

LLPA Annual Meeting Minutes

Saturday, May 30, 2026

Board Members Present: Jeff Linkenheld, Pete Stuckert, Sage Dunham, Betty Brost, Sandy Campbell, Julia Arneson, Randy Champeau, Jessie Crane, Byron Crouse, DJ Ehrike, Brian Halloran, Chuck Lawrence, Joe Thrasher, Megan Sorensen

Welcome by Sandy Campbell

Introduction of Board of Directors

Scout Camp Welcome by Brian Halloran

- Added new properties under conservation easement
- Scout Camp hosts a public Day Camp the week of July 4th
- Scout Camp hosts a Winter Camp

Thanks to Volunteers

- Volunteers who helped in the past year are included in the presentation
- First Responders received a \$3,000 check from dedicated donations received and passed through the LLPA.
 - Kelly Cupp accepted the check on behalf of the First Responders.
 - He stated that more First Responders are needed for the Long Lake area - only eight people are remaining.

Financial Update

- About \$186,000 in total liabilities & equity - much of which is budgeted for specific budget items, projects, or savings.
- Total net income in the Profit and Loss statement is about \$4,000 in the positive at the moment.

Elections

- Proposed slate of officers for June 2026-June 2027 included
 - Jeff Linkenheld - President
 - Pete Stuckert - Vice President
 - Sandy Campbell - Past President
 - Sage Dunham - Secretary
 - Betty Brost - Treasurer
- Proposed At Large Directors for 2026 vote included
 - Jessie Crane - 3 yr
 - Mary Johnson - 3 year
 - Jim Gores - 3 year
 - Dean Springer - nomination from the floor
- A motion was made from the floor to accept the proposed slate of directors.
- A second was made from the floor.

- The slate of directors was approved by voice vote.

New President Remarks by Jeff Linkenheld

Membership by Pete Stuckert

- There are over 750 property owners on Long Lake, but only about 50% of them are LLPA members. Tell your friends and neighbors about LLPA.
- Year to Date memberships are a little lower than past years at this time, but we are hopeful that membership pushes will bring those numbers back up.

Fundraising by DJ Ehrike

- Protecting and maintaining our lake is the priority of all of us. Funds are necessary to maintain this space that we all treasure.
- Funding sources
 - Membership dues about \$17,000
 - Voluntary Donations about \$89,000
 - Of those about \$24,000 were brought in over Giving Tuesday.
 - Endowment is currently at \$12,500

Lake Scientist Report by Megan Sorensen

- Yellow Iris & Japanese Knotweed Management
 - We are in our third year of yellow iris treatment.
 - Treatment is a targeted herbicidal treatment that is applied directly to the leaves of the plant itself, not the ground or water.
 - Parcel Results
 - 111 parcels were treated for yellow iris.
 - 42 parcels had unclear identification - young plants can look like native blue flag iris.
 - 14 parcels did not give permission to enter property for treatment.
 - 132 parcels did not have yellow flag iris.
 - 172 parcels did not respond to requests for access to treat.
 - Japanese Knotweed has been found on some shores as well. It is highly recommended to treat because it can be an aggressive invasive shoreline plant that can take over shorelines and cause structural damage to properties.
- Phosphorus Study
 - In 2025 and 2026, we have collected water quality data.
 - In 2026 we will be collecting sediment cores.
 - Based on the results, we will determine the next best steps, which might include alum treatment and shoreline and watershed health projects & education.
- Shoreline Health
 - Parcels were assessed for shoreline health.
 - Shoreline health best practices include
 - Native plantings - keeping a buffer zone of native plants to slow runoff into the lake.

- Diversion - move water to places where it can soak into the ground rather than running off into the lake.
 - Rock infiltration - Providing places for water to soak into the ground.
 - Rain gardens - Create wildlife habitat while capturing and cleaning runoff.
 - Fish sticks - Provide habitat for animals including fish.
- LLPA can apply for grants for shoreline best practices on behalf of the property owners. The grants are up to \$1,000 in cost-share per project, but you're not required to get a grant to do any of these projects.
- Ongoing lake projects include:
 - AIS Monitoring
 - Aquatic Plant Harvesting
 - Enhanced wake education
 - Tracking biodiversity
 - Importance of aquatic plants
 - Septic system maintenance
 - Clean Boats Clean Waters
 - Loon Monitoring
 - Citizen Lake Monitoring Network
- Northwest Lakes Conference is coming up on June 12 at Hayward High School.

LLPA Our Recent History & Looking Ahead by Byron Crouse

- LLPA established 34 years ago.
- Some topics that we've tackled over the years include
 - Increasing membership
 - Raising funds
 - Building partnerships with local organizations
 - Monitoring the lake quality
 - Aquatic invasive species
 - Issues with new boating technology (motor boats, jet skis, and wake boats)
 - Creating a lake management plan (we are on our third plan!)
 - Applying for grants (we've received 10 different grants)
 - Considering becoming a lake district (we've tossed this idea around 4 times)

What are Nearby Lakes Doing? By Betty Brost

- The priorities from our Comprehensive Management Plan include
 - Long Lake monitoring
 - Long Lake management
 - Education & communication
 - LLPA capacity building
- The current concerns and challenges we are facing include
 - Maintaining knowledgeable and dedicated volunteers.
 - Donations insufficient to manage and preserve Long Lake.
 - More competition for DNR grants.
 - Rapid increase in weed and algae growth.

- Concern about invasive species.
 - Sedimentation.
- A 5 to 7 year budget to address issues based on current trends shows
 - We'd have a \$650,000 funding deficit.
 - If we don't receive DNR grants, our funding deficit would be about \$900,000.
- Potential Future Options
 - Do nothing and allow the lake quality to deteriorate.
 - Significantly increase LLPA membership to about 80-90% of parcel owners becoming members with everyone donating above the minimum \$40 dues.
 - Explore formation of a lake district to raise needed funds.
- What is a Lake District
 - The purpose of a lake district is to maintain, protect, and improve the quality of a lake and its watershed for the mutual good of the members and the lake environment.
 - A lake district is a governmental unit managed by a board of 5-7 members.
 - 3-5 are elected at an annual meeting of the lake district members
 - 1 is appointed by the county.
 - 1 is appointed by the township. In this case, since there are multiple townships on Long Lake, the largest township would appoint the board member.
 - A lake district can only be formed if 51% of property owners petition to form a lake district.
 - The annual budget must be approved at the annual meeting of lake district members. All meetings must abide by open meeting policies.
 - The lake district may raise money via donations, assessments, taxes, and debt.
 - There are many lake districts in the nearby area including
 - Shell Lake
 - Spooner Lake
 - Trego Lake
 - Rice Lake
 - Beaver Dam Lake
 - Callahan-Mud Lake
 - The next steps to lake district exploration include
 - Developing a communication and education plan for property owners & local community leaders
 - Research further steps on forming a lake district including establishing a boundary, calculating estimated annual costs for potential Lake District members, and drafting proposed by-laws.
 - Obtain input and feedback from potential lake district members and local community leaders.
 - Establish a petition drive to request that the county consider forming a lake district for Long Lake, which will require at least 51% of landowner support.

- Proceed to county or terminate pursuit of a lake district based on results of the petition drive.

Membership Discussion, Q&A

Lake District Questions/Comments

- ***Who will be included in the boundaries?*** That is not yet determined. Those forming the lake district can decide who is included. Some lakes include the whole watershed, city or township. Others just include the direct property owners or those across the street as well.
- ***How much vote does the Scout Camp get in the petition whether or not to become a lake district?*** Answer - That has not been determined yet. First the boundaries of the potential lake district would need to be determined, then it would need to be determined whether the majority of property owners or the majority of parcels would count toward the petition.
- ***Take caution against taking a stance on certain hot topics when forming the lake district.***
- ***What will it cost to have a lake district? How much will it cost per person?*** That has not been determined yet. We are just beginning this conversation. The budget must be approved each year at the annual meeting, so there will be no surprise changes once these numbers are determined.

Other questions from the floor:

- ***What is being done about wake boats that could resuspend phosphorus on the bottom of the lake?***
 - As an association, the LLPA is not a governing body and cannot make regulations for Long Lake. We can only suggest best practices. By putting up the recommended wake areas map, we communicated and educated people of the state law, sensitive areas on Long Lake, and recommendations to avoid causing damage with wake.
 - If you have questions or concerns about wakeboat legislation, that must be taken up with our state governmental representatives.
- ***What is our plan for dealing with phosphorus?*** Our next steps will be determined once the phosphorus study is completed. The water quality data and sediment cores will help us understand where the phosphorus is primarily coming from. If we find that it's primarily coming from runoff or septic tank leaks, we may pursue more education and shoreline best practices. If we find that it's being released primarily from underwater sediment, we may consider an alum treatment.