

Lake Washington
Improvement Association
of Meeker County

Fall
2025



FINANCIALS 4
INVASIVE SPECIES 5
WATER QUALITY 6
WATER LEVELS 12
DNR MISSION 13

AND THAT'S NOT ALL!



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FALL NEWSLETTER, 2025

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General Issues

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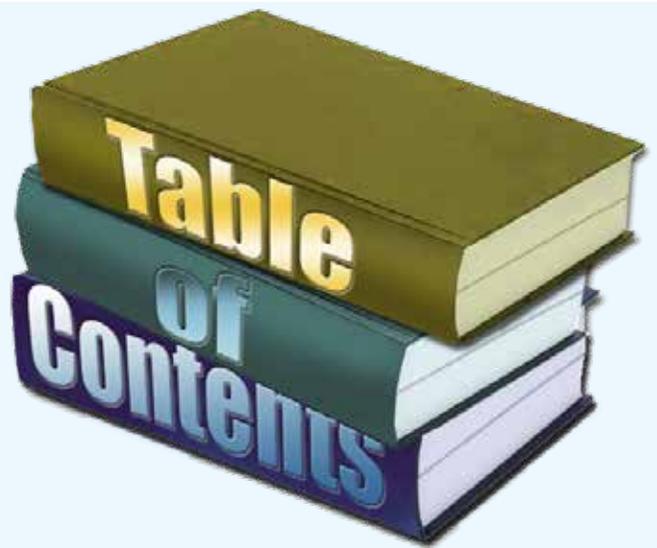
Membership Changes

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Lost and Found

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The Lake Washington Newsletter is published three times a year (Spring, Summer and Fall) by the Lake Washington Improvement Association. It is distributed free to lake property owners and friends around Lake Washington.



<i>2024 Grant Programs</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Aquatic Invasive Species</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Water Quality</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Lake Levels</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>DNR Mission Statement</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Membership</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>Zebra Mussels</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Watercraft Inspection</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>Pat's Corner</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>Social Committee</i>	<i>18</i>

2024 Grant Programs

By Sharon Daniels, Grant Coordinator

Happy Fall! We sure have had wonderful warm weather for September!

With Fall upon us it is time to finish up on projects, request grant reimbursement for projects completed, and begin the grant application process for MCAL and AIS for 2026.

Board members and others have been busy all year long doing projects around the lake; thus, the In-Kind (volunteer hours) have accumulated. I am working on completing an excel chart showing in-kind hours for 2025. As I write this article there are 660 hours accumulated thus far, but not all hours have been given to me for 2025 yet! Its hard to imagine that many hours from basically 13 board members, shoreline captains, and a few others that have helped keep our lake at its best! Be sure to say THANK YOU to the board members as well as all others that have helped in any way this year. Be sure to read ALL the newsletter and you will see the work that is being done around the lake.

In September I started to gather and sort receipts for expenses for completion of lake projects. I will be billing out invoices requesting reimbursement from grant money of \$4,000.00 allotted to us in 2025 from Meeker County Association of Lakes (MCAL). Our 2025 projects are well over the \$4,000 of grant funds that we will receive in 2025; just as the cost of projects in 2024 were more than the \$4,000 allotted. But we are thankful for the grant amounts we do receive from Meeker County. There will be no reimbursement for AIS from Meeker County this year, as we did not treat for milfoil in 2025.

MCAL 2026 grant application is due October 9, 2025, and the first part of the AIS 2026 grant application is due November 10, 2025. Request for Proposal (RFP) for 2025 is due along with the year-end report for AIS in November also. I will be turning in invoices for reimbursement end of September. Board members, as well as any member of LWIA, that has not turned in voluntary in-kind completed hours should still send me an email with your hours along with all paid receipts. Any in-kind hours completed after October 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025 will be used in the year end reports for year 2026.

LWIA board members have identified MCAL projects for 2026 to continue the process of water testing, monitor the water flow of 20 lake inlets, working around the pond for water flow, continue the work at Ellsworth landing with the I-LIDS monitoring and maintenance, and any other projects that may arise.

The work of the board, and lake members, and projects they do are vital to us as lake owners, and to the public to keep our lake at its best. We apply for approved grant funding and request reimbursement to help defray the costs of all our projects each year. If anyone has any questions, comments, or concerns in regards to grant processing you can reach me at sdaniels@rdaniels.com.

To all the volunteers that helped work on projects during 2025, THANK YOU!

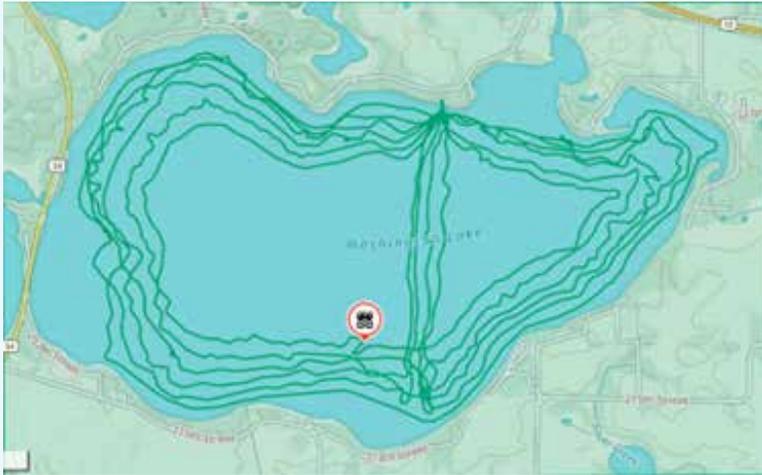


Aquatic Invasive Species

By Mark Johnson

Vegetation Surveys on Lake Washington

This year, Lake Washington Improvement Association (LWIA), in partnership with LIMNOPRO Aquatic Science, once again surveyed our lake for invasive vegetation. LIMNOPRO conducted an early detection survey in June, and LWIA board members followed up with extensive surveys throughout July and August 2025. The map below shows the routes surveyed (green lines) and one site where Eurasian Watermilfoil was found (white circle).



The good news: the lake remains clear of invasive plant problem areas. However, now that we did find Eurasian Watermilfoil, we will begin next year by revisiting this site to monitor for spread and determine whether treatment is needed.

Why This Matters

Aquatic invasive species are most often introduced when boats, trailers, or recreational gear move from one lake to another without proper cleaning. Boat landings and areas near docks are especially vulnerable. Once established, invasives like Eurasian Watermilfoil can quickly spread, crowding out native plants, harming fish habitat, and making swimming and boating more difficult.

How You Can Help

Please do your part to stop the spread:

- Clean off all plants, mud, and debris.
- Drain water from boats, motors, and live wells.
- Dry equipment thoroughly before launching in another lake.

Together, we can help keep Lake Washington healthy and enjoyable for everyone.

See you on the lake



Water Quality

By Dave Rathe

Lake Water:

Well, after a very rainy early summer, recently the rain totals have been near normal. There sure seems to be a lot of moss and algae around the shoreline recently. Last summer we had a lot of filament algae in the lake. However, this summer the moss and algae seems to be different, not just filament algae. I don't have any concrete theories why the moss and algae seem to be more plentiful recently. But it may be due to the heavy early rains causing more phosphorus being washed into the lake. We did take samples from 6 inlets before all the heavy rains and phosphorus levels coming from the inlets were all normal at that time. Site 304 picture below taken in August.



At the time of this writing, we have completed 4 of the 5 water sample tests at Site 101. We haven't received the Phosphorus and Chlorophyll-a results for August and haven't taken the September sample yet. Lake water data will be sent to the MN Pollution Control Agency at the end of the season. See the graphs and the map showing test site locations on the following pages.

WIFE: *"There's trouble with the car. It has water in the carburetor."*

HUSBAND: *"Water in the carburetor? That's ridiculous."*

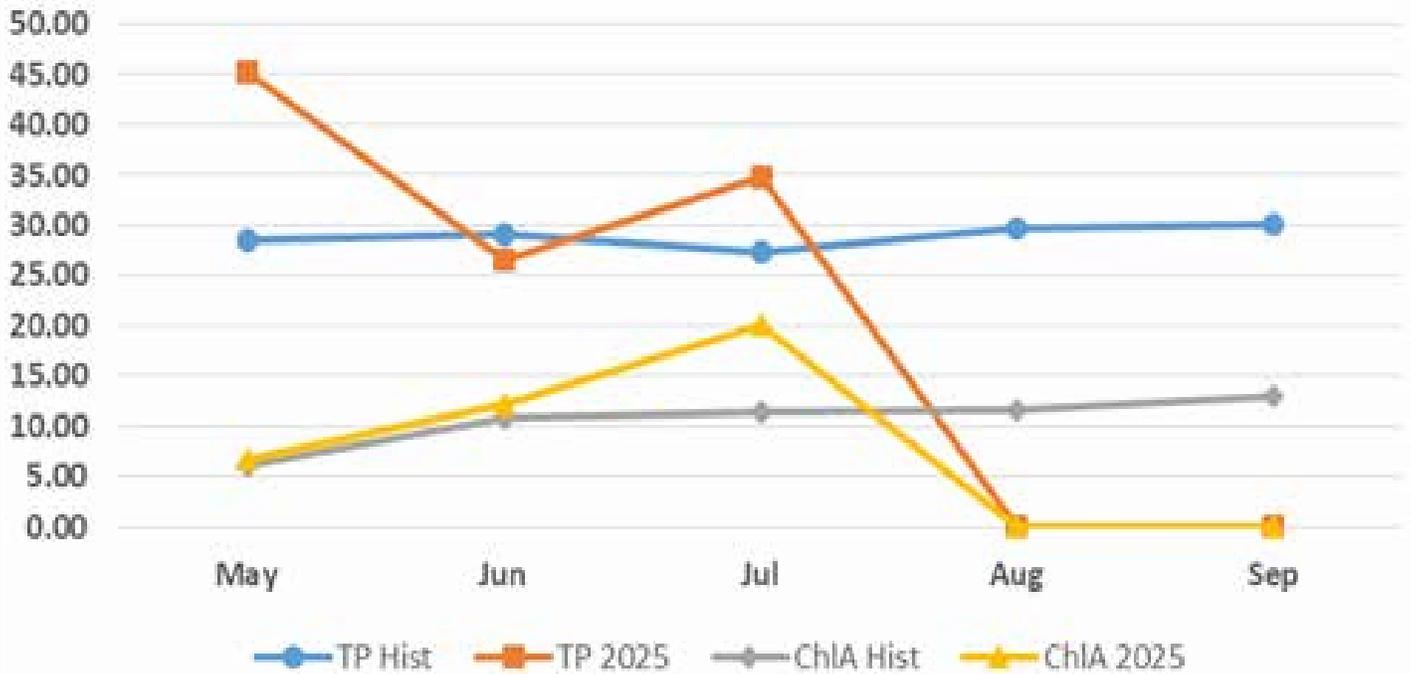
WIFE: *"I tell you the car has water in the carburetor."*

HUSBAND: *"You don't even know what a carburetor is. I'll check it out. Where's the car?"*

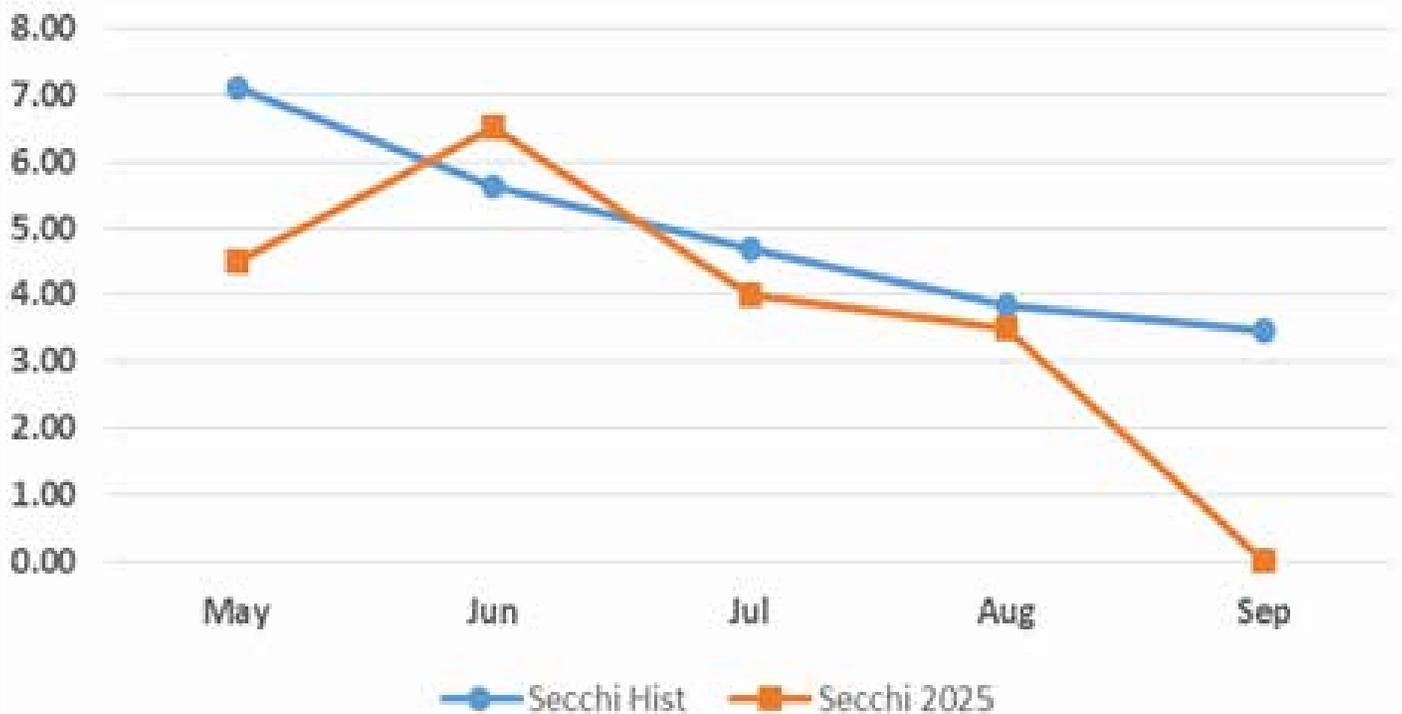
WIFE: *"In the pool."*

Water Quality (continued)

Site 101 - Total Phosphorus & Chlorophyll-a in µg/L Historical vs 2025

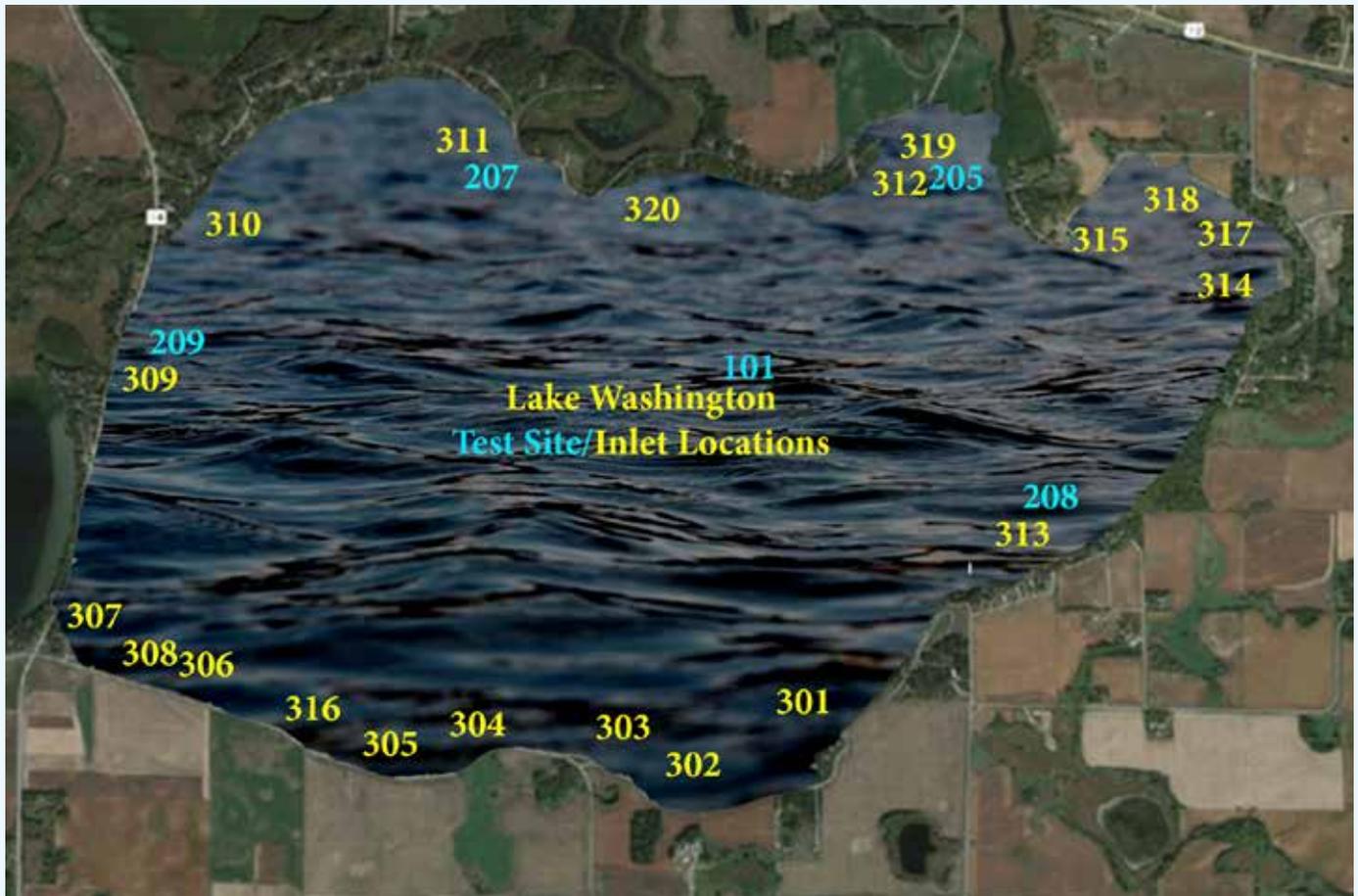
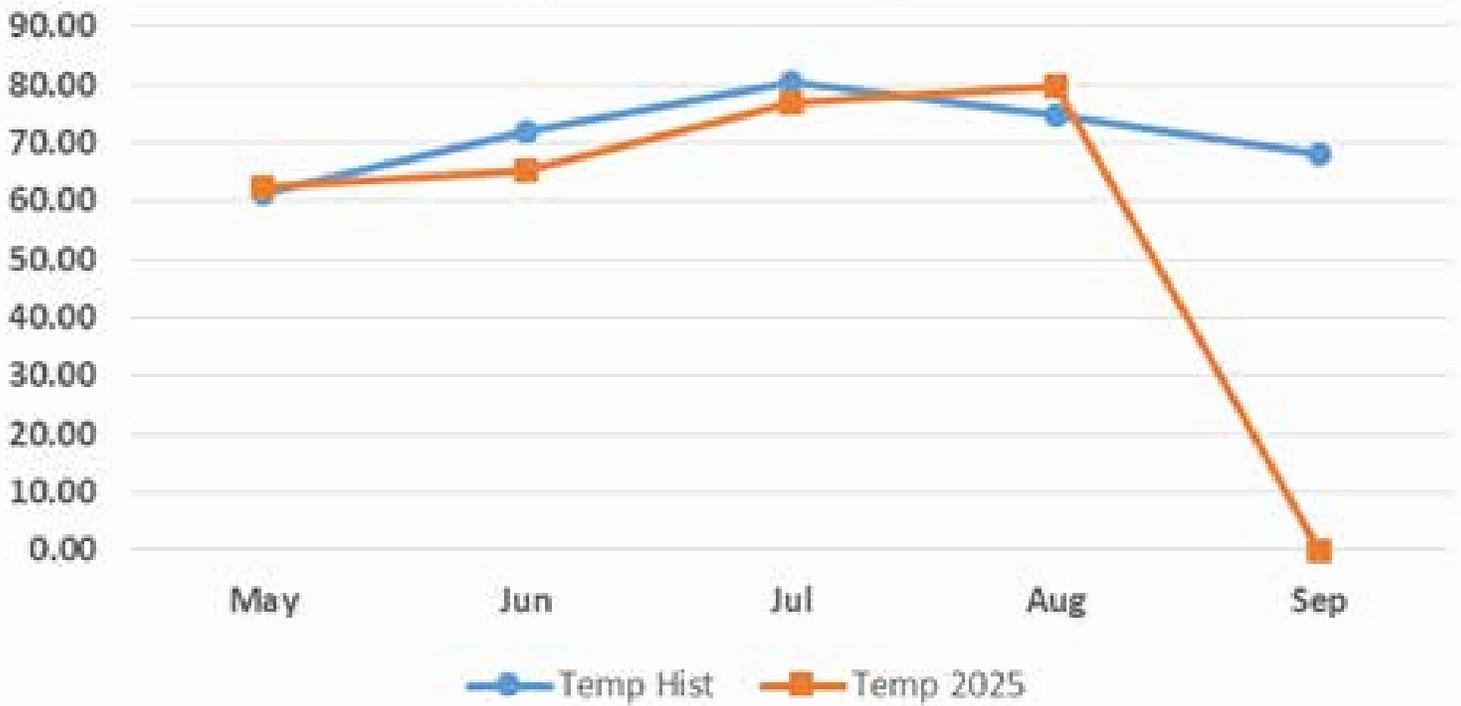


Site 101 - Clarity Depth Historical vs 2025 Secchi Depth = Clarity in Feet



Water Quality (continued)

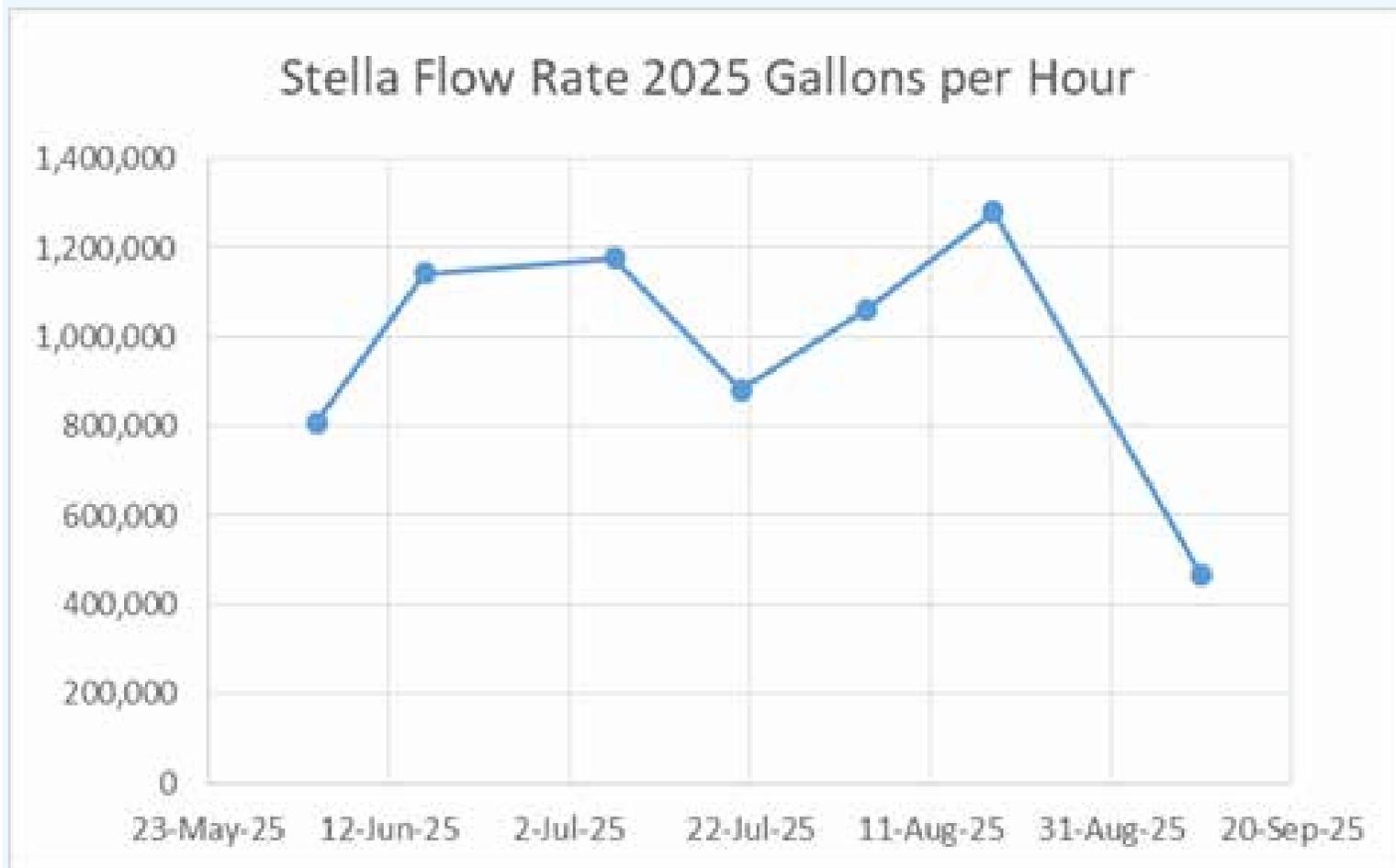
Site 101 - Temperature Historical vs 2025 Temperature in Degrees F



Water Quality (continued)

Inlet Water:

Stella (Site 309) water flow rate in 2024 averaged 756,000 gallons per hour and 2025 flow rate has averaged 975,000 gallons per hour. See graph below



A BIG Thank You to the Water Quality Crew for their work to pull together all the lake data. Mike Wosmek, Brett Rasmussen, Ray Brueggemeier.

Otters (Lutrinae):

There have been several reports of a pair of otters on the lake. Keep your eyes out for them. I wasn't fortunate enough to catch a picture of the one I spotted in front of my house. Otters mostly eat fish, but will eat what is available like frogs, crayfish, mussels, even small mammals



Water Quality (continued)

Inlet Water Quality

By Mike Wosmek

We continue to work on the inlets coming into Lake Washington. There are two water inlets that the lake board has approved to work on to improve the water quality flowing in.

Inlet number 312 on the north side of the lake - there is black dirt that will come into the lake after a heavy rain. Working with Joe Norman, from Meeker County Soil and Water, we have come up with a plan. We have the OK from Dassel Township also. The work will be completed this fall.

Inlet number 306 on the south side of the lake - once again working with Joe Norman, from Meeker County Soil and Water, the water was tested coming into pond FY13-09. After testing, the water quality that comes into the pond is better than the water in the middle of the lake. What is happening is the water in the pond gets an algae bloom and after a heavy fast rain the water gets pushed into the lake causing the mess in the lake. Plans are to tie into the farm tile and go around the pond to flow with clean water into the lake. This will stop the pond from filling up too fast, and if the pond water is high it will filter the water before it is let into the lake. The lake board and county have approved the bid for the work to be done. We hope to have both projects completed this fall

Hope everyone has a great fall and a good winter.



An American lawyer invited a Czechoslovakian friend to stay with him in his mountain cabin.

Early in the morning, the lawyer and his Czechoslovakian friend went out to pick berries for their morning breakfast. As they were picking blueberries, along came two big Bears - a male and a female.

The lawyer, seeing the two bears, climbed a tree.

His friend wasn't so lucky and the male bear caught him and swallowed him whole.

The lawyer drove his car to town as fast as he could to get a policeman. The policeman took his gun and ran to the berry patch with the lawyer.

Sure enough, the two bears were still there. "He's in THAT one!" said the lawyer, pointing to the male.

The policeman looked at the bears, took careful aim with his gun, and SHOT THE FEMALE.

"What did you do that for!" shouted the lawyer, "I said he was in the other bear!"

"Exactly," answered the policeman. "Would YOU believe a lawyer who told you that the Czech was in the Male?"

The American White Pelican (*Pelicans erythrorhynchos*):

Breakfast time! These photos of a pelican squadron were taken late Spring 2025. Pelican's average weight is 10 to 14 pounds with a wingspan of 95 to 120 inches. Their beaks are 10 to 15 inches long. Each adult bird can eat about 4 lbs of fish per day, feeding on top of the water (they don't or cannot dive), but they do like to steal fish from the cormorants, who can dive.



Lake Levels

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) monitors lake levels across the state through the Lake Level Minnesota program, providing valuable data on water levels for over 4,500 lakes.

Lake Level Monitoring Program

The Lake Level Minnesota program is a collaborative effort involving volunteers and organizations that collect and report lake levels throughout Minnesota. The DNR's Ecological and Water Resources staff survey and reset lake gages each spring, which are then used to measure changes in water levels during the open water season.

Accessing Lake Level Data

LakeFinder Tool:

The DNR provides an online tool called LakeFinder, which allows users to access detailed information about lakes, including current water levels, fishing regulations, and lake maps. This tool is available for both desktop and mobile devices and contains data for more than 4,500 lakes and rivers in Minnesota. You can access it [here](#).

Historical Data:

The DNR also maintains historical records of lake levels, with approximately 1,450 lakes having a historical record of over 100 water level elevations. Users can retrieve and view reported historic and current lake elevations for specific lakes through the LakeFinder website.

Importance of Lake Level Monitoring

Monitoring lake levels is crucial for understanding ecological health, managing water resources, and ensuring recreational opportunities. The DNR relies on a network of over 700 citizen volunteers and local government partners to regularly read and report lake levels, contributing to a comprehensive understanding of Minnesota's water resources.

For the most current lake level information, you can visit the Minnesota DNR's official website or use the LakeFinder tool to explore specific lakes of interest.

Lake Finder

LakeFinder is an online tool that finds and displays detailed information about most lakes in Minnesota. Information available includes fishing regulations; location; water access sites; lake maps; lake reports on stocking, ice in/out and water quality; fish consumption; and aquatic plant surveys. This tool is available for desktop and mobile devices.

A blonde is walking along the shoreline of a lake in Minnesota looking for seashells when she spots another blonde across the lake from her. Eager for company she shouts loudly "How do I get to the other side?"

The other blonde shouts back "You're on the other side!"

DNR Mission Statement

Our Mission

The mission of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is to work with Minnesotans to conserve and manage the state's natural resources, to provide outdoor recreation opportunities, and to provide for commercial uses of natural resources in a way that creates a sustainable quality of life.

About the mission statement

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources works to integrate and sustain the interdependent values of a healthy environment, a sustainable economy, and livable communities.

DNR's integrated resource management strategy shares stewardship responsibility with Minnesotans and partners to manage for multiple interests. DNR protects the state's natural heritage by conserving the diversity of natural lands, waters, and fish and wildlife that provide the foundation for Minnesota's recreational and natural resource-based economy (M.S. 84, M.S. 97A).

DNR manages natural lands such as forests, wetlands, and native prairies; maintains healthy populations of fish and wildlife; and protects rare plant and animal communities throughout the state. DNR manages the state's water resources, sustaining healthy waterways and ground water resources.

DNR provides access to enrich public outdoor recreational opportunities, such as hunting, fishing, wildlife-watching, camping, skiing, hiking, biking, motorized recreation, and conservation education through a state outdoor recreation system that includes parks, trails, wildlife management areas, scientific and natural areas, water trails, and other facilities (M.S. 86A).

DNR supports natural resource-based economies, managing state forest lands for multiple forest values (M.S. 89), ensuring the maximum long-term economic return from school trust lands (M.S. 127A), and providing other economic opportunities in a manner consistent with sound natural resource conservation and management principles.



Membership

By Laurie Johnson

Membership Matters: Thank You to Our 2025 Contributors

As we wrap up another year of stewardship for our lake, the Lake Washington Improvement Association (LWIA) extends heartfelt thanks to the 191 members who contributed to membership dues and the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) fund in 2025.

Lake Washington is home to 380 addresses, and historically, about half join the association each year. Your support fuels our efforts to protect water quality, prevent invasive species, and preserve the lake for future generations. This newsletter includes a list of those who have contributed in 2025. If your name appears — thank you for being part of the work that keeps our lake healthy. If it does not, we encourage you to consider joining your neighbors in the year ahead. Every membership strengthens our collective impact.

Here's a snapshot of participation over the last five years:

- 2025: 191 members
- 2024: 186 members
- 2023: 206 members
- 2022: 212 members
- 2021: 206 members

Also, a big thank you to all of Lake Washington Shoreline Captains. Your time and effort is greatly appreciated! Jim Barnes, David Broll, Pam Coppa, Sharon Daniels, Joyce Everski, Phil Flores, Jenny Kjell, Gloria Kotila, Ruth Lutsof, Jenna O'Brien, Bob Paulson, Connie Paulson, Sue Schmidt, Lois Strueber, Steve Ullom, Sandy and Mike Wosmek, George Webb and Jan Vanderline.

We currently have numerous openings around the lake. If curious, you can find a list of Shoreline Captain roles and responsibilities [here](https://lwiaonline.com/Captains) (or you can type "https://lwiaonline.com/Captains" into your web browser). Please let me know if you have any questions or if you are interested, We will have a meeting in May to go through more details.



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Zebra Mussels

The Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center - MAISRC - is a nationally acclaimed research facility based at the University of Minnesota. Their main focus is specifically on aquatic invasive species threatening our Minnesota lakes. Lake Washington in Meeker County is one of 27 lakes in Minnesota that was in the testing program this year. We are working to develop an in-depth understanding of the biology and ecology of AIS and the complex systems in which they live, to find vulnerabilities and weaknesses in their life cycles that can be targeted for control.

This year we installed 11 new zebra mussel sampler plates on May 26. On September 14, the plates were removed and allowed to dry. On September 16 the plates were disassembled. Per U of M instructions photos were taken of top and bottom of each plate. Also had to record water hardness and water conditions of each location where plates were installed. Then we submitted all data and images to U of M.

I want to thank the 11 homeowners that let me install the samplers on their docks. Also thanks to Sean Thorson, Dan Komarek, and Dave Rathe with helping with the photos and clean up of the sampler plates.

Hope everyone enjoys our Minnesota fall with all the beautiful colors.



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Watercraft Inspection

By Dan Komarek

Our summer is over, and so too is boating season. The I-LIDS remote monitoring system typically remains in place at the Elsworth landing until early October, and then we will take it down for winter storage – and also to avoid the snowplows, which sometimes get overzealous in their efforts to clear the parking lot in the winter. It'll go back up next spring, a week or two before the fishing opener – weather permitting – as we plan on continuing to use the I-LIDS system to help monitor for and reduce Aquatic Invasive Species entering Lake Washington again next year.



So far this season I-LIDS has recorded over 9400 videos from the end of April through, representing an estimated 1500 launches, after accounting for boat retrievals, multiple videos per launch/retrieval, and other incidental activity that triggers recordings. Out of 2450 videos which have been reviewed by our vendor, Lake Shield LLC (which has recently acquired the operations of Environmental Sentry - our original service provider), approximately 400 launch videos were noted, and any potential violations referred to the county. Fortunately, there appears to be a low number of violations – in large part due to the audio message and signage that remind boaters to do their part and **Clean, Drain, Dry, and Dispose** of any aquatic vegetation, plus live well, bilge, impeller, or ballast water; and removed drain plugs during transit.

In addition to the I-LIDS system, you've probably seen Watercraft inspectors at Elworth Landing many weekends and holidays this summer. Meeker County has scheduled the boat launch inspections through early October, when it wraps up for the season. The inspectors are contracted for by the county and each inspector participates in training sessions covering both the regulations governing boat transportation into and out of lakes and rivers, as well as some basics for identifying AIS. If you're lucky, they might even have a wrench to lend you if needed (as I did when I forgot to grab a wrench to remove my boats drain plug a week ago).

Meeker County has also stationed a boat decontamination trailer at the Elsworth Landing a number of days this summer, and also had it at Lake Minne Bell in recent weeks. The unit is self-contained and easily operated with instructions posted on the unit. It fires up, heats the water, which you can then use to wash and remove any AIS that are clinging to your boat hull or pontoons (just like a giant pressure washer). Here's what it looks like if you see it during next year's boating season!





Long Time Board Members Retire

Lyle



Our Lake Washington Association Board has had two outstanding volunteers that have worked many hundreds of hours for us. Lyle Walker has been on our finance Committee AND Treasurer for over twenty years! You may remember the gentleman that would sit at the table when we entered the Dassel Rod and Gun Club. He had his “tackle” box to take our money or check. He also did our bookkeeping and would bring it in for yearly audit. Lyle provided leadership and guidance as we became a 501(c3) nonprofit organization. His common sense approach was calming and kept us in the present. He will always be remembered for reminding us “we are only a couple of milfoil treatments from being broke.”

I recall a whileback that I was the one with the Lake Washington checkbook and would write the checks for the steaks. We used to have steaks at some of our annual meetings. These foods were not donated as the meat is today. Our dues are only \$50 but when I did this we barely had enough money to cover our expenses so I would bring my personal checkbook. Our dues were five dollars! Times have changed.

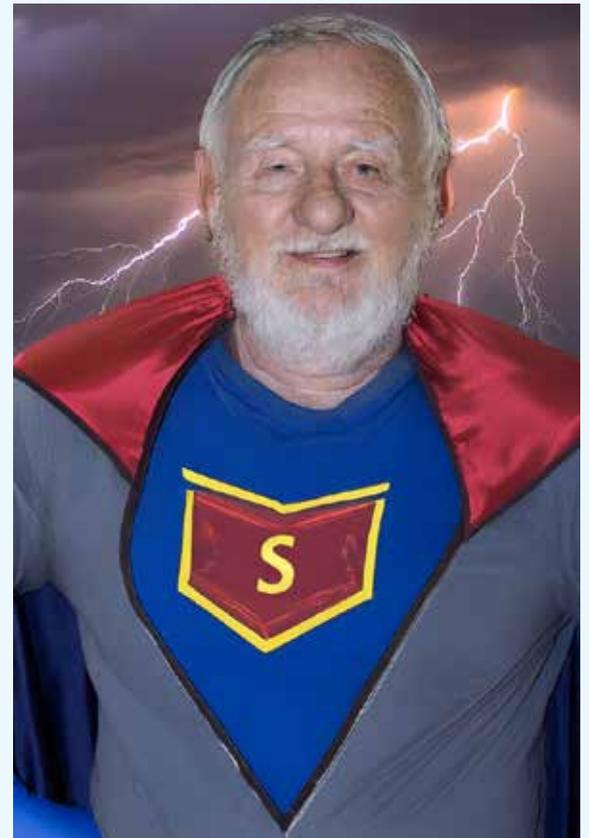
Thanks Lyle for all the work you put in all these years.

Ron

Ron Bubany has been on our LWIA Board (Lake Washington Executive Board) for years. I always wondered how he kept all his committee meetings straight! What committees was Ron on? You better sit down to read what he did: water quality, vegetation, education/public relations, communications including typing our newsletter, membership, milfoil, website, cormorants, lake mapping, lake water levels and fall reporting.

Yes, I was on a few of these committees but Ron worked tirelessly. He mapped our entire lake! We were given maps. Amazing. He set up waypoints for the entire lake to help (our committees and the DNR) better pin-point areas for identification, treatments, and understanding the needs of Lake Washington. Our newsletter has around 18 or so pages. When I report to the Meeker County Board of Lakes I show the board what members of the Meeker County Lakes have written in the newsletter. We have been asked to give reports and show these newsletters. Ron, you are so patient with us getting photos and our articles to you so you can organize the information and get it back to us every 4 months! It takes teamwork.

Thanks for continuing to help some of the newer members that are learning from Lyle and Ron. I promised I would send this off to Steve Ullom to maybe add something's I missed. Thanks Lyle and Ron for getting back to me promptly when I had questions. I have learned so much about our wonderful Lake Washington!



Social Committee

By Sandy Wosmek

Acorns dropping - Leaves fluttering down - Trees changing colors - Fall hunting - Good Bye Summer - Hello Fall

Fall is fast approaching and our summer lake season is coming to an end. Hope everyone enjoyed the summer at the lake and many memories were made with family and friends. Beautiful sunrises - Beautiful sunsets - The days in between were awesome too.

THANKS to everyone that attended our annual meeting and pork chop meal and also thanks to those that came to the pot luck.

Date to remember for 2026 ----

Annual meeting and Pork Chop Meal -- Saturday, May 2, 2026.

Watch for more information in the spring newsletter.

As for now -----**ENJOY the FALL and have a SAFE and HEALTHY winter.**

The Committee for the Reduction of Redundancy and the Anti-proliferation of Repetition has decided not to meet until they have their first meeting and thus will not be meeting until the first time.

Their Pre-meeting Statement wanted to make this clear before they had their first meeting, so that it would not be nor confusing. So their first meeting will actually be their first meeting and they will not have a meeting before the first meeting. This should avoid having people show up for their first meeting before it is held, since to do so would be confusing to those who did so and this is what they want to avoid by reducing the confusion and lessening the repetition.

Committee, n.:

A group of men who individually can do nothing but as a group decide that nothing can be done. --





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