing Peter Trabant and Don Petersen. In addition, Charlie Hartmann, Rob Bowers, and Len Dombrowski were re-elected to their Committee positions of chairman, vice chairman, and secretary, respectively.

• George Parker, POA Board member, stood in for John Weidert as Board liaison at this meeting. He mentioned that the DeSoto Club is targeted to reopen at end of May. Plans to build the JFK 2-lane bypass from highway 5/7 toward highway 270 are continuing. There will be a vote soon to approve a 5/8% Garland County sales tax to help fund the highway, but the tax would replace a sales tax of the same amount which will be expiring, so the proposal would be no net tax increase. If approved, the target date for highway completion would be 2022.

• Jason Temple stated that mowing or controlled burning at all Village dams except for Segovia (limited access there) is completed.

• Jason mentioned that all Village dams had safety inspections. There are small seepage areas at DeSoto and Balboa which are normal and not a concern, and he is seeking bids for 2017 dam repairs at Isabella and Estrella.

• Brad Meredith stated that new lake-info sign installation will start this week. Also, the custom-built electro-shock boat was delivered and was $2K under budget. Fish census work will begin next week with a plan of shocking lakes 3 nights per week. Brad will need helpers for this work and is looking for shoreliners, college students, or POA staff to volunteer.

• Brad mentioned that the new Lake Managers’ office/lab is finished (within the Balearic fire station building) and he and Katy Harmon plan to have an open house soon to show off the new facility.

• Lake-use fee collection at the lake boat ramps has totaled about $800 over the first 6 weeks and Brad and Katy have been doing the fee collection and accounting duties. This work needs to be off-loaded to others so that Brad and Katy can resume other management duties. A plan for this needs discussion.

• There was a brief discussion about phosphorus testing in the Isabella sediment and Isabella watershed (to support a plan to block sediment phosphorus and reduce algae blooms with a treatment of alum in the lake). Jason mentioned that sediment tests results from the 2014 Isabella dredging could be reviewed to augment any new sediment tests, and Brad agreed to check with the Isabella golf course manager to time watershed testing to coincide with the first rainfall after golf course fertilization which might be a source of phosphorus into the lake.
• Brad summarized a discussion he had with an Arkansas Fish and Game manager. They concluded that introducing trout into the deeper Village lakes would not be cost effective (a similar effort at Bella Vista costs $14K per year and the water is too warm for the fish to thrive). Instead, they discussed introducing Thread Fin fish which will thrive here, particularly in our smaller lakes with higher algae levels, and make excellent forage fish for bass.

• Brad mentioned that he has contacted a local supplier about obtaining cedar trees that can be put into Village lakes to improve fish habitat. He also discussed some work he and Katy are doing to write a “violation policy” document with rules for how to enforce lake-access fee purchases and other lake regulations.

• All boat ramp parking areas will soon be re-graded.

• Lake water clarity and depth measurements are supposed to be done weekly by shoreliner volunteers. However, the measurements have been somewhat spotty so Brad will write up a request for additional data-taker volunteers and have it published in the Voice.

• Brad, Katy and Charlie will draft a buoy relocation policy document to send up to POA management and the POA board for approval.

• Charlie reported that he got agreement to create a Lakes Committee website which will be maintained by POA staff. The website is targeted to be operational by mid summer.

• Brad and Katy and a few volunteers will be addling geese eggs at all lakes to lower the goose population (geese are significant water polluters). This requires oiling eggs in nests every week for about 6 weeks.

• Volunteers from the HSV Anglers, Bait Casters, and Kayak clubs have offered to help Brad and Katy with lake projects. To start, Brad is hoping to get help with the electro shocking fish census project mentioned earlier, but will work with these clubs to identify other projects where the volunteers can help out.

• Don Langston mentioned that there are fishing contests planned at Lake Balboa for April 23 and May 19. The later is for active duty military personnel utilizing many boats so the Balboa boat ramp will be closed to general access the morning of 5/19. Brad will post signs at the ramp about this schedule and announce it via an E-blast.

• The next Lakes Committee meeting is scheduled for May 11.