

LAKE WASHBURN ASSOCIATION

Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 15, 2026 – 7:10 PM – 8:44 PM (CT) – Via Zoom

Attendance

Name	Role	Status
Scott Erickson	President	Present
Charlie McGlynn	Vice President	Present (joined at end of meeting)
Tony Patterson	Treasurer	Present
Kim Zwart	Director (serving as Secretary)	Present
Brent Nordstrom	Director	Present
Bob Holman	Director	Present
Frank Kendall	Director	Present
Jill Emanuel	Director	Present
Dave Snesrud	Director	Present
Dave Patterson	Director (outgoing)	Present
Beth Moorhead	Guest	Present

Call to Order

Scott called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM once a quorum was confirmed as present.

The Board welcomed three new directors elected this year – Bob Holman (AIS Prevention), Frank Kendall (Natural Lakeshore), and Dave Snesrud (Water Quality).

Approval of Agenda

The agenda, previously circulated by email, was reviewed with no additions or changes proposed.

Motion: *To approve the meeting agenda as presented. Moved by Tony Patterson; seconded by Dave Snesrud. Motion carried unanimously.*

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the prior board meeting, previously circulated via email, were reviewed with no corrections noted. The Board thanked Kim for the clarity of the minutes and for the AI-assisted process used to prepare them.

Motion: *To approve the previous meeting minutes as distributed. Moved by Frank Kendall; seconded by Tony Patterson. Motion carried unanimously.*

Treasurer's Report

Tony presented the financial report through August 2026:

- Year-to-date income: \$25,270.72 (down ~\$1,550 vs. the same period last year, attributable to a lag in remote mail/deposit processing).
- Monthly disbursements: \$7,980.06, the largest item being a \$7,651 milfoil treatment invoice from PLM Lakes and Land.
- A township/Cass County AIS grant of approximately \$7,800 is expected in late September/October; additional December memberships and donations are also anticipated.
- CD balances grew \$6,266 year-over-year; two CDs were renewed at a 13-month term.
- Account balances: Checking \$22,779; Savings ~\$33,000; restricted funds include AIS (\$72,087, unchanged), General Fund (~\$57,800), and Fisheries (~\$12,300) – total funds on hand approximately \$170,231.84, roughly \$15,000 ahead of the same period last year.
- Membership dues will increase from \$25 to \$40 per year, effective for approximately 300–315 members.

Scott noted that CDs should never be allowed to auto-renew, as doing so currently forfeits roughly half the available interest rate; the bank has been instructed accordingly, and notices are now directed to the Treasurer rather than the President.

Motion: *To approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Moved by Kim Zwart; seconded by Brent Nordstrom. Motion carried unanimously.*

Election Recap

Kim presented a summary of the recent membership vote on the slate of nominees and on the proposed bylaw amendments:

- Nominees: 55 in favor, 2 opposed, 2 abstentions – passed.
- Bylaw amendments: 56 in favor, 1 opposed, 2 abstentions – passed.

Two members submitted constructive written feedback – one regarding the Association's communication strategy and one asking why the dues increase was not put to a full membership vote (per the bylaws, dues changes are set by the Board and ratified by paper ballot at the Annual Meeting, not by separate referendum). Scott will respond individually to both with appreciation for the feedback. A third comment was considered non-constructive and will not be addressed further.

Calendar of Events – 2027

Scott presented the proposed 2027 calendar of events:

- Board meetings (5 total): four via Zoom, one in person
- Spring Highway Cleanup

- 4th Annual Lake Steward Lunch and Learn
- Youth Boating Safety Training – (Sheriff's office to be confirmed – possibly Cass County, alternating with Crow Wing County)
- Youth Fishing Challenge
- 4th of July Boat Parade
- Annual Membership Meeting, with a preparation day beforehand
- Lions Corn Feed
- Fall Highway Cleanup
- Floating Ice Cream Social

Motion: To approve the 2027 calendar of events as presented. Moved by Frank Kendall; seconded by Tony Patterson. Motion carried unanimously.

2027 Budget Presentation and Approval

Scott presented the proposed 2027 budget, built from department estimates submitted by AIS, Natural Shoreline, Water Quality, Fisheries, Boating Safety, Membership Development, and Administration.

LWA MISSION EXPENDITURES:						
MISSION:	EVENT/EXPENSE:	2024:	2025:	Thru July 2026:	Aug-Dec 2026:	Budget 2027:
PREVENT AIS						
Glen Goodwin	Freshwater Survey #1	\$ 3,170.00	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 2,140.00		2,250.00
Vicki Lipstreuer	Freshwater Survey #2			\$ 5,670.00		5,850.00
Bob Holman	PLM Treatment #1 (early summer)	\$ 750.00	\$ 6,190.00	\$ 7,651.00		7,000.00
	PLM Treatment #2 (Fall, cost unknown)					6,000.00
	Cass Soil & Water (Inspection Hours)	\$ 1,596.00	\$ 1,909.50	\$ 940.50	6,184.50	7,250.00
	Less: Contributions to AIS Fund (150)			\$ (7,535.50)		-7,000.00
	Less: CLT and Cass County Grants				-14,000.00	-13,000.00
	TOTALS-	\$ 5,516.00	\$ 13,599.50	\$ 8,866.00	\$ (7,815.50)	\$ 8,350.00
PRESERVE NATURAL SHORELINE						
	MLR's Shoreland Guides	\$ 500.00				320.00
Scott Erickson	Lunch & Learn	\$ 250.00	\$ 851.00	\$ 1,000.00		1,150.00
Frank Kendall	Lake Steward Signs & Hardware	\$ 360.00		\$ 96.33	430.00	
	TOTALS-	\$ 1,110.00	\$ 851.00	\$ 1,096.33	\$ 430.00	\$ 1,470.00
IMPROVE LAKE WATER QUALITY						
Dave Sniesrud						
Charlie McGlynn	RMB Environmental Freshwater Survey		\$ 1,644.00		1,900.00	1,900.00
	TOTALS-	\$ -	\$ 1,644.00	\$ -	\$ 1,900.00	\$ 1,900.00
STRENGTHEN OUR FISHERY						
Brent Nordstrom	Youth Fishing Challenge	\$ 887.62	\$ 989.00	\$ 1,011.06		1,500.00
Lisa McCloud	Private Stocking	\$ 14,960.00				16,000.00
	Less: Fisheries Fund distribution	\$ (14,960.00)				-16,000.00
	TOTALS-	\$ 887.62	\$ 989.00	\$ 1,011.06	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00
BOAT SAFELY						
Vicki Lipstreuer	Sheriff's Youth Safe Boating Training		\$ 322.60			250.00
Teresa Reding	Hazard Marker Placement		\$ 300.00		350.00	350.00
Pat Maranda	Lake Patrol					
	TOTALS-	\$ -	\$ 622.60	\$ -	\$ 350.00	\$ 600.00
DEVELOP/GROW OUR MEMBERS						
Glen Goodwin	Lion's Corn Feed		\$ 206.62		671.00	675.00
Vicki Lipstreuer	Ice Cream Social	\$ 255.61	\$ 303.38		400.00	500.00
Kim Zwart	Washburn Wear Apparel	\$ 744.00				
	Membership data base, Mailchimp			\$ 384.00		384.00
	Spring invoice mailing (340)			\$ 434.00		450.00
	Summer mailing (40)			\$ 50.00		60.00
	Thank you letters (300)			\$ 300.00		325.00
	Sustaining Member Dues Letters (100)				125.00	
	Paper, toner, envelopes			\$ 200.00		200.00
	TOTALS-	\$ 999.61	\$ 510.00	\$ 1,368.00	\$ 1,196.00	\$ 2,594.00
COMMUNICATE						
Charlie McGlynn	Road signs (Graphic Elements)	\$ 720.00		\$ 1,610.63		
Beth Moorhead	Newsletters	\$ 3,712.96	\$ 3,604.51		2,000.00	2,000.00
	TOTALS-	\$ 3,712.96	\$ 3,604.51	\$ 1,610.63	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
ADMINISTER						
	Office Supplies/Postage/Zoom/Misc.	\$ 1,475.56		\$ 481.08		500.00
	Storage Unit (Red's)	\$ 848.96	\$ 806.40	\$ 864.00		900.00
Tony Patterson	Cincinnati Insurance Co.	\$ 651.00	\$ 556.00		600	600.00
Janis Judd	Western Surety Bond			\$ 100.00		110.00
	Safety Deposit Box			\$ 45.00		45.00
	Outgoing Donations/Memberships	\$ 1,700.00	\$ 1,800.00		400.00	400.00
	TOTALS-	\$ 4,675.52	\$ 3,162.40	\$ 1,490.08	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 2,555.00
OUR MISSION						
	GRAND TOTAL	\$ 16,901.71	\$ 24,983.01	\$ 15,442.10	\$ (939.50)	\$ 20,969.00
	Less: Gen'l Fund Contributions			\$ (5,877.50)		\$ (6,000.00)
	Less: Member Dues			\$ (7,875.00)		\$ (12,000.00)
	Net Gen'l Fund Cash Out			\$ 1,689.60	\$ (939.50)	\$ 2,969.00

Discussion highlights:

- The AIS contingency is conservative; if the full-lake survey confirms only the existing three known hot spots, the projected second-treatment cost (and possibly the survey itself) may not be needed, and hand-pulling (rather than chemical treatment) could substantially reduce that line item.
- Bob noted evaluating whether both AIS surveys remain necessary going forward, which could further reduce cost.
- Beth raised the idea of advertiser support offsetting newsletter costs and offered to help build out that strategy.
- Tony proposed adding sponsorship opportunities for events (e.g., Lunch and Learn, Youth Fishing Challenge) to the newsletter as a way for members to support LWA financially; the Board was supportive of pursuing this, noting LWA's 501(c)(3) status.
- A \$204 MailChimp email-platform line item was added to the budget during the meeting.

Scott noted that Board approval of the budget authorizes the Treasurer to process routine expenditures against it, and that any material changes during the year can be brought back to the Board for a vote.

Motion: *To approve the 2027 budget as presented. Moved by Frank Kendall; seconded by Tony Patterson. Motion carried unanimously.*

Communication Strategy and Newsletter Discussion

Kim presented a rough, AI-assisted (Claude) draft newsletter concept for board discussion, noting it was intended purely to stimulate thinking and not a finished product. Beth, drawing on her corporate communications background, and Jill, who has historical context on prior LWA newsletters, contributed additional perspective.

Key discussion points:

- Membership distribution preferences: of 315 members, 258 have opted in to email communication, but only 61 prefer an electronic-only newsletter versus 213 who prefer a mailed copy – indicating a hybrid distribution approach will still be needed.
- The Board favored moving from two newsletters per year to one more concise, higher-quality “journal-style” publication, potentially increasing advertiser revenue while reducing production burden on volunteers.
- Historical newsletters (from the 1990s) were shorter, well-written, and included modest business-card-sized ads – offered as a model for a more concise approach.
- Proposed content pillars: the “Lake Washburn story” (reflections on the past year and anticipation for the next), lake health and habitat information (potentially via curated links to DNR/county resources rather than original articles), amplification of the four key community events (Lunch and Learn, Annual Meeting, Youth Fishing Challenge, Corn Feed), lake steward involvement, cabin tips, and self-promotion of LWA's impact on water quality and AIS prevention.
- Sale of remaining Lake Washburn history books was suggested as an additional communication/revenue opportunity.

The Board agreed on a two-phase approach:

- Fall 2026: A shorter email blast/president's letter in October, co-authored by Scott and Charlie, recapping 2026 achievements and previewing 2027 plans.
- Spring 2027: A more comprehensive newsletter, developed by a volunteer working group, timed to reach members by early May and to amplify the 2027 calendar of events.

Scott will email the membership to recruit volunteers for the newsletter working group.

Speaker Topics – 2027 Annual Meeting and Lunch and Learn

The Board discussed five candidate speaker topics for the 2027 Annual Meeting and Lunch and Learn: watershed trends, beavers and otters, fishery strategies, recovering natural shoreline, and AIS trends and strategies.

The Board selected watershed trends (building on a June conversation with a DNR hydrologist) and beavers and otters as the two topics to pursue for the Annual Meeting.

Soil and Water Conservation District staff (shoreline restoration) will be considered for the Lunch and Learn, given strong member interest in individual shoreline and land-preservation guidance.

Other Business

Weir Dam Repair Inquiry

Frank reported that he has been in contact with the Minnesota DNR dam engineer regarding the Weir Dam at the south end of the lake, which was constructed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1936 and is inspected roughly every eight years; the dam is scheduled for inspection this year. Frank will follow up with the DNR contact in three to four weeks and provide a written report by email once results are available.

Director Term Alignment

Scott flagged an administrative issue: due to past mid-term director replacements being appointed to new three-year terms rather than the remainder of the vacated term, five director terms are set to expire in 2027 (versus the bylaws' intent of two or more per year). The bylaws permit the Board, by majority vote, to waive the standard one-year gap requirement before a director may begin a new term. One possible solution is for two of the five affected directors to voluntarily extend their current terms to 2028. The Board will revisit this topic at the May meeting.

Adjournment

Motion: *To adjourn the meeting. Moved by Charlie McGlynn; seconded by Tony Patterson. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:44 PM.*

Action Items

Owner	Action Item
Scott Erickson and Charlie McGlynn	Produce a fall email blast/president's letter for distribution to membership in October.
Scott Erickson	Email the board and membership to form a newsletter working group.
Beth Moorhead	Coordinate the newsletter working group to develop a newsletter mock-up and strategy, including potential advertisers and content structure. Goal to distribute in May.
Tony Patterson	Follow up with bank representative Jackie on the October CD maturity and select a renewal option.
Tony Patterson	Investigate the liability insurance policy – contact Raleigh Herman and the current insurance agent for details.
Brent Nordstrom	Obtain a firm 2027 private fish-stocking price from Stuart Klug (Klug's Fish Farm).
Brent Nordstrom	Contact his new DNR fisheries liaison to confirm role and obtain stocking approval.
Bob Holman	Ask the RaLaLa president about their newsletter format (electronic vs. hard copy).
Frank Kendall	Follow up on the Weir Dam inspection report and share results with the board.
Charlie McGlynn	Continue as official archivist – store documents electronically and publish minutes to the website.
Scott Erickson	Bring the director term-alignment issue back to the board at the May meeting.
