

Lake Washburn Association

Board Meeting Minutes

Date	Saturday, July 11, 2026
Meeting Type	In-person Board Meeting = Crooked Lake Townhall
Called to Order By	Kim Zwart
Attendees	Kim Zwart, Scott Erickson, Tony Patterson, Charlie McGlynn, Teresa Redding, Susan Mork
Guest	Bob Holman (Lakes and Shores Committee / Washburn Corn Feed)

1. Call to Order and Approval of Previous Minutes

Kim called the meeting to order. The Board reviewed the previous meeting's minutes, which had been circulated by Janet.

MOTION: Scott moved to approve the previous meeting's minutes; Teresa seconded. Motion carried.

2. Washburn Corn Feed – Budget Request (Bob Holman)

Bob Holman, presenting for the Lakes and Shores Committee, updated the Board on plans for the annual Washburn Corn Feed, scheduled for August 15.

- Crooked Lake Township's AIS funding may only be used for inspector hours, surveys, and treatments — not for outreach supplies or giveaways — following a determination by the township's legal counsel. As a result, the associations must fund corn feed supplies themselves.
- Needed items include the grand-prize motor, coloring supplies, totes, T-shirts, and design/transfer costs (approximately \$350, since the Army Corps of Engineers can no longer donate press services due to their own budget constraints).
- The Outing Jaycees (“JC’s”) donated four event canopies valued at \$600, which will be delivered, set up, and taken down by the donor — reducing set-up/tear-down effort for volunteers.
- Crooked Lake Township's total AIS funding increased this year by \$3,300 (bringing the total to about \$18,000), split between RALALA and LWA — roughly \$1,600 each.
- Teresa reported that at a Crooked Lake Township meeting, it was suggested that some of the donated funds go toward an inflatable giveaway; the Board discussed that LWA could consider running its own raffle for an inflatable in the future, separate from this year's request.
- Bob requested \$500 (up from \$300) for corn feed supplies; RALALA has agreed to a similar increase. Gary Langer will pay for supplies up front and be reimbursed by the association.
- Scott will email the lake stewards to recruit event volunteers.
- The Lakes and Shores Committee is moving to Zoom meetings (every other week on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m.) and is looking to add up to 10 new members; the Board encouraged members to spread the word to neighbors.

MOTION: Scott moved to approve \$500 for the Corn Feed budget; Charlie seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Fishing Challenge Recap (Charlie)

- A miscommunication about the weigh-in time (1:00 p.m., not a 1:00–4:00 p.m. window) caused frustration for one family that arrived late; next year's communications will clarify a single weigh-in time.
- Attendance was lower this year, with fewer kids than in past years; the event date will likely need to avoid Father's Day weekend next year — an updated date will be confirmed.
- Hot dogs and all food for the event were donated; Pat and Julie again hosted.

4. Boat Parade Recap (Charlie)

The July 4th boat parade drew an estimated 80-plus boats and was described as a huge success, with no incidents reported to the Board.

5. East Side Pondweed Reports (Charlie)

- The Board received additional emails from east-side residents regarding floating pondweed mats. Samples tested have confirmed this is common pondweed, not an invasive species (e.g., not starry stonewort).
- A permit to treat pondweed is possible, but the DNR requires the permit request to come from the individual property owner, not from LWA as an association.

6. Lake Levels and Beaver Dam Update (Charlie/Scott)

Recent rain has helped raise lake levels. Cass County Highway Department has confirmed four beaver dams on Dagget Creek that are holding back a significant amount of water; a portion of Highway 48 has eroded as a result of the high water caused by this backup.

DNR Hydrologist Meeting (Adam Lehan)

- The Minnesota DNR has never granted a permit for a “Beaver Deceiver” device in the state, although the design is used in other states.
- If a beaver dam connects to a property, the property owner's permission is required before it can be removed; the Board plans to touch on this at the Annual Meeting.
- There is no regulation prohibiting beaver trapping as long as it does not involve accessing or setting traps on private property without permission.
- The DNR will not issue a permit to remove a dam unless the beavers are first trapped and removed (relocation is not accepted as an alternative).
- Long-cycle precipitation trends: from 2021 to now, the region is roughly 50 inches below average precipitation — a deficit last seen in the 1960s–70s. The period from 1992–2001, when lake levels were above average, is often what people remember fondly, which makes current conditions feel unusually low by comparison.
- Because the lake has both an inlet and an outlet and is spring-fed, it is in relatively better shape than many landlocked area lakes. Beaver dams also help filter water coming in from Lake George, and water clarity has been trending noticeably clearer.
- This lake-level and precipitation-cycle information is planned to be shared briefly at the Annual Meeting for member awareness.

7. East Lake Channel – Dredging History (Teresa)

Teresa raised the question of whether the East Lake channel has ever been dredged. The Board was not certain, but it may have occurred in the 1950s. The area historically had protected wild rice and is now a no-wake zone.

8. Budget Update – Fishing Challenge 2027 (Charlie)

The Board discussed pre-approving 2027 Fishing Challenge funding, since it is already a line item in the budget, and whether a separate vote is required for a budgeted line item. The Board agreed to wait until the September board meeting to vote on this, once the related bylaw changes (see Item 9) have been finalized.

9. Proposed Bylaws Amendment – Spending Threshold (Scott)

Scott proposed amending the bylaws provision requiring a full membership vote for expenditures above \$1,000, suggesting an increase to \$2,000 to reduce administrative friction for recurring annual activities (e.g., newsletter, AIS prevention, Fishing Challenge, Lake Steward banquet) that now regularly exceed the current threshold.

- The proposal will be presented at the Annual Meeting and placed on the electronic election ballot for a final membership vote in August.
- Charlie will send a membership FYI email communicating both the proposed bylaws change and the proposed dues change ahead of the Annual Meeting.

10. Proposed Dues Increase (Scott / Charlie)

Scott and Charlie proposed increasing annual membership dues to \$40, to be voted on at the Annual Meeting by paper ballot. Scott will prepare the paper ballots.

11. Annual Meeting Planning (Charlie)

- Guest speaker: Maddie from the National Loon Center will present. She is local to Remer and brings a University of Minnesota scientist's approach to her educational talk.
- Volunteers will arrive Friday at 2:00 p.m. to help set up; the group needs to be finished before noon on the day of the meeting, since another event will be setting up afterward.
- Scott will retrieve supplies from Red's Storage ahead of the meeting.
- Social hour begins at 9:30 a.m., with the meeting starting at 10:00 a.m.
- Committee reports are due to Charlie by Friday, July 17; Charlie will compile them into a PowerPoint presentation.
- Meeting order: committee reports first, followed by discussion of the dues increase and bylaws amendment.
- An appeal for donations to the Fisheries fund will be made, in support of a planned 2027 stocking effort.
- Charlie will follow up with Janice regarding coordinating food for the meeting.

12. LWA Apparel and Merchandise

The Board agreed it should consider freshening up the apparel and merchandise offerings to include items people would be more interested in purchasing, as current inventory is low and existing designs are dated.

13. Board Succession and Committee Structure

President and Vice President positions, along with other board seats, are up for election in August. The Board discussed making key leadership roles as sustainable as possible for future volunteers.

- Proposal: assign a board member as a liaison/director for each committee to provide structure and support (specific committee assignments to be determined).
- The Board currently has 4 officers and 9 directors.
- Charlie has committed to remaining on the Board for one additional year after a new president is found, to support the transition.
- Two director seats will need to be filled in the August election.
- Nominations are needed for President, Vice President, and two director seats; Charlie will include this request in the FYI email sent to the membership.
- Scott will draft a simple organizational chart to clarify committee structure and reporting lines.

14. University of Minnesota eDNA Study (Susan Mork)

Susan Mork has volunteered to participate in a University of Minnesota eDNA research study and will be conducting the associated water sampling; she received a full sampling kit and will update the Board as the study progresses.

15. Adjournment

MOTION: Susan moved to adjourn; Scott seconded. Motion carried.

Board Member Action Items

- **Scott:** Email lake stewards to recruit Corn Feed volunteers.
- **Scott:** Prepare paper ballots for the dues increase and bylaws amendment votes.
- **Scott:** Draft a simple organizational chart for LWA committees and board roles.
- **Scott:** Retrieve Annual Meeting supplies from Red's Storage.
- **Charlie:** Send membership FYI email covering the bylaws amendment, dues increase, and board nominations (President, VP, 2 director seats).
- **Charlie:** Coordinate with Janice on Annual Meeting food.
- **Charlie:** Compile committee reports into a PowerPoint for the Annual Meeting (reports due July 17).