

DES MOINES LAKE ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

May 23, 2026

1. Call to Order & Welcome

The Des Moines Lake Association Annual Membership Meeting was called to order by Board Member Mike Kellar.

Board members welcomed attendees and thanked members for their continued support and participation. Members were encouraged to engage with neighbors and help continue growing association involvement and membership participation.

2. 2025–2026 Highlights & Accomplishments

The Board reviewed several accomplishments and ongoing initiatives from the past year, including:

- Continued partnership and collaboration with Long Lake
- Successful fundraising efforts
- Ongoing lake stewardship initiatives
- Progress on the Watercraft Decontamination Station (WDS)
- Expansion of the camera system project
- Membership growth and increased community involvement

Board members emphasized the importance of maintaining strong community participation and engagement.

3. Watercraft Decontamination Station (WDS) Update

Ryan Knox provided a detailed update on the Watercraft Decontamination Station project.

Key updates included:

- Final construction and project expenses have been completed

- The project came in approximately \$300 under budget
- Final grant paperwork is being submitted to the Wisconsin DNR
- Approximately \$1,500 in remaining grant reimbursement is expected
- Propane usage averages approximately two gallons per hour of operation
- Estimated operating costs remain relatively low

Ryan reported that startup operations this spring encountered challenges, including another underground electrical service line failure that required repair by Northwestern Electric. Despite the delay, the system is fully operational for the season.

Ryan also discussed Burnett County ordinance changes that now formally recognize advanced decontamination methods such as motor mufflers and Fake-a-Lake systems. Additional signage and operational instructions will be required before those methods become publicly available at the station.

4. Camera System Update

Ryan Knox provided an update on the camera system project.

Updates included:

- Approximately 90% of camera system equipment has been acquired
- Commercial-grade camera equipment is being installed to improve image quality and enforcement support
- The system will help document ordinance violations and support AIS prevention efforts
- The system utilizes remote access capability through a shared internet connection
- The system does not require internet access to continue recording locally

Ryan reported that three citations have already been issued this season using existing temporary camera footage.

5. Treasurer's Report & Financial Transparency

Treasurer Mike Schafhauser presented the Association's current financial balances:

- Checking Account: \$9,926.77

- Savings Account: \$17,888.54
- Partnership Operations Account: \$1,611.08

Mike thanked members for continued support through membership dues and fundraising participation.

President Amy Juers then discussed the Board's efforts to improve financial transparency and accountability.

Amy explained that:

- The Board initiated an independent financial review process following member feedback from the previous annual meeting
- A shared tracking and reconciliation system was developed with Long Lake
- Expenses, reimbursements, and bank statements are regularly reviewed and tracked collaboratively

Amy reported that:

- One independent reviewer from Long Lake completed their review
- Minor administrative and reconciliation corrections were identified and corrected
- The reviewer commented positively on the organization and documentation of records
- The second reviewer from Des Moines Lake is still completing their review
- A summary of findings will be shared with membership once both reviews are finalized

6. 2026 Priorities & Volunteer Support

Michelle Schoeder discussed 2026 priorities and areas where additional member involvement is needed.

Priority areas include:

- Fundraising and events
- Watercraft Decontamination Station volunteer support
- Boat landing preservation efforts
- Membership growth and outreach

Michelle noted that the Board hopes to:

- Expand fundraising activities
- Introduce additional community events
- Develop additional volunteer committees
- Continue improving communications and engagement

Members were encouraged to sign up for volunteer opportunities.

7. Membership Update & Survey Results

Michelle Schoeder reported that the Association currently has 86 participating households, representing a new membership record for the Association.

Tom Rooney reviewed member survey feedback and explained that survey responses continue to guide Board priorities and planning efforts.

Top member concerns identified through the survey included:

- Invasive species prevention
- Wake boat activity
- Shoreline erosion
- Boat landing conditions

Tom emphasized that the Board relies heavily on member input to guide initiatives and future planning.

8. Wake Boat & Legislative Update

Holly Huso provided a legislative and educational update regarding wake boating.

Key updates included:

- No new statewide wake boat legislation passed for 2026
- Existing boating laws remain unchanged
- Wake-related discussions continue statewide and locally
- Township-level action remains the most likely path for future local restrictions

Holly explained that the Association's current approach focuses on:

- Education
- Awareness
- Respectful lake use
- Encouraging responsible boating behavior

The Board emphasized that the goal is not to target a specific boating activity, but rather to reduce shoreline damage, minimize user conflict, and protect the long-term health of the lake.

Educational materials and additional information regarding wake impacts and responsible boating practices are available on the Association website.

9. Boat Landing Conditions & Erosion

Tom Rooney discussed ongoing concerns regarding the public boat landing and shoreline erosion.

Topics discussed included:

- Significant erosion caused by fluctuating water levels and power loading
- Difficult launching conditions due to accumulated material displacement
- Current research into repair options and estimated costs
- Potential coordination with township, county, DNR, and grant programs

Tom noted that:

- Repair estimates from other lakes have ranged from approximately \$15,000 to over \$100,000
- Additional quotes and engineering information are being gathered
- The Board intends to continue presenting options and recommendations to membership

Members also discussed:

- Potential launch fees
- Long-term funding mechanisms
- Special assessments

- Increased use by non-residents and visitors

The Board acknowledged the complexity of the issue and committed to continued evaluation and communication.

10. Community Events & Fundraising

The Board reviewed upcoming 2026 community events and fundraising initiatives, including:

- Recent fundraiser recap
- July 4th Boat Parade
- Planned July 31 golf tournament fundraiser at Voyager Village

Amy Juers reported that:

- The golf tournament contract has been signed
- The event will feature a nine-hole format
- Additional details and registration information will be shared separately
- Volunteers and sponsorship support are welcome

Board members encouraged member participation in future events and fundraising efforts.

11. Board Elections

Mike Schafhauser facilitated the annual Board elections.

The following positions were addressed:

President

Amy Juers was nominated for re-election as President.

No additional nominations were received from the floor.

Amy Juers was unanimously re-elected as President.

Vice President

Ryan Knox was nominated for re-election as Vice President.

No additional nominations were received from the floor.

Ryan Knox was unanimously re-elected as Vice President.

Director Position

Mara Milne was nominated for a Director position.

No additional nominations were received from the floor.

Mara Milne was elected to the Board.

The remaining Board members were also acknowledged, including:

- Mike Schafhauser – Treasurer
 - Michelle Schoeder – Secretary
 - Tom Rooney – Director
 - Mike Kellar – Director
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12. Member Questions & Discussion

The Board opened the floor for member questions and discussion.

Topics discussed included:

- Boat launching conditions and trailer recommendations
- Potential township involvement in landing repairs
- DNR grants and funding opportunities
- Wake boat regulations and township authority
- Boater safety certification requirements
- Potential launch fees for non-residents
- Decontamination station usage and enforcement
- Water clarity and Secchi readings
- Shoreline erosion resources and county contacts

Board members answered questions and encouraged continued member communication and involvement.

13. Recognition & Appreciation

The Board recognized and thanked:

- Holly Huso for her service on the Board
- The LaRocks family for supporting the annual fireworks display
- Volunteers, sponsors, and committee participants
- Steve Markes for years of volunteerism with water quality monitoring

Additional thanks were extended to local business sponsors, including:

- Cabaret
- Main Store
- NextGen
- Northern Lights Marine
- Lumberjack
- Brandi's
- Webb Lake Tavern
- Webb Lake Pizza
- Tommy's Too High Winery
- Trailblazers

The Board also discussed the continued success of Des Moines Lake apparel sales and member interest in future apparel opportunities.

14. Adjournment

With no further business, the Annual Membership Meeting was adjourned.

15. Resources Mentioned During the Annual Meeting

Website: www.desmoineslake.org

Wake Boats and Lake Health: <https://desmoineslake.org/wake-boats/>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/desmoineslakeassociation

Instagram: www.instagram.com/desmoineslakeassociation