



August 2, 2025 MLA Annual Meeting

**Call to Order and Welcome: Mark Fouts, President**

**Call to Order 9:10 AM**

BOD Present: Mark Fouts, John Kurhajec, Lori Hubers, Mike Wallner, Wayne Breitenfeld,  
Larry Duffee, Jeff Rappold

59 total attendance. Thanks to all for attending and pushing attendance to the highest turnout in years!

**Guest Presentation:** Ted Rulseh, "The Lake Guy", presented information on the Waterfront Stewardship Award. This award has proven to work on other lakes who are using this "peer pressure" stigma. A Lake Steward laminated sign is posted on lake fronts who are enhancing their landscaping, etc. to protect their frontage. He spoke of several ways we can do our part as owners to help our lake stay healthy through proper landscaping and run-off from septics and erosion. One thing to remember... **What happens on land effects water!** He shared that one pound of phosphorus feeds 500 pounds of algae, so stirring up the bottom of the lake produces more algae causing issues for lake health. Ted had books for sale and MLA purchased six books as a thank you for his FREE time presenting. These books will be used as give-aways at future MLA gatherings -- total cost for six books was \$133.74.

On Healthy Lakes & Rivers website you'll find Wisconsin Shoreline Evaluation Survey which takes approximately 30 minutes to complete. Highly suggested that all take the survey to learn how each property owner can help protect our waters and wildlife. Following survey link for "Score My Shore": [healthylakeswi.com](https://healthylakeswi.com/survey.healthylakeswi.com)

This shoreland evaluation tool walks you through questions about the physical aspects of your lake property, as well as how you manage it.

**Approval of Minutes** from August, 2024 Annual Meeting. Motion made and approved.

**Approval of Treasurer's Report (Balances as of 6/30/25):**

Savings:	\$ 3,197.61
Checking:	\$ 5,220.90
Lake Improvement Fund:	\$12,237.94
<u>Money Market:</u>	<u>\$77,508.96</u>
Total:	\$98,165.41

Motion was made and seconded to approve treasurer's report

Breakdown of MLA membership dues and lake funds for 120 lake property owners:

Dues:	99 paid \$40 membership fee
Lake Fund:	89 paid \$50 = out of the 89 that paid \$50, 45 paid extra towards lake fund
Lake Fund:	10 paid towards lake fund
ZERO Paid:	21 paid nothing

**New Wakeboat Ordinance:** Mark attended a DNR meeting with other lake representatives regarding Cloverland Boating Ordinance, in place since 1976. He shared Slow NO-WAKE is from 6p-9a. A Jet Ski pulling a tube must have a spotter = 3 people, it's the law! He also stated DNR is not going to monitor wake boating or other violators. These situations would be done through citizen reporting in a non-confrontational manner. NOTE: if you do submit a citizen citation you will be required to attend the hearing if it would get to that point. Please reference this handout to review details.

**Lake Management Plan:** There are six on-going goals established and are still a part of what MLA does:

- Reduce EWM - Done 2021 (new discovery 7/1/2025)
- Monitor Lake Health - Ongoing
- Water quality monitoring - Ongoing
- Fishery - Wayne will provide update
- Natural shorelines - today's presenter discussed several ways each owner can contribute to healthy lake frontage
- Protected land use - Open

**EWM Status:** Back to active monitoring the current areas where EWM was discovered July 1<sup>st</sup>. It is likely a new invasion. Please remind your visitors of the CBCW (Clean Boats Clean Water) is the LAW. Boat cleaning needs to happen both IN and OUT of lake. Land monitoring, via camera at landing, shows less than 10% compliance. BOD is doing regular tours and developing a plan. Currently located near center buoy - PLEASE AVOID THIS AREA!! EWM spreads by fragmentation, your boating or fishing nearby is all the plant needs to spread. Please report any suspicious areas to a BOD member. Photos of common weeds in the lake are on the web. The 2022 plan can be found at [www.muskellungelake.org](http://www.muskellungelake.org) If you see an unusual plants in the lake, please bring this to the board's attention. Quick Prevention is key if something is discovered.

**Water Quality:** Monthly we sample monitor: Phosphorous, Chlorophyll, Clarity, DO profile, Temp profile. While DO does stratify in late summer, a few windy days and the lake remixes the oxygen. There has been a very slight improvement over the last 5 years on an index called Trophic State Index (a composite measure of quality). HOW CAN YOU HELP? Keep septic in good order. Use NO fertilizers anywhere. Keep shorelines natural to filter runoff. Mind your shallow water boating. The sediment you stir up is adding fertilizer back into the water column.

**Lake Courtesy:** A reminder to be careful when boating in shallow water, as sediment can be stirred up that puts nutrients/fertilizer back into the water column.

**Grants CBCW:** All grants are now closed and all outstanding expenses have been paid. Monitoring and preventing new introduction of invasive is more important than ever. Training for CBCW inspections can be done online at any time on the Vilas County website. Remind your visitors and guests about the importance of cleaning their boat before entering our lake and again when leaving. Also, Wake boats are not allowed in this township.

**Fishery:** Wayne reported the May 2025 detailed survey of panfish was completed. He spoke of the detailed process of surveys of our fishery and how the population is estimated. He described fish stocking efforts and the balance between natural reproduction and stocking. Please reference Fisheries Information Sheet handout detailing survey findings. Jeff stated the DNR cannot regulate the sonar equipment being used.

**Website:** Our website built in 2012 has been updated. Mike Wallner gave a big THANK YOU to Bill Murray, lake resident, who was instrumental in developing the format and detail of the new website [www.muskellungelake.org](http://www.muskellungelake.org) Continue to channel your website ideas and questions to Webmaster Mike Wallner. Send us any updates of your contact data (address, email, phone). Report any new neighbors. Since the new website has been active there's been an uptick in usage.

**Facebook:** Cheryl Breitenfeldt, MLA Facebook Administrator, does a fantastic job keeping nasties off our page. Please contact her about anything Facebook related. NOTE... Facebook is now used as our primary means of communication.

**Boat Landing:** John reported the painted road signage at the landing is in process and should be completed by August 15<sup>th</sup>. CBCW on-line training is a 90 minute session - link found on [vilascountywi.gov](http://vilascountywi.gov) web page. Once you complete this training you're certified to help with boat inspections.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** We need CBCW volunteers at the landing during the Vilas Musky Tournament, August 15<sup>th</sup> thru 17<sup>th</sup>, as there is a lot of lake hopper traffic during this tournament!

**Aerator:** New augers worked well. Posts repainted. Additional new rope has been ordered. The pump has shifted and needs to be reset, September will plan best way to proceed with this project. Sponsor appreciation sign erected - thank you to 2025 sponsors Andreen and Theilen. The plan is to install the fence on January 3, 2026, weather dependant.

**Social/Sunshine:** The winter social was a success, with 42 people in attendance and \$733 raised for MLA. Sunshine Committee, Bonnie Duffee, continues to send Get Well cards to lake residents who've experienced medical issues and sympathy cards to those experiencing a loss. If you know of any resident who should be sent a card for the above circumstances please contact Bonnie with the pertinent information and a card will be sent from MLA.

**Welcome Committee:** Since 8/10/24 Annual Meeting five new property owners have been sent welcome packets.

**Election of Officers:** All of the current officers and BOD members are willing to stay on for another term; but, we really need volunteers! A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept their re-election to their position. Please note we are always looking for volunteers so please reach out to any Board member for upcoming lake activities Fishery needing your help.

Question asked, "How many rental properties are on our lake? Jeff stated there are currently only two tha he's aware of.

**MLA Mug:** The coveted MLA mug was won by Barbara Kauphusman -- Congratulations Barb☺

Adjourned 11:00 am

Respectfully submitted

Deb Fouts on behalf of Patti Hooser, MLA Secretary