

Lake Washington Improvement Association Board Meeting March 3, 2026

Board Members Present: Mike & Sandy Wosmek, Pat Hanson, Sean Thorson, Dan Komarek, Steve Ullom, David Rathe, Sharon Daniels, Laurie Johnson, Mark Johnson, Brett Rassmusen, Ray Brueggemeier

Treasurer Report: Invasive Species Fund \$73,050.57

General Fund \$63,023.15

Paid Memberships:

1. Call meeting to order: Dave R. Monthly meetings for LWIA Board: April 7, May 5, June 2, July 7, August 4, September 8, October 6

2. Secretary's Oct meeting report: approved via email.

3. Treasurer's Reports Dan K.: Oct. Income - \$4,841.30 Expense \$914.75, Nov Income \$100.00 Expense \$1659.76, Dec Income \$1095.26 Expense \$0.00, Jan Income 0.00 Expense \$11,398.02, Total Funds Jan 2026 \$139,178.72. These were approved via email by the Board.

LWIA does not qualify for state tax exemption as part of 501(c)3 status.

Should we be posting Treasurer's Reports on our web site? They are posted as part of the Board Minutes.

February report: Income \$0.00; Expenses \$320 Rod n Gun Club yearly rental, Dassel Fire Dept. \$3105.00 contributions. Total Funds \$135,753.72

Have a \$60,000.00 CD that matures in March, Dan will roll it over for 6 months. Another \$55,708.47 12 month CD is maturing in June of 2026.

Dan is working on formatting a report for year-to-date financial information to be posted on the website,

4. Board Elections in May – Pat Hanson, Mark Johnson, Pam Boorsma, Dave Rathe, 1 year left on Lyle Walkers term. Sean T nominated Tyler Fitzner to fill Lyle Walker's remaining term until May 2027.

Committee Reports

A. Water Quality: Dave R. (Signed up for 2026 water quality monitoring cost is TBD. He has 6 kits for inlet monitoring available. Four sites have been identified that will need testing in 2026. Received a request for missing 2023 water quality data from MPCA, turned out it was the other Lake Washington in Le Sueur County with the missing data.)

B. Vegetation: Mark J. (Did our point intercept data get sent to MAISRC?) He will send them the data he has regarding vegetation species using Limnopro survey. He will work with Dave to coordinate the way points the DNR uses for reporting.

C. I-LIDS & Watercraft Inspection: Dan K. Will check with Lake Shield, about any updates and positioning of the unit at the site. He will also check to see if there is any advantage to being an additional insurer on their liability policy. He will check with an attorney about the advantages of doing this and the cost.

D. Zebra Mussels: Mike W. We are signed up to be part of MAISRC study for 2026.

E. Watershed: Mike W reported: On Tuesday December 9th Lindberg Excavating came to lake inlet 306 to install an 18-inch dual wall tile around holding pond FY 13-09. After talking with the backhoe operator, we did not want to install two 18-inch 90-degree elbows, that would slow down the water flow. The operator said he could swing an arc around the pond. So, we found the 12 inch and 15-inch tile lines, also the 24-inch culvert under the road to the lake, that set up a center line for the arc. This added 80 feet of 18-inch dual line tile to the estimate. A breakdown of the job estimate was 380 feet of 18-inch dual wall drain tile installed \$9260.00. That invoice is from Lindberg; I approved the additional 80 feet of 18-inch dual tile at \$19.50 per foot times 80 is \$1560.43 making the balance due to Lindberg Excavating \$10820.43. I think this was the correct way to do the project. I did not have board approval for this additional cost. After talking with Dave and Dan it was decided I need to send this out for board approval, after the fact. Lindberg will come back in the spring to smooth out and seed the area worked on for this project. Mike noted there is a new property owner for this site.

The Board approved the additional costs for this project via email on 12/18/2025.

Membership/Shoreline Captains: Sandy W., Sharon D., Laurie J. will get 2026 Membership card updates to be included with the Spring Newsletter. She will get updated membership stickers for 2026. There was a discussion about increasing the membership dues. This included a discussion about maybe having some "swag" to give away to paid memberships. This would most likely not include clothing or other items local small businesses are selling. Tabled this for more discussion later this year.

Education & Public Relations

A. Spring Newsletter: Laurie – Spring Newsletter articles cut off date to get to Laurie is **March 20**. Want to get them mailed out by April 15th. Her plans are to change the format. She is going to explore other vendors in the area that could put these out for us and compare prices with Loeffler's costs. Some discussion about whether we needed three newsletters per year. Tabled this idea for a later date.

B. Website: Laurie J. reported her and Dave R are working on updating the website format to make it more user friendly.

C. Facebook: Pam B. - tabled

D. Email Activity: Pat H. reported there is a steady flow of emails that she is forwarding on to Board members.

Social Committee: Sandy & Mike W. Pork Chop Membership Meeting May 2, Sandy reported she will order all the stuff we need for this event. Dave will contact Tanner Stevens, DNR, about speaking at the meeting. He would also consider Emily Wolf, area Hydrologist.

Pot Luck Dinner in August? It was decided to wait to make a decision about having this event.

Grants – Sharon D. reported:

Info on AIS grant for 2026 with Meeker County.

I received notice from Meeker County, Ariana, that Lake Washington is being considered for an AIS EWM Grant of \$6,102 and also I-LIDS Novel grant for \$2,666. The Board determined based on vegetation surveys from last year that we would not be doing EWM treatments this year. Sharon will notify Meeker AIS of this decision. She will follow through with completing the Novel grant app for ILIDS due prior to 3/10/26.

March 2 – Lake Washington in Meeker Count was not selected for 2026 IAPM DNR Grant award

Grant awards are:

MCAL \$4000.00

DNR: \$0.00

AIS Meeker County: Notice of consideration for I-LIDS Novel Grant \$2,666.00. Final application due March 10, 2026.

Also, I applied to MAISRC (Mn Aquatic AIS Research Center) for a grant for years 2027-2028. I put in for \$5,000 each year. Application was due yesterday; they emailed me back they accepted my application and I will hear from them in April 2026 for full application.

MCAL: Pat H. & Sharon D. reported on Jan 15 meeting. **Note to Dan – pay MCAL yearly dues \$20.00**
12 Lakes were represented at the meeting.

Grants: \$32,000 available:

*14 Lakes received water grants for 2026 for a total of total of \$7000.00.

* MCAL Grants were approved for Lake Jennie/\$4000, Lake Washington/\$4,000, Lake Minnebelle/\$4000, Lake Stella/ \$4000, Belle Lake/ \$2,000 (but possible to get \$2000 more) for a total of \$18,000.00 (\$20,000)

* Lake Minnebelle may need additional grant money due to a major project in 2026/ \$5,000.

* Randy expressed that any lake having a large project to present it to Joe Norman or the MCAL board early this year for 2027 grant funds.

* Soil and Water Department may have grant money available to those with large projects in 2026. They meet 1st week of each month and their office is located by Walmart in Litchfield, MN. Lake Stella rec'd \$11,000 in 2026 grant money for a pond area. Talk to Joe Norman if have questions on this.

Presentation by Ann Hall, Clear Lake, Watkins, MN: 2025 Initiative to Improve Their Lake / Stop Erosion.
Project cost: \$4,200 / Grant funds of \$4,000 was used.

Purpose: To stop repeated waive action causing erosion with shoreline, and for better habitat for fish.

Area of Project: South shoreline about 120' wide X 130' into water.

Items of use: Coconut matts, fence and stakes along with plants inserted in the sand.

Project duration: Spring through October 2025.

Volunteer Help: 160 volunteer hours were put into this project.

End results: Due to a lot of rain, many storms, algae blooms, and Eurasian Milfoil, it is not clear if the plants purchased will survive and grow in the Spring of 2026, thus stopping the waves. Time will tell.

*Randy presented a sheet showing "Hutchinson Fish Management Area 2025-2026 Winter Fishing Picks". It's at the DNR office in Hutchinson if anyone is interested.

* Question was asked if a lake home owner could apply for grant money to do personal rip raft for shoreline erosion using grant funds. Randy will report back on this next meeting.

Next meeting April 16.

Open Discussion: All

Dave R reported: Mike W., Mark J., and Dave R. attended Avid Angler meeting in November.

Dave R. notes from the meeting:

- Tanner Stevens was the presenter. (Other staff not present Chris Foster)
- Out of a 4 person staff, there are only two left, Tanner & Chris. Other two positions have yet to be filled.
- PFAS signs are going up regarding fish consumption advisory
- Fish survey results histogram coming out in approximately January
- Bullhead high population in the lake is a sign of good water quality
- Fisheries Management Plan Process: Fish survey, then aging & analysis, then Cover Page, then discussions, then Public input, the full plan draft, then March & April reviews, then final published Plan
- DNR sees about 10% mortality per year for predator species
- Walleye in the summer move up stream to Stella and the to Manuella. They don't come back down stream
- Prior to 2019 Lake Washington was stocked with 1000 walleye fry per lake acre in odd years. Recently this has been reduced to 500 per lake acre. Now there is no planned walleye stocking.
- The no walleye stocking for Lake Washington will take about 8 years to see results. Results will also be dependent on winter weather.
- Tanner doesn't think the walleye population will ever get back to what it was in Lake Washington. He doesn't know of a strategy to get it back.
- Tanner will still take questions and opinions, so feel free to contact him.

There was a discussion by the Board about paying for stocking walleyes. This will be part of an ongoing discussion as we go on this year. This could possibly be a project that we ask for donations, would need to get some idea of costs and get a group to undertake this project.

Steve U reported:

Aerations on Lake Washington – two sites on the northwest corner of the lake have been set up to protect the shoreline structures. This was based on shoreline damage created by ice ridges last year. Property owners at these two sites obtained permits for this practice. These are annual permits (\$250.00), that require additional liability insurance, posting notices on all vehicle inlets to the lake, "Thin Ice" signs around the open water area, positioned 4 to 6 feet high and a maximum of 100 feet apart. 2 public notices published prior to permitting, and monthly inspections by DNR agents. DNR Hydrologist Katie Weggen (Mankato Office 507-389-8807) is the one that can provide the best information about Lake Aerations. Emily Wolf is the Hydrologist for our area out of Spicer 320-409-2042.

There was a question about the status of the dam, Mike W reported the DNR is pretty much taking care of this. He did offer his help, but they chose not to involve anyone from the Lake.

Next Board Meeting April 7 at 7 PM Dassel Rod 'n Gun Club

