

Windemere Township Lakes Association Board Meeting Minutes

Saturday May 3, 2025

- I. The meeting was called to order by Chair Dan Benzie at 9:02 AM. The meeting was held at Noah's home at 37510 Sunrise View Rd. Present were Bill Yechout, Joann Murphy, Laurie Patrick, Dan Benzie, Noah Cashman, John Tasky, Kathy Burkard, Bill Lyon, Jerry Blazevec, Chip Wells & Loren Radtke.
- II. Agenda Changes were requested. Dan suggested the Fishing Pier on Sturgeon Lake under New Business
- III. The minutes of the September 14, 2024 board meeting were sent out earlier. A motion was made by Noah and seconded by John to approve the minutes. APPROVED
- IV. Joann presented the financial report. The current balance is \$93561 (general fund \$43392, AIS \$37931, Water Quality \$12114 & Donation \$125). Motion for approval of the report from Noah second by Laurie. APPROVED.
- V. Laurie reported that we have 424 members(166 Sand, 138 Sturgeon, 88 Island and 35 smaller lakes). This is a record. There were 628 Spring mailings which included non-members on Sturgeon and Island Lakes. There are only 23 signs left. It was decided that Dan would order 120 more and Dave Murphy would order the required hardware. John and Noah will recruit additional business sponsors. They were authorized to create and purchase WTLA Business Sponsor labels that could be displayed. Business logos will also be collected and displayed at the general meetings.
- VI. Committee Reports
 - a. Lakes-
 - i. Sand-Jerry reported that the lake level marker has not been set by the Minnesota Division of Natural Resources(DNR) but the level is down a bit since last Spring. He also contacted the DNR about a false rumor that the Sand Lake public access was located on private property.
 - ii. Sturgeon-Bill stated that the lake level was right at the ordinary high-water level. There was considerable discussion about where to place the "No-Wake" buoys.
 - iii. Island- Chip stated that he and Dan had visited the outlet twice in the last week. Kelly Condiff DNR Hydrologist joined them on the second visit. There is some vegetation at the outlet that should be removed. A permit is not needed. Dan and Chip will work with the property owner on the details. A small amount of water was flowing through the outlet.
 - iv. Smaller Lakes-Bill has tried to visit the small lakes. Only Dago has a public access. The others have numerous no trespassing signs. He contacted members on the small lake by email. He received only one response from Big Slough.
 - b. AIS- Loren stated that Rich Rezanka will be surveying Sand and Sturgeon Lakes for Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) in June. Our lake association has requested and received \$12500 from the DNR and \$60000 from Pine County for treatment this year. Loren will be contacting Rich Rezanka about the next steps for controlling Purple Loosestrife this summer. Chip will coordinate the survey in the big lakes for Spiny Water Fleas(SWF). Dan, Noah and Jerry will conduct the surveys in early September.
 - c. Road Pick-up- Kathy had additional supplies available. Volunteers should report to Kathy when they have completed their designated road segments.
 - d. Newsletter-Noah completed the Spring Newsletter and will be looking for articles for the Fall edition.
 - e. Brush-Laurie reported that the brush pile will be open on the third Saturday of the month from 10 AM to 1 PM. The township has asked if we would be willing to staff the brush pile

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an additional day each month. Bill Patrick is not willing to volunteer and no one else was able to volunteer. The township should request volunteers from the rest of the township.

- f. Website-Chip asked for additions or deletions. There were none. He mentioned that he was going to remove some of the older information from the site.

VII. Old Business

- a. 501(c)(3) Status- Dan, Chip and Noah met last Fall with an attorney in Duluth. The application was filed with the Internal Revenue Service at the end of December. To date there has been no response. Dan will follow up with the attorney.
- b. Presenters for the General Meetings- Noah announced that a representative from the Fond du Lac Band will be at the June, DNR conservation officer at the July and Rich Rezanka at the August meetings.
- c. Board Officer Job Descriptions-There was no discussion. Proposed changes should be sent to Dan.
- d. WTLA Brochure- Noah will be working on changes this summer.

VIII. New Business

- a. Set 2026 Membership Dues and Business Sponsorships. It was moved by Chip and seconded by Noah that the membership dues and business sponsorships for 2026 remain at \$25 and \$100 respectively. APPROVED With the likely reduction or elimination of AIS funding to the county by the state the importance of additional AIS donations should be presented at the July general meeting.
- b. New Windemere Shoreland Zoning Ordinance-Noah and Dan spoke about the new restrictive shoreland ordinance. Noah will provide an update at the June general meeting. Several lawsuits have been filed against the township. Dan stated that he has joined one of the lawsuits against the township. After some discussion by the board, it was decided that the board did not consider this a conflict and was comfortable with Dan continuing as chair.
- c. Conflict of Interest Policy-The attorney we are using for nonprofit status recommended that the board approve a Conflict of Interest Policy that he provided. The policy was emailed out earlier and copies were provided at the meeting. It was moved by Chip and seconded by Noah that the policy be adopted. APPROVED Each board member signed a statement acknowledging and agreeing to comply with the policy.
- d. Sturgeon Lake Fishing Dock-Dan stated that the DNR was willing to discuss a fishing dock by the Sturgeon Island bridge.
- e. Pine County Coalition of Lake Associations- There was interest on the part of board members in having the Pine County Land Manager continue to convene occasional meetings of the Pine County lake associations. Dan will contact the county.

XI. Adjournment

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

Chip Wells, Secretary 5/4/2025