

Annual Meeting Agenda and Minutes

May 18, 2025

Historical record: This document reflects information discussed on May 18, 2025. Fees, contacts, boating requirements, schedules, and agency procedures may have changed. Use current LBEPOA notices and official agency guidance for present-day instructions.

Lake Berryessa Estates Property Owners Annual Meeting:

- Meeting held May 18, 2025.
- Key sales started at 8:30 AM.
- There are two open spots on the board.
- Board members serve for two years.
- The meeting will include guest speakers on mussel invasion and disaster preparedness.

Disaster Preparedness Information:

- Gail Bickett maintains an emergency call list for evacuations or fires.
 - The list is confidential and used only for robocalls in case of emergencies.
- Miguel from Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD) spoke about emergency preparedness.
 - COAD coordinates with nonprofits to distribute resources during disasters.
 - COAD wants to increase its presence in the area and is working on community liaisons and training.
 - Miguel recommends signing up for Gail's call list if cell service is unreliable.

Miguel recommends following Listos California's steps:

- Have a plan for evacuation and reunification.
- Prepare go-bags with essential documents and insurance information.
- Have a stay box with 72 hours' worth of emergency supplies.
- Work with neighbors to identify and address needs.
- COAD offers a "meet your neighbor" program to prepare communities to help each other during evacuations.

Firewise:

- Sherry Gardner and Lori Cliff from Napa Community Firewise Foundation (Napa Firewise) spoke.
 - Napa Firewise is a nonprofit serving Napa County and the fiscal sponsor for Fire Safe Councils.
 - Berryessa Estates has a Fire Safe Council.
 - Napa Firewise manages projects to clear back fire from along the road.
- A defensible space cost share program is coming to Berryessa Estates and Berryessa Highlands.
 - It is reimbursable up to \$3,500 (50% income qualified, up to 100%).

- More information is available on the website or through the Fire Safe Council.
- Napa Firewise will be offering evaluations.

Cost Share Programs and Fire Safe Council:

- Evaluations from private vendors or Firewise employees will provide guidance on necessary actions (tree trimming, dead tree removal, grass cutting).
- Fire Safe councils empower communities to address fire safety issues collectively.
- Grazing programs are upcoming in the area.

Weed Eating and Fire Prevention:

- Best time for weed eating: mornings, when it's cool and damp.
- Avoid metal blades to prevent sparks.
- No weed eating on red flag days.
- Expired fire hose can be used as chain guards to prevent sparks from boat chains.

Community Wildfire Prevention Program:

- CWPP is being renewed, includes projects that Napa Firewise aims to fund upon adoption.
- Example project: emergency phone line along the road for reporting fires or accidents.

Restore California Grants:

- Restore California program provided grants for home hardening after the 2020 fires (up to \$50,000).
- The program was a FEMA award managed by the state.
- Funds for this program have likely been expended.
- A FEMA brick grant for home hardening and defensible space was rescinded.

Current Grant Opportunities:

- Currently, no home hardening grants are available.
- A small grant is coming, targeted to the area, for defensible space (landscaping).
- Fire Safe Council and Napa Firewise will share information about new funding opportunities.

Lake Berryessa Mussel Prevention Program:

- Jennifer (Lake Berryessa Field Office) and Drew Gantner (Solano County Water Agency) discussed the mussel prevention program.
- The field office and water agency have long worked together on a mussel prevention program for Berryessa that involved a lot of voluntary compliance at our launch ramps.
- In fall 2024, a new invasive mussel was discovered in the Sacramento San Joaquin Delta area.
- The new mussel occupies a larger environmental niche than quagga and zebra mussels.

Golden Mussels:

- Golden mussels were found on a houseboat at Pleasure Cove recently during a decontamination.

- The banding program around the lake is primarily focused on larval mussels (beginning stage of young golden mussel).
- "The primary reason we have this banding program around the lake that I know Holly's been really proactive with, is the larval mussels."
- One female mussel can release up to a million eggs per year.
- Larval mussels can swim in the water for up to three weeks and get into boat engines, cooling systems, bilges, ballast tanks, and live wells.
- They can then be transported to other lakes when boats are moved.
- Larval mussels are the size of a speck of dust.
- California lakes and waterways have either closed completely to watercraft or they are training to have the same protocol as Berryessa and Lake Tahoe.

Golden Mussel Impact:

- Golden mussels can clog water intakes and pipes.
- Raw water used for fire suppression can be affected, with mussels clogging pipes and fire hose nozzles.
- Mussels selectively eat algae, spitting out harmful algae (cyanobacteria) which can lead to toxic water and algae blooms.
- These mussels feed primarily on algae which will deplete the tournament fishing in the lakes.
- These razor sharp muscles litter shorelines and launch ramps along with any other hard surface they can attach to.

Prevention and Treatment:

- There are treatments like copper sulfate, but the size and depth of Lake Berryessa make it difficult to treat effectively without causing further harm.
- Golden mussels are freshwater mussels, unlike quagga mussels, which can tolerate brackish water.

Boat Regulations and Reciprocity:

- Working on a reciprocity program between lakes, dependent on other lakes' mussel prevention efforts.
- Lake Berryessa performs plankton tows, visual inspections, and DNA sampling.
- Reciprocity depends on other lakes' sampling and control effort

Lake Berryessa's Launching Protocol:

- Boats have two options: red seal (30 day quarantine) or a hot water decontamination.
- Decontamination involves flushing all water intake systems that a watercraft has with hot water.
- After decontamination, you can launch immediately.
- Red seals are applied and a 30-day quarantine will start. After the 30 days has been reached, you are able to launch.
- Upon exit, certified staff will apply a green seal and record CF # and tag # into WID Database.
- Breaking the wire on the seal restarts the process.

Hot Water Decontamination:

- The hot water cleaning process duration varies from 15 minutes to an hour, depending on the boat's complexity.
- The process includes flushing internal components, water intakes, the bilge, and inspecting anchors.
- Putah Canyon, Pleasure Cove and Markley Cove have decontamination sites. Pricing is different at each resort, as well as hours that they will tag your boat upon exit.

Watercraft Decontamination Costs at Putah Canyon:

- Aluminum boat with floorboards and one motor: \$50.
- Two to three water systems: \$75.
- Four to five systems: \$100.
- Wakeboard boats (due to ballast systems): \$120.
 - Price includes motor, ballast, and the bilge.
 - Additional ballast: \$20 extra.

Seal Program:

- Following decontamination , boats can launch immediately.
- Decontamination is voluntary, not required.
- Upon exit of launch ramp your boat will have a green seal applied
- The seal program is free of charge.(Decontamination costs)

Launching Protocol:

- Call ahead to resorts for their reservation systems, tagging times, etc.
- Red and green tag pictures will be added to the website.
- Homeowners seeking current inspection, quarantine, or tagging information should contact LBEPOA at lakeberryessaestates@gmail.com.

Enforcement and Regulations:

- If a boat is seen without tags, it's out of the speaker's jurisdiction. Contact Napa County Sheriff's Office or Game Warden Mark White.
- Berryessa Estates is the weak link in the efforts to keep this highly invasive species out of our waters. Berryessa Estates has the only private launch ramp on Lake Berryessa that is not staffed like the other launches on the lake. It is imperative that we make efforts to keep our gates shut and keep untagged boats off our launch.
- We have a small water infrastructure that we depend on and it's right around the corner from our ramps. The damage would be catastrophic and expensive.

Boat Launch Management:

- Leaving boats in the water: Once a seal is cut and the boat is in the water, a new seal isn't needed until exiting the water.

- Gating the boat launches: A "big hot button issue" is who manages the land. It's the Open Space District and the Property Owners Association.
 - Grants may be available for improvements.
- The water district often leaves the gate unlocked.
 - LBRID is obviously concerned and 100% on board and will keep the gates shut.
- The agency can help put up bollards and chains for the boat launches.
- Chaining off the boat launches would stop random people from launching and if any LBEPOA key holder allows a guest to launch a watercraft that is not within the guidelines or their own watercraft, they will lose their gate keys.

Educate and be Vigilant:

- Speaker emphasizes the need for vigilance regarding golden mussels stating, "Everyone needs to be vigilant".
- Golden mussels can clog intake pipes, leading to costly replacements of pumps, screens, and pipes, potentially causing water shortages.

Agency Support:

- Both agencies have a vested interest in helping manage the golden mussel issue.
- The community needs to develop a plan and request assistance from the agencies.
- Manpower is limited, but resources are available.
- Concrete and other materials can be provided with proper requests

Security Measures and Access Control:

- Discussed installing chains on the boat launch to deter unauthorized access.
- A vote was taken and approved to invest in a more secure locking system for the boat ramp.
- The goal is to use a lock that is harder to break or cut.

Gate Relocation and Visibility:

- A letter will be sent to LBRID to address issues with the gate.
- A vote was taken and approved to explore moving the gate closer to the street for better visibility and to deter tampering.
- This could also reduce travel for the water department.
- A plan will be put together and opened to the community for feedback.
- Time is of the essence.

New Website:

- The website is LakeBerryessaEstates.com
- It is updated almost every month.
- People can contact the Board to have community information posted.

Dog Leash Rule:

- Francis says that more and more people have big dogs loose, and it's not safe to walk her little dogs anymore.
- The rule is that dogs are supposed to be walked on a leash.
- If anyone sees someone not following the leash rule, they should let the board know.

Board Members:

- Two more board members need to be nominated.
- Jay Miller, Jay Brum and Lori Bower were nominated.
- All three were voted onto the board.

BBQ and Gate Lock System:

- Special thanks to Holly for organizing the first annual barbecue, raising funds.
- They are going to plan another barbecue this summer after the new gate lock system is in place.
- There are two new locks on both gates, and they are going to try and keep the gates closed until the next phase.
- Joel and Mary on harness are going to be our contacts for membership/key sales throughout the year.

Napa County Sheriff:

- August 12th at 6:30 PM, the Napa County Sheriff, the Board of Supervisors, and a variety of other non-profits will be at the station 220 with a food truck.
- They will give a report on some good news and follow up from the gate idea.
- Holly will put that on the website.

Community Updates:

- Reach out on Nextdoor to share updates.
- There will be a monthly newsletter at www.lakeberryessaestates.com

Recognition:

- John Peroi recognized for hard work on the upper campground and marina.
- "He got rid of that boat."
- Thanks to Dustin Dorman for fixing the road that leads to the marina.

Other Business:

- New gate locations are coming soon.
- Meeting called to order at 11:06 am.