Des Moines Lake Association

Board Meeting Minutes

Date: January 14, 2026
Format: Virtual meeting (Microsoft Teams)

1. Call to Order and Welcome

Chair Amy Juers called the meeting to order. (Start time not captured in transcript.)

Amy noted that Ryan Knox, Brian, Holly Huso, and Tom Rooney were unable to attend due to schedule conflicts; Ryan and Holly provided written updates in advance.

2. Attendance

Present

- Amy Juers
- Mike Schafhauser
- Mike Keller
- Michelle Schoeder

Absent (with notice)

- Ryan Knox
- Tom Rooney
- Holly Huso

3. Decontamination Station and Burnett County Ordinance Update

Amy reviewed Ryan Knox's update from Burnett County discussions regarding potential ordinance changes related to decontamination practices, including ongoing debate about motor muffs and related procedures.

Key points

- Burnett County has not finalized ordinance language; discussions are ongoing.
- Signage update deferred: Ryan recommended pausing any sign rewrite until the ordinance language is finalized to avoid rework. The Board agreed.
- Operating documentation: Amy recorded the fall winterization process and used the recording to produce a formal closing operating manual. Amy will repeat the process during spring opening to create an opening procedure document.

- Grant compliance: Amy confirmed she has the required documents from Mark Michel and Ryan and will submit a project update to the Wisconsin DNR to maintain good standing.
- Propane: Ryan reported approximately 72 gallons used; propane refill will be handled in spring.

No additional questions were raised.

4. Land Use Agreement

Amy reported that she drafted the land use agreement and verified format requirements with the Burnett County deed office (minor edit noted). The draft was sent to the Long Lake POA member and attorney, Dave Schoeneker, for review.

Discussion highlights

- Mike Schafhauser raised concerns about moving too far ahead if the attorney later determines the format or entity structure needs to change.
- Board consensus: proceed cautiously and avoid executing documents twice if the partnership or entity decision changes requirements.
- Amy noted the importance of aligning timing with insurance renewal needs, but acknowledged attorney timelines may extend into late March or April.

Next step

- Await attorney review and adjust sequencing based on entity and partnership decisions.

5. Fundraising (2026 Planning)

Golf tournament (Voyager Village)

- No response yet from Adam Burnett.
- Amy received a contact name via a family friend and will initiate outreach directly to explore feasibility.

Spring fundraiser (meat raffle bingo format)

- Ryan recommended checking in with Linda to select a weekend and suggested exploring a bingo-based format (Cabaret has equipment) as a fun alternative.
- Timing is typically May. Ryan noted a conflict on Saturday, May 16 (daughter's dance recital) and requested avoiding that weekend.
- Preliminary date options discussed: May 2 or May 9 (final selection pending venue availability).

Action

- Mike Keller will ask Linda about availability for May 2 or May 9.

6. Financial Update (Treasurer Report)

Mike Schafhauser reported the following balances:

- Joint account (with Long Lake): $1,857.40
- Des Moines Lake checking: $6,703.76
- Des Moines Lake savings: $16,740.85

Additional items

- Fundraiser proceeds have been deposited.
- Q3 expenses reimbursement from Long Lake was received.
- Q4 expenses: Ryan needs to finalize totals so the Board can submit the reimbursement request to Long Lake.

990 filing

Mike attempted to file again; the system was down for maintenance (similar to last year). Filing deadline noted as May. Mike will continue attempts.

7. Financial Transparency Review (Informal Audit)

The Board discussed the need for a neutral review of partnership and project financials to increase member confidence.

Scope and intent

- Not a formal CPA audit; rather, an independent person reviews the spreadsheet, receipts, and bank transactions for consistency.
- Mike noted U.S. Bank can export all transactions directly into Excel, which may simplify reconciliation.

Consensus

- Recruit one non-board volunteer (and ideally coordinate with Long Lake to do the same) who is not related to board members and not involved in the project.

Action

- Amy will include a call for volunteers in the next newsletter and will notify Long Lake that they should identify a reviewer as well.

8. Insurance and Entity Status

Mike noted the Board is effectively waiting until there is clarity on association and entity structure for naming, coverage, and paperwork purposes. The Board agreed it is inefficient to complete insurance paperwork and redo it due to later entity or tax ID changes.

Consensus

- Delay major insurance paperwork actions until entity structure is clarified.

9. Membership Drive (Annual Dues)

Amy noted that the new year dues cycle is beginning and members will need reminders prior to the annual meeting.

Action

- Michelle will draft a membership-focused email encouraging renewals, leveraging the December accomplishments summary to reinforce member value.

10. Lake Regulations and Wake Boat Topics

Amy summarized Holly Huso's written update:

- 2026 fish limits have not been officially announced yet; more detail is expected closer to April 1.
- Free winter fishing weekend was noted.
- No new legacy legislation found related to wake boats; this remains an area of conflict for the foreseeable future.
- Annual meeting messaging should be planned carefully to preserve respectful dialogue and community civility.

Drone footage discussion

- Michelle asked about sharing drone footage related to wake boat impacts.
- Board alignment: if possible, let the state or county be the enforcement authority rather than the association.

11. Website and Social Media Updates

Website

- Ryan reported that after a theme change, custom code was lost and the member directory is not displaying family names correctly.
- Ryan will investigate backup files to restore functionality; if not possible, reverting to the old theme may be required.
- Amy requested that Michelle continue publishing minutes to the website meetings and minutes page.

Social media (Facebook)

- Mike Keller observed increased requests to join the association Facebook page from individuals who may be area residents, not necessarily lake property owners.
- Board noted this is acceptable as long as no troublemaking occurs.

12. Board Elections and Fun Committee Concept

Amy noted that board elections will be upcoming and will be referenced in the next newsletter.

Amy proposed establishing a Fun Committee (non-board volunteers) to support events and fundraising, enabling community participation without requiring board membership.

Examples of support areas

- Meat raffle or bingo fundraiser
- Boat parade
- Golf tournament
- Other community events proposed by members

Consensus

- Strong support expressed by Michelle and Mike Keller.

Action

- Amy will draft a proposed structure and share with the Board.

13. Boat Landing Repair and Power Loading Impacts

Amy raised boat landing condition as a topic requiring documented progress and review of options.

Discussion highlights

- Mike Keller has not yet connected with Tom and will re-engage on next steps.
- Mike described visible ramp damage consistent with power loading, including holes off the end of the concrete slab.
- Amy offered to extract still shots from video footage to support education messaging.
- Mike suggested using humor and short educational videos, including examples of what not to do, to discourage power loading.
- Amy noted boat landing upgrades could be a major project and may warrant a dedicated committee due to workload.

Action

- Mike Keller will restart inquiry, identify township contacts and options, and coordinate with Tom when available.

14. Recognition Item (LaRocks)

Amy noted recognition items (cooler and related gifts) are planned for the LaRocks family, with intent to present at the annual meeting as thanks for fireworks support.

15. March Board Meeting Scheduling

Amy stated she will be at a conference in New York City during the week of the March board meeting and will need to reschedule.

Action

- Amy will email proposed alternate dates to the full Board.

16. Adjournment

7:41 PM

No additional business was raised. (Adjournment time not captured in transcript.)

Action Items Summary

1. DNR grant update: Amy to submit project update documentation to Wisconsin DNR.
2. Land use agreement: Await attorney review; avoid execution until entity and partnership structure is clearer.
3. Meat raffle or bingo fundraiser: Mike Schafhauser to confirm venue date options (May 2 or May 9) with Linda; Amy to coordinate follow-up planning with Ryan.
4. Q4 expense totals: Ryan to finalize Q4 expenses for reimbursement request to Long Lake.
5. 990 filing: Mike Schafhauser to continue attempts to file.
6. Informal audit volunteers: Amy to include volunteer call in next newsletter and coordinate parallel reviewer request with Long Lake.
7. Membership drive email: Michelle to draft membership renewal email using accomplishments and value framing.
8. Website minutes posting: Michelle to publish minutes to the website meetings and minutes page.
9. Member directory issue: Ryan to investigate restoring custom code or consider theme reversion if needed.
10. Fun Committee framework: Amy to draft structure and share with the Board.
11. Boat landing repairs: Mike Keller to restart inquiry, identify township contacts and options, and coordinate with Tom when available.
12. March meeting reschedule: Amy to email alternate dates to full Board.