Lakes Committee
Meeting Minutes – May 11, 2016

- Attendees: Charlie Hartmann, George Maxey, Peter Trabant, Len Dombrowski, Joanne Pegler, John Weidert, Jeff Meek, Bill Goodwin, Bob Trowbridge, Katy Harmon, Brad Meredith, Bill Staggs, Bob Cunningham, Horace Potter, Lloyd Barber, Greg Gillis, and Maxine Klein

- Charlie Hartmann introduced Bill Staggs as the new HSV Director of Public Works with jurisdiction over lakes. Bill is replacing Jason Temple who remains as Director of Public Utilities.

- John Weidert provided an update on topics from the POA Board meeting. He mentioned that there will be no more unsightly foliage spraying near utility poles/wires. The empty Fuel Stop building on Balearic is being considered for a Police training simulator which would be used for tactical judgment and firearms training (but no live-fire capability), for use primarily for all State police departments. POA assessment collections have improved in 2016 and roadside mowing will be increased this year to 500 miles (up from 400 miles in 2015). John also mentioned that regulations for resident-owned buoys and duck decoys in our lakes will be discussed at next month's Board meeting.

- Brad Meredith reported that the fish census was completed on Estrella, Sophia, and Isabella. So far they have tallied more big largemouth bass and big sunfish in these lakes than last year, with an exception of Lake Estrella where no large bass were found. He and Katy will complete the census on all lakes as soon as possible and provide a final report. Brad also mentioned that the new electro-shocking boat is very stable and the shocking equipment on it is very powerful to accommodate the different conductivity levels found in our lakes. Bill Goodwin suggested that the census and how it will evolve for improving the fishery management at our lakes needs to be publicized so that Village residents can appreciate the work. Charlie advised it will be placed on the Lakes Website when the website is completed.

- Brad mentioned that over $1100 from lake-access fees have been collected so far this year but five lock boxes were vandalized recently and money stolen. Brad will be installing more robust locks on all the lock boxes shortly.

- Brad reported that he and Katy Harmon have been getting cost estimates for new floating and fixed docks to be added to some of the Village lakes. The floating docks are about $10K excluding delivery and installation while fixed docks are about $1600. These could be used at lakes which have boat ramps but no docks, or at Segovia which needs both a ramp and a dock.

- Goose-egg addling is now completed for this year, but due to the mild spring, many eggs hatched early before the eggs could be oiled.

- Brad received a bid from Estate Management ($2K) to do a bathe-metric lake-bottom assessment of Lake Balboa to estimate the amount of sediment that exists in coves. This analysis will help size the work required in 2018 to dredge the lake.

- Charlie mentioned that Horace Potter and Len Dombrowski will revise the 5 Year Lakes Plan by July to be consistent with the new 2017 budget planning which is currently underway.
Particular attention will be focused on fleshing out the specific work plan for each Village lake consistent with this budget.

• There was some discussion about insufficient parking available near boat ramps at DeSoto and Cortez, particularly when fishing tournaments are held at those lakes. Brad, Katy and George Maxey will evaluate options for expanding parking facilities there.

• The Military Fishing Derby will be held on Lake Balboa on May 19th. The boat ramps will be closed to normal boater use that morning.

• Bill mentioned that the Baitcasters and Anglers clubs have many volunteers ready to work to build and install fish habitats (cribs and brush piles) in Village lakes. There is plenty of material for this work at the Village trash pit, and he encouraged Brad to team up with the volunteers to put a plan together for which lakes will get the habitats and the specific locations. Bill also mentioned that the clubs want to purchase golden shiners ($270 for a box of 250000+ fish) to be added to our lakes as forage fish for bass. Brad will make a recommendation on lakes to target for this experiment. Golden shiners thrive in lakes with good weed cover. On a related topic, Katy mentioned that golden shiners or minnows have been used to reduce the midge population on some lakes (not Village lakes), but that the numbers of fish required for this is very large (100 – 500 lbs of fish per surface acre of the lake). Midges (look like mosquitoes but don’t bite) are a problem at Isabella and other high-algae lakes.

• All boat ramp parking areas were re-graded this past month.

• A lake shoreliner mentioned his frustration at having floating lake debris wash up over his sea wall during high-water flooding events. He has observed boats traveling at high speed with large wakes during the flooding events and hopes that boaters can be more thoughtful of the problems they create for shoreliners as lake debris is washed up on the shore by the boats.

• Bill Goodwin agreed to take over Lake Desoto lake needs assessment for departing Committee member Don Petersen. Brad is still looking for a volunteer to cover Lake Segovia.

• The next Lakes Committee meeting is scheduled for June 8th.