

**LCHOA**  
**Membership Meeting Minutes**  
**September 24, 2009**  
**Mayflower City Hall**

I. President Hayden Baldwin called the meeting to order at 7pm. He introduced AGFC guests, Matt Horton, Lake Manager District 10, Matt Schroeder, Fisheries Biologist and Amanda Daniel, Staff Biologist and Mike Armstrong, Assistant Director. Also present were Bill Miller, 1<sup>st</sup> VP/Treasurer, Dr Tom Eans 2ndVP/Secretary and Bill Benz, all Board members. There were approximately 70 other attendees as members and guests/potential members.

(Note: Our membership is officially counted as one per household unless different families share a household).

II. AGFC Policies on Land Use around Lake Conway

Mr Horton gave a presentation on this. There were minimal changes this year. The policy was adopted in 1973 and revised previously in 1990, 1998, 2003 and 2008. He stated the next revision was scheduled for no sooner than 2014, and although it will still be possible to request a variance, it should be for public safety or environmental health, not private convenience only. He stated the lake is for hunting and fishing by the general public, and rules revolve around this concept. Review of each property and enforcement of violations is planned for Spring 2010. Warnings will be issued then, followed by penalties if unresolved.

Mr Horton gave a summary of old and revised rules. This is not necessarily complete. The total rules are available from AGFC and will also be published on LC-HOA.org. Permits are required for a structure--pier, boat house, boat slide device--or for a lawn irrigation pump or use of herbicides. Only two structures can be permitted per property. Structures are your private property and your liability. You can restrict the public from them, but not from the lake bank buffer zone. All existing structures are grandfathered in regardless of design as of 1/1/08, but when replaced or modified, they must have a new permit and must conform to the newer types of designs, which means some must be torn down at that time. A pier/boat house combination is not among the new types allowed, nor is a double boat house. A launching site for a trailered boat is not a boat slide, and it isn't allowed. Such private ramps must be blocked to prevent any use or they will require a \$150 per year commercial permit and a vehicle access must be provided from a road to the ramp for general public use.

The 20' buffer zone/strip was established at the beginning of the lake and was for flood water and to assure access by the public and to protect the lake. It is still defined as that land in the 20' horizontal distance from the lake edge when it is at 263' elevation above mean sea level. Furthermore, this is from the original lake edge of 1951. The present lake edge may have been moved up the bank by natural erosion or down the lake bank by building up of the shoreline. Original survey stakes should be present for surveyors to find.

Shoreline stabilization dredging is allowed only to enable use of a boat adjacent to the property and requires a no cost permit. But it also requires a Corp of Engineers 404 Permit, which was said to be expensive and the application requires some expertise to fill out.

No retainer walls major repairs or new ones are allowed. They must be allowed to deteriorate naturally. You can use a filter fabric or rip-rap on a sloping bank, but you can't fill in below

the Anormal water mark@ since this is said to adversely affect the fish.

Brush and trees up to 6 2 A circumference can be cleared from the buffer zone. AGFC will remove any tree deemed hazardous to your property. Logs washed up can=t be moved by property owner unless they are above the buffer zone or deemed a safety hazard.

No satellite dishes, power poles, fences or other structures are allowed on piers or boat houses or on the buffer zone. You may place a ground level walkway down to the lake edge.

Fish attractors built without metal or rubber are allowed anywhere in the water so long as they are not a boating hazard.

Various other questions were asked by the audience and answered by Mr. Horton and Mr. Armstrong:

Old canalsBAGFC says they were dug by individuals to extend the lake and should have had a 20' easement assigned to AGFC. Some don't and people have property within the 20' zone and their recorded deed says it is their property. AGFC thinks they must now buy that property from them. This issue was not resolved in this meeting.

Poor fishingBAGFC continues to claim there are plenty of fish here.

Trash-Wasn't picked from lake bottom when water was drawn down about 2005. Resident thought AGFC should have done that. No answer.

Trashy Properties outside citiesBCounty Sheriff will be at our next meeting to address this issue. Bank weeds can be sprayed also by permit.

Water herbicide permitBIs for use Aadjacent to your lot@ only. Is for 1 year only.

Surveys-Some residents said their surveys and/or deeds showed a 50' buffer zone.

Recommended AGFC communicate with local surveyors or state association to make sure they all understand there should be stakes identifying the 20' buffer zone.

Dredging-No plans due to expense, except for present studies and meetings about lake which may result in this being done on northern parts of lake or creeks to reduce future sedimentation.

Flood ControlBHe said duck hunting is not a consideration when releasing water for flood control. There was extensive discussion of the flood control with emphasis on flooding into homes. Mr. Horton said he considers the weather forecasts, watershed ground saturation and present water levels in addition to the limitations set by the Lake Management Plan of 2003 in determining time and number of gates to open. The possible future lake study with unknown completion date might allow a change in gates operation plan.

### III. The general membership meeting then ensued:

Hayden discussed Lake Conway Watershed Advocacy Group=s progress and the dedication of Rep Jane English in establishing this group, including the participation of AGFC representatives and that this has great potential for lake improvement. This does not replace the need for LCHOA to exist though. Our Board has been active in having multiple meetings and countless emails and phone calls amongst itself and with other entities regarding lake conditions and improvements and recruitment of new members. Board members have contributed money to enable functioning without draining our treasury and we do have funds in the bank. But we are

trying to be frugal to conserve it. We have delayed some budget items until at least next year due to lack of funds. Hayden listed many of our accomplishments to date. He again emphasized that our plan must be considered a long term project. He showed the web site and discussed information available from it and discussed the sale of advertising on it.

Bill Miller also emphasized our need for more members and consequently the collection of more dues. We have a serious need for Zone Leaders to do recruitment efforts in their zones, some of which have few members at present and to communicate with members who don't have internet access. Members questioned why we aren't sending mailers to members who don't have internet access. Hayden explained again that our plan is to rely on our web site which gives extensive and current information, and we must rely on Zone Leaders to communicate with those without internet access. We apologized, but felt that we just don't have enough money to send out mailers routinely to them, although we may do so at times.

We reported that in recruiting new members nothing works as well as neighbors directly soliciting neighbors. We are also using 411 dot com to get the name and phone number for an address, which we need in order to call them for solicitation purposes. It is free but does not give information for all addresses. One member reported another web site that is based on the tax records that could be used to get resident information. We will investigate this.

Tom Eans stated also that just listing the names and phone numbers of residents on the shoreline on their street would be of considerable benefit to LCHOA if one doesn't feel capable of taking on the full Zone Leader job. Recognition was given to those members who had done that for the association. Tom reported on an article in Arkansas Wildlife magazine published by AGFC about the lake improvement movement going on here, but which didn't mention LCHOA at all. There was a similar KTHV TV news report that gave much praise to AGFC for this new endeavor, and also completely omitted our name although we started this reform movement. We communicated with both these reporters about their omission. The TV reporter stated she did ask why AGFC hadn't addressed these problems previously but didn't get an answer. Tom also reported that an interview was done with the Conway Log Cabin Democrat which was published Sept 19 and with Ark Democrat-Gazette which will be published within the next two weeks in their special section for this area. We requested these interviews to publicize LCHOA and to explain our purpose of supporting and improving this lake.

KARK TV requested an interview, and Hayden did this before our meeting began.

IV. 17 signed up as new members and we received \$45 in donations this night. We explained in the meeting that we are making progress but not as fast as we would like, although we think we will eventually achieve our objectives. (Note: This brings our total to 94 after 3 months. Our budget had projected 200 by the end of this year after 6 ½ months of existence.

Submitted,  
Tom Eans MD, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP/Secretary