



Lake Eau Claire Association, Inc.
Board Meeting Minutes

April 8, 2025, at 5:30 pm, Zoom Virtual Meeting,

1. Call to Order– Lori Bechtel called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm Present: Lori Bechtel, Al Weisenbeck, Jill Weisenbeck, Josh Zimmerman, Cheryl Claude, Heidi Conner, Cathy Lea, Jason Phillips, Al Hendricks. Guests: Mike Lea
Absent: Nate Smith, Duane Ives Jill Benzschawel, Kim LaLonde, Joe Vydrzal, Angel Zimmerman
2. Review of previous minutes dated January 28, 2025. A motion was made by Cathy Lea and seconded by Josh Zimmerman to approve the minutes. Vote unanimous, motion approved.
3. Treasurer's report was provided by Jill Weisenbeck.
 - Full walk-through and recap of year-to-date 2025 noting the ending cash balance as approximately \$65,679, with an additional \$75,000 in a CD. Jill explains the decrease in cash due to a payout for Muskrat Creek and provides updates on fireworks funds and event revenues. The board discusses combining sand trap clean-out funds and approves the treasurer's report. Lori made a motion to renew the \$75,000 CD at Unity Bank for 13 months at approximately 4.22% interest, motion seconded by Heidi Conner, vote unanimous.
 - Fireworks discussion - Lori discussed the fireworks display budget, noting a shortfall of \$1,800 from last year's budget. Various ideas discussed on how to increase donations in 2025. Motion made by Cathy Lea and seconded by Lori Bechtel to match the 2024 show and order fireworks at a cost of approximately \$5,000, vote unanimous.
 - Motion was made by Josh Zimmerman and seconded by Cathy Lea to approve Treasurers' report. Unanimous approved
4. Public comments – no public in attendance however Cathy Lea did mention that a new Town of Bridge Creek board member was elected, and her name is Katherine Gaulke. Katherine lives on Lake Eau Claire. Lori is in contact with Katherine regarding fireworks advertising and Bean and Bacon Days activities.
5. Mike Lea gave Lake District Update
 - Dredging was completed: Removed 11,000 yards at the Trouble Water trap, 600 yards at the Hay Creek trap, 15,000 yards at Skid Row, Gravel Pit and Muskrat did not need to be cleaned out.
 - Eagles Nest trap was completed and cleaned out with 10,000 yards of sand removed.

- The Skidsteer Guy was able to remove 3500 yards of sand at the mouth of Muskrat Creek which now gives water access to the cottages.
- The mouth of Hay Creek and the aeration site area will be done next winter.
- The Skid Row boat landing has a bit of damage that will need to be fixed.

6. Projects and Events updates:

- Ice fisheriee – another successful but cold fundraiser in February. Lori thanked all the volunteers.
- Cathy provided an update about the winter gathering that was held at the Harvest Moon and was well-attended and enjoyed by participants. Over 60 meals and 120 drinks were sold.
- Roadside cleanup event – a similar event as 2024 will be organized. Cathy will contact the township to obtain garbage bags and then advertising will be distributed asking for volunteers.
- Fish crib builds are scheduled for June 28th and September 13th, with a budget of up to \$1,000 approved for materials. Motion by Josh and second by Cathy, vote unanimous. The fish cribs will be shallow cribs this year, and no additional pallets are needed.
- Membership discussion - Cheryl volunteers to lead the membership committee, which will handle membership mailings and coordinate a door-to-door membership drive. Volunteers thus far are Cheryl, Jill W., Heidi, Kim.
- Website management update - The website redesign is nearing completion and should publish in April. Lori is seeking someone to take over managing it. Various ideas were discussed. A request will be sent out to the distribution list asking if someone has an interest in assisting with the management of the website on an ongoing basis.
- Picnic will be like what has been done in the past. The date has been set as August 16th. Tugger's Café has been confirmed.
- Social Media discussion – Lori asked for at least one more volunteer to assist with social media engagement and requests that board members send her relevant content to post on social media site and for the newsletter. Josh offers to assist and will contact Lori after the meeting.
- Newsletter – the main way folks can help with the newsletter is to provide content or ideas for content. Many article ideas were discussed.

7. Fundraising-

- Calendars – Reminder for board members to pick up their calendars, if they have not already done so.
- Golf Outing – The board discusses plans for the upcoming golf outing fundraiser scheduled for August 23rd. Jason and Josh are leading the organization efforts and are seeking volunteers to help with various aspects. They plan to have games and activities at each hole to increase engagement and fundraising opportunities. The goal is to have around 30 teams participate, like previous

years. They are looking for sponsors, donations for basket raffles and silent auctions, and volunteers to help on the day of the event. The organizers plan to start promoting the event and opening sign-ups in May or June. They aim to make the event fun for both participants and organizers while maximizing fundraising potential. Josh & Jason will organize a meeting soon with the golf committee of volunteers. Volunteers thus far are Josh, Jason, Angel, Al H., Kim, Lori.

- 2025 Sponsorship program has kicked off – if you know of a potential sponsor, please forward the information to Lori.

8. Other business –

- Pontoon improvements – Joe Vydrzal sent a request about some repairs that need to be done to the pontoon. Costs were approved by Lori for approximately \$300.
- Jill Weisenbeck discussed the annual audit which will need to be completed by the annual meeting in August. Heidi Conner agreed to review the financials and give a report.
- A donation request was received by the Fairchild Rod & Gun Club for their upcoming “Kids Fishing Contest”. Lori will follow up to get a few more details but a motion was made by Jason and seconded by Al to approve a \$250 donation, vote unanimous.
- Board attendance – only 60% of the board is in attendance and some board members attendance has fallen below what the bylaws call for. Lori stressed how important it is for the board to make the meetings a priority.

9. Next meeting date – Lori would like the next meeting to be in early June but since so many are absent, communication will be sent via email to set the next date. This will hopefully allow all to be able to check calendars and be in attendance.

10. Lori thanked all for attending and adjourned the meeting at 7:20 PM.