

Agenda/ Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: 24Apr2025

Topic: Lake Wisconsin Alliance Monthly Meeting

Board Meeting Attendees:

Forrest, Dede	X	Murray, Andrea	X	Zumm, Rob	X
Gleason, Mike	NP	Neander, Steve	NP		
Herbert, Brandon	X	Ray, Kauhanae	NP		
Kell, David	X	Stowe, Amy	NP		
Kidd, Sarah	X	Zumm, Jenny	X		

Guest Attendee: Bill Spain, Okee Bay Lake Association

NOTE: Next meeting will be Thursday, May 29.

Agenda/Meeting Discussion:

This was the monthly meeting of the LWA Board members.

1&2. Meeting Administration

- David called the meeting to order.
- The meeting minutes of March 27, 2025, were approved.

3. Treasurer's Financial Report

- Brandon reviewed the Treasurer's Report and sent the written report after the meeting. See the report distributed with these meeting minutes for full details.

4. Communication

- See update for Website Design Update in Section 7 below.

5. Membership

- There was no update on membership at this meeting.

6. Education

- There is an educational opportunity to enroll (free of charge) for self-paced online courses designed for lake association organizational management, communications, membership, etc.
- These classes are provided by UW Stevens. Go to their website (link below) and look for a link for Lake Organizational Capacity. There are 4 modules. Allow approximately 3 hours/module.
- [Lake Board Bulletin: Important Information for Lake Organizations, April 2025](#)

7. Business

Agenda/ Meeting Minutes

- ❖ Okee Bay Association: Update and Request for Support
 - Accomplishments of the association include:
 - Received approval of their Aquatic Plant Management Plan from the DNR. This gives them the ability to apply for a 5-year grant rather than annual grant applications.
 - They signed a contract with APM to do harvesting (May-July) & herbicide treatment.
 - Treatment costs = \$38K. The association is planning to support this activity with fund raising activities (\$10K), association funds (\$15K), and membership funds (\$13K)
 - The University of Wisconsin will be using Okee Bay as a study practicum.
 - Okee Bay request financial support to support their ongoing activities to rid their bay of invasive aquatic plants. There was a motion to donate \$5,000 to the Okee Bay Association. This was approved (1st Motion: Sarah/2nd Motion: Dede).
- ❖ Website Design Update and Next Steps
 - The contract with Erawatech was signed. Mike is meeting with Erawatech weekly as they begin the re-design.
- ❖ Constant Contact Renewal
 - Sarah to follow up to get the invoice and will send to Brandon. (This has been completed.)
- ❖ Dekorra/ Camp Rest Native Plant Landscaping Project
 - Sarah contacted 10 landscaping companies and the UW Madison Dept of Planning & Landscaping
 - 4 companies responded back
 - **Aspen Landscaping & Gardening:** Met virtually. Sent information. -They are interested.
 - **Landscape Innovations:** Met on Thursday, April 24. Interested in the project.
 - **Nature's Way Landscaping & Snow Removal:** Met on April 4 with Chris Arnold. Sent a request for an update.
 - **Raemisch Enterprises:** Spoke to Mike on April 7. Sent email with more information. Sent a request on April 21 asking if he is interested in the project. Will be meeting with him on Friday, April 25.
 - **Next Steps:** Sarah to let companies know to submit plans by May 23.
- ❖ Lake Wisconsin Alliance and Potential Partnerships

Agenda/ Meeting Minutes

- David updated the Board on the possibility of supporting native plant landscaping at the Merrimac Hotel site.
- ❖ Involvement of New Volunteers
 - Kathrin Judd has volunteered to be a website administrator.
 - Kathrin may have a person that could do some photography.
 - Amy Stowe may have a volunteer for Treasurer.
 - **Next Steps:** Sarah to contact Mike to let him know of her interest and ensure an introduction.
- ❖ Watershed Workday – May 10th
 - Sarah sent an email out via Constant Contact on April 14 asking for volunteers. All responses to the email sent said they could not attend.
 - **Next Steps:** Sarah to let the contact at Devil's Lake know we will not have any volunteers.
- ❖ Conservation by the Lake
 - Date: July 24, 5-8 pm @ W11798 Reynolds Rd, Lodi Lochner Farm.
 - There was a motion for the Lake Wisconsin Alliance to donate \$1000. This donation was approved. (1st Motion: Jenny/2nd Motion: Sarah)
- ❖ Merrimac Community Festival
 - Date: Saturday, June 14 (Father's Day Weekend)
 - After discussion, the Board decided not to support a table at this event due to very limited availability of Board members to staff the table.
- ❖ Lakes and Rivers Convention
 - Jenny attended various seminars (virtually). Topics included: Climate change and invasive species. Many lake groups are getting volunteers through school groups, scouting groups, and company volunteer days.
 - Rob is investigating an alternative speaker to speak on the dugout canoes discovered in Wisconsin for the Annual Mtg. (The speaker at the Lakes & Rivers Convention is not available.)
- ❖ Membership Drive 2025

Agenda/ Meeting Minutes

- The membership drive is going well. Over 30% of people added a donation to their membership.
- ❖ Southeastern Wisconsin Invasive Species Consortium (SEWISC) Discussion
 - Sarah met virtually with Jill Harper, Executive Director, Southeastern Wisconsin Invasive Species Consortium (SEWISC) on April 23, 2025.
 - Jill explained the organization of the invasive species cooperatives in Wisconsin. Currently, Columbia County is not part of any cooperative. Columbia County could possibly join the South Central or the Central Wisconsin Invasive Partnerships.
 - Jill also reviewed some of the SEWISC Activities and how to approach putting starting a 5-year strategic plan using the support of the UW Extension.
 - **Next Steps:**
 - Contact the UW Extension contact for our area to see if they would offer support to draft a 5-year strategic plan.
 - Contact the South Central or the Central Wisconsin Invasive Partnerships to understand how Columbia County could become a part of that.
- ❖ Newsletter Updates
 - Topics to be included:
 - Update on Okee Bay activities (Bill Spain)
 - Summary of the Lakes & Rivers Convention (Rob & Jenny)
 - The plan is to send the summer edition by the end of the 1st week of June.
 - **Next Steps:** Please submit all articles to Dede by May 20.
- ❖ National Wildlife Certification Process
 - David described the certification for wildlife habitats. The certification process is based on a short quiz with questions about your property. The membership fee is \$25. He had his property certified and showed the signs sent to him upon his certification. The signs cost \$30.
 - This could be something Lake Wisconsin Alliance could use as recognition for people who are working to preserve their shoreline area.
- ❖ Evaluation of Explore the Watershed series and Plan for 2025
 - May 17-Volunteer work project, Devil's Lake: *Cancelled due to no volunteers.*
 - June 21-Hike the Parfrey Glen State Natural Area: *Send email notice out about 2 weeks before the event.*
 - July 24 – Lake Wisconsin Farmer Watershed Council

Agenda/ Meeting Minutes

- August 23-LWA Annual Meeting @ Merrimac Memorial Park
- September 20-Merrimac Preserve hike
- October 18-Hike @ Gibraltar Rock Park

Future Ideas:

Boat cleaning stations - Work to install boot cleaning stations and brushes. Check Wisconsin DNR for more info.

Kayak launch – Connect with Wisconsin kayaking groups. Check Facebook to find out who is heading up these groups.

Lodi Parks group – Bill Pfeil.

Next Meeting: May 29, 2025

Action Items

No	Item	Responsible	Status
1	Communicate to landscaping companies and request they submit plans by May 23.	Sarah	
2	Let the contact at Devil's Lake know that we will not have any volunteers.	Sarah	
3	Contact Mike to let him know of her interest and ensure an introduction.	Sarah	
4	Follow-up with the speaker on the dug-out canoes for interest in presenting at the annual meeting.	Rob	In process
5	Contact the UW Extension contact for our area to see if they would offer support to draft a 5-year strategic plan.	Sarah	
6	Contact the South Central or the Central Wisconsin Invasive Partnerships to understand how Columbia County could become a part of that.	Sarah	
7	Generate a list from those members that have expressed interest in volunteer opportunities.	Amy	
8	Transfer the membership data from Filemaker Pro to Excel	Amy	
9	Provide list of businesses that received Business Appreciation Certificates to Andrea/Amy for inclusion in		

Agenda/ Meeting Minutes

No	Item	Responsible	Status
	the LWA member database and Mike for posting on the website.		
10	Explore future dates for educational presentation on invasive species. Work with Mara Lince for future opportunities. ➤ Mara suggested we contact a local school for a boat tour of the lake. She has experienced this recently and it was a great time for youth.	Mike	Continue to follow
11	Notify Erawatech & Tingall's of the Board's decisions.	Mike Sarah	COMPLETED
12	Follow-up with the landscaping companies and schedule meetings with the interested companies.	Sarah	COMPLETED
13	Reach out to SEWISC to learn more about the generation of their 5-year strategic plan.	Sarah	COMPLETED
14	Proceed with making a donation of \$500 to the Grade Boat Club in support of the purchase of a work boat	Brandon	COMPLETED
15	Request 50% of the amount from Grade Boat Club (made to Roloff Corp)	Brandon	COMPLETED