

Windemere Township Lakes Association General Meeting Minutes

Saturday July 12, 2025 Holy Angels Catholic Church

- I. The meeting was called to order by Chair Dan Benzie at 9:00 AM
- II. The Chair asked for additions to the agenda. There were none. It was moved and seconded by Clair Strandlie and Noah Cashman to approve the agenda. APPROVED
- III. The Secretary recognized the board members: Present: Chip Wells, Jerry Blazevic, Dan Benzie, Loren Radtke, Laurie Patrick, Joann Murphy, Noah Cashman, John Tasky, Bill Lyon & Kathy Burkard. Excused was Bill Yechout
- IV. The minutes of the June 14, 2025 general meeting were sent out earlier and distributed at the meeting. A motion was made by Ernie Muller and seconded by Bill Patrick to approve the minutes. APPROVED
- V. Treasurer Joann Murphy went over the financial report that was handed out. She reported a balance of \$111347 (general fund \$51158, AIS fund 44673, water quality \$15326 and education/memorial fund \$150). A motion was made by Bill Patrick and seconded by Clair Strandlie to approve the treasurer's report. APPROVED
- VI. Membership Chair Laurie reported that we have 348 members(121=Sand, 123-Sturgeon, 84-Island and 20- small lakes).
- VII. Committee Reports:
 - a. Lakes: Sand-Jerry stated that the lake level is one inch below last month's reading. The lake level is down significantly from last year at this time. Water clarity is 10.5 feet. Department of Natural Resources(DNR) staff were on local lakes recently checking for zebra mussels. Sturgeon-Loren reported for Bill Yechout. The lake is less than an inch below the ordinary high water mark of 1069 feet. The secchi reading was 23 feet. Island-Chip stated that water clarity is very good at 13.5 feet. The water level is normal for this time of the year. Rich Rezanka from the DNR recently surveyed the lake and found small amounts of Eurasian Water Milfoil(EWM) and Curly Leaf Pondweed. Smaller Lakes-Bill Lyon said that he has been working with members on Big Slough Lake.
 - b. Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)-Loren emphasized clean, drain and dry. He also has available zebra mussel detectors that were made by a former board member. He pointed out that a good reference guide for AIS is available on the website. Purple Loosestrife- Denise Barby has beetles ready to release. The northeast corner of Island Lake and the area near Parker's Sand Bar will be where they are released. Spiny Water Fleas- We have equipment to monitor for them. We will be sampling in late August or early September. EWM-Due to the high levels of EWM found on Sturgeon last year Loren has received up to \$60000 for treatment from Pine County as well as a grant from the state. The DNR has surveyed both Sturgeon and Sand. Permits will be issued for six acres on Sturgeon and less than an acre on Sand. The treatment done last year was very effective. The DNR recommends that we monitor Island this year. Chip will post the AIS reports on the website. There was some discussion about EWM on sunken islands on Sturgeon. Loren will discuss this with Rich Rezanka.

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- c. Brush-Bill Patrick stated that the gravel pit will continue to open on the third Saturday of the month. He also mentioned that he has volunteered with the Minnesota Pollution Control Authority (MPCA) to sample for PFAS in Pine County.
- d. Road Pickup-Kathy requested that more members volunteer for road pickup. She has supplies for those members that volunteer.
- e. Newsletter- Noah has been working with Bill Lyon on articles for the Fall Newsletter.

VIII. Old Business

- a. Dan discussed the process for electing board members at the August meeting. Dan's and Kathy Burkard's terms for Island were up in August. John Tasky for Sand and Noah Cashman and Bill Yechout for Sturgeon were also expiring. All have agreed to be willing to continue on the board. Dan asked for additional nominations. There were none. It was moved by Clair Strandlie and seconded by Bill Patrick that the above current board members be nominated for new two terms. APPROVED
- b. Membership Signs-John Tasky reported that the membership signs have been well received. He has recently been installing additional requested signs.
- c. A member asked about the process to become a 501(c)(3). Dan reported that the IRS was behind in reviewing applications. The employer identification number we have been using was incorrect. We have obtained a new number. Dan spoke to the IRS staff member working on our application. He said that he had forwarded it on with a favorable review to his supervisor and we should have a final decision by the end of this month.

IX. New Business

- a. The chair introduced Josh Mutchler the Water Resource Technician for the Kettle River watershed. The plan covers a four county area. The purpose of the plan is to reduce the amount of phosphors and sediment entering lakes and streams. An up to 75% cost share will be available. It is a ten year plan with about one million dollars available every two years. People that have ideas for projects should contact him.
- b. A member from Passenger Lake stated that he has lost the beach in front of his property when sand washed up. He has not talked to the DNR area hydrologist. Dan offered to support him in writing a joint letter to the area hydrologist about the problem.
- c. Bill Lyon recognized Noah for representing our lakes association in the Moose Lake Fourth of July parade.

X. Adjournment

It was moved by Bill Patrick and seconded by John Tasky to adjourn. APPROVED

Speaker: Aimee Hand, DNR Conservation Officer(not able to attend due to a law enforcement situation)

Chip Wells, Secretary

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