

Mead Lake District

4th Quarter Meeting Minutes – Final

Date:	October 11, 2025
Time:	9:00 a.m.
Location:	Mead Town Hall

1. Meeting called to order by Commissioner Greg Evans
2. Roll Call: Will Ruemmele (Treasurer), Mary Schalow (Secretary), Greg Evans, Larry Koschak, Bob Eckes (Town of Mead), Roy Tyznik (Clark County). Quorum reached.
3. Accept Resignation of Ricky Mews:
 - Resignation letter was read and accepted (attached).
 - The district's tanker was collected by Paul Proksch; will be winterized and stored at no cost to the district.
4. Election of new Chair by Board Members:
 - Mary Schalow nominated Will Ruemmele; Greg Evans nominated Larry Koschak.
 - Larry Koschak was elected as Chair, 4-2.
5. Appointment of new Commissioner by Chair to fill remainder of unexpired term, subject to approval by majority vote of the Board:
 - Chair Koschak appointed Steve Rutkowski and his appointment was approved by the Board, 5-1. Steve joined the Board for the remainder of the meeting.
6. Reading and approval of minutes of 3rd Quarter Board Meeting – Schalow:
 - The wording of Item 22 regarding an alternate aeration project will be expanded to reflect the 3rd Quarter description of location (two sheds on shore) of the electricity running the system.

- i. Discussion at today's 4th quarter meeting further clarified that no electricity is running through the water. Compressed air hoses are connected in the water, powered by electricity on shore.
- Discussion at today's 4th quarter meeting also disclosed that Addison Baierl is assisting Kendra Baierl in the web site maintenance.
- Larry Koschak moved to approve the meeting minutes with the exception of modifications to items #6 and #8 to add clarification, to be brought to the 1st Quarter meeting of 2026 for approval. Motion carried with 4 in favor, 1 against, and 1 abstention.

7. Treasurer's report and 2025 YTD Expense Audit – Ruemmele:

- Current account balances:
 - i. Money market account: \$9,751.71.
 - ii. Checking account: \$14,290.15.
 - iii. CD : \$45,332.30, with a renewal date of 9/14/2026.
 - iv. Total balance is \$69,374.16. This includes transfer of \$15K from the money market account to checking account to cover the bills.
- Since taking office, Treasurer has written \$4,100.10 in checks, with one check outstanding to AgSource for \$381. Primary expenses in the last quarter were to AgSource and Wisconsin Laboratory and roughly \$500 in fees for printing and notification for the Special Meeting, plus \$175 in reimbursement for testing expenses to Larry Koschak.
- There is nothing in agendas or minutes authorizing the treasurer to spend \$35K on the second nanobubbler or \$14K for water testing in 2025.
 - i. Taxpayers were promised at the 2024 Annual Meeting that although the larger nanobubble unit was placed in the 2025 budget, the purchase would happen only after the first phase of the testing project was successfully completed. The first phase was not completed prior to the purchase and there is no documented approval for the actual purchase of that unit.
- Discussion points:
 - i. Larry Koschak stated the 2024 annual meeting minutes show testing funds for 2024, a large nanobubbler (\$35K) for 2025, and water testing for 2025 (included in the equipment and maintenance funding).
 - ii. Greg Evans stated a nanobubbler purchase was approved at a Board meeting at the Kow Kickin Café; meeting was not noticed to voters and no minutes were taken.

- iii. Phil Strand thought the purchase was approved at the 2025 Second Quarterly meeting.
 - iv. Member of audience commented on legal jeopardy of Mead Lake District and the potential for dissolving if the Board is not accountable to taxpayers.
- Mary Schalow moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.
8. Review estimate and vote on construction of Nanobubble machine shed – action item – Koschak:
- A shed is being built to house the large nanobubbler at no cost to the district. Labor is being donated by Bill Martens and materials donated by Feltz Lumber. No action needed.
9. Proposal to sell water spreader machine – action item – Koschak:
- Motion was made and withdrawn due to lack of a second.
 - Discussion item: Concerns were expressed about the Lake District's application of calcium chloride without liability insurance coverage. Members of audience suggested the purchase of liability insurance should be a high priority to cover all activities of the lake district in case we are sued or someone is injured. No action taken.
10. Cattails destruction on Mead Lake and applicable state law – Schalow:
- Cattails are being destroyed on Mead Lake, creating a hazard for boaters. Documents are attached regarding the benefits of native aquatic plants and Wisconsin Statute NR 109.06 that governs their destruction. These documents will be attached to the minutes to be posted on the Mead Lake Facebook page and the Mead Lake District web site.
11. Review of no wake markers and next actions to inform Mead Lake boaters on state law – action item – Koschak:
- Wisconsin Statute 30.66 (attached) requires boaters to slow down within 100 feet of the buoys. This information will be attached to the minutes to be posted on the Mead Lake Facebook page and the Mead Lake District web site.
12. Robert's Rules adoption to prevent voter disenfranchisement – action item – Schalow:
- Instructions to voters at Special Meeting resulted in voter disenfranchisement as some thought a roll call was being taken rather than a vote.

- Mary Schalow moved that our Board adopt Robert's Rules of Order for voting procedures. Motion carried.

13. Process to reinstate tax assessment – Evans:

- Greg Evans moved that we discuss at the next Annual Meeting the process for reinstating the \$100 tax assessment. Motion carried.

14. Wisconsin water week, Wisconsin's Lakes and Rivers convention. April 15-17, 2026 – Koschak:

- Larry Koschak informed the Board of this conference and recommended attendance by all commissioners. He stated that Chapter 33 - Statute 33.28 (2m) 5 – requires lake districts to reimburse commissioners for all expenses when they attend conferences. Thus, no approval is necessary.
- Discussion topics:
 - i. Attendees should share a written summary of knowledge obtained.

15. Status on sale of Nanobubble Kingfisher units – Koschak

- Larry was given approval at the 3rd Quarter Board meeting on August 9, 2025, to negotiate the sale of the two small nanobubblers to a potential buyer that had expressed interest. That buyer backed out. Those two nanobubble units are now listed for sale on Facebook Marketplace under Colleen Koschak's name.
- The posting will be removed and approval for selling district assets will be sought from the voters at the 2026 Annual Meeting.

16. Submission of two grant requests – Koschak

- Mechanical Aquatic Plant Control grant – a one -year projection to offset the cost of nanobubble project's water testing.
 - i. Project cost is \$17,996. With the grant and donated hours, cost to the district would be \$5800 and would need voter approval.
- Air Diffusion's fine-bubble aeration program – a grant to offset capital expense.
 - i. Projected cost is \$144,375. With the grant and donated hours, cost to the district would be \$36,094 and would need voter approval.
 - ii. Discussion points:
 1. Unknown electricity expenses would be incurred with both systems; we would need an electric meter. No action taken.
 2. Clark County and Town of Mead should be approached about contributing financially. No action taken.

3. Other devices are available that propel water around, that can be placed on docks. No action taken.

17. 2025/2026 nanobubbles test and learn pilot – Koschak. No further discussion.

18. Completion of fish crib event – Koschak:

- Twenty-three fish cribs were placed in the lake on September 27; thirty-one people attended the 4-hour event. Previous cribs remain in the water.

19. Tentative dates for 2026 meetings – Koschak:

- 1st Quarter – February 21
- 2nd Quarter – May 16
- Annual Meeting – June 13 (not Father’s Day weekend)
- 3rd Quarter – August 8
- 4th Quarter – October 10
- Discussion: It was suggested we conduct some meetings remotely as long as voters are allowed to sign on.

20. Greg Evans moved to adjourn at 11:50 a.m.; motion carried.

Mead Lake District Secretary, Mary Schalow

From : Ricky Mews <rmews@yahoo.com>

Mon, Oct 06, 2025 01:15 PM

Subject : Resignation

To : Mary Schalow <schalow@tds.net>

Cc : greg <greg@evansprinting.com>, Larry Colleen Koschak <larco.koschak@gmail.com>, ruemmele <ruemmele@charter.net>, bobeckes <bobeckes@tds.net>, roytyznik <roytyznik@gmail.com>

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> Hi all,

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> This my resignation from the Mead Lake District Board of Commissioners as of 10/6/25.

I do have the water tank trailer and Pontoon Barge at the old North Hendren Cheese factory.

I would like them picked up at some point soon; They will need to be winterized.

I will not be storing them this winter.

Thank You
Ricky Mews

FUNCTIONS AND VALUES OF NATIVE AQUATIC PLANTS

Naturally occurring native plants are extremely beneficial to lakes. They provide a diversity of habitats, help maintain water quality, sustain fish populations, and support common lakeshore wildlife such as loons and frogs.

WATER QUALITY

Aquatic plants can improve water quality by absorbing phosphorus, nitrogen, and other nutrients from the water that could otherwise fuel nuisance algal growth. Some plants can even filter and break down pollutants. Plant roots and underground stems help to prevent re-suspension of sediments from the lake bottom. Stands of emergent plants (whose stems protrude above the water surface) and floating plants help to blunt wave action and prevent erosion of the shoreline.

FISHING

Habitat created by aquatic plants provides food and shelter for both young and adult fish. Invertebrates living on or beneath plants are a primary food source for many species of fish. Other fish such as bluegills graze directly on the plants themselves. Plant beds in shallow water provide important spawning habitat for many fish species.

WATERFOWL

Plants offer food, shelter, and nesting material for waterfowl. Birds eat both the invertebrates that live on plants and the plants themselves.¹

PROTECTION AGAINST INVASIVE SPECIES

Non-native invasive species threaten native plants in Northern Wisconsin. The most common are Eurasian water milfoil (EWM) and curly leaf pondweed (CLP). These species are described as opportunistic invaders. This means that they take over openings in the lake bottom where native plants have been removed. Without competition from other plants, these invasive species may successfully become established and spread in the lake. This concept of opportunistic invasion can also be observed on land, in areas where bare soil is quickly taken over by weeds.

Removal of native vegetation not only diminishes the natural qualities of a lake, but it increases the risk of non-native species invasion and establishment. The presence of invasive species can change many of the natural features of a lake and often leads to expensive annual control plans. Allowing native plants to grow may not guarantee protection against invasive plants, but it can discourage their establishment. Native plants may cause

NR 109.06 Waivers. The department waives the permit requirements under this chapter for any of the following:

- (1) Manual removal or use of mechanical devices to control or remove aquatic plants from a body of water 10 acres or less that is entirely confined on the property of one person with the permission of that property owner.

Note: A person who introduces native aquatic plants or removes aquatic plants by manual or mechanical means in the course of operating an aquatic nursery as authorized under s. 94.10, Stats., on privately owned non-navigable waters of the state is not required to obtain a permit for the activities.

- (2) A riparian owner who manually removes aquatic plants from a body of water or uses mechanical devices designed for cutting or mowing vegetation to control plants on an exposed lake bed that abuts the owner's property provided that the removal meets all of the following:

(a)

1. Removal of native plants is limited to a single area with a maximum width of no more than 30 feet measured along the shoreline provided that any piers, boatlifts, swimrafts and other recreational and water use devices are located within that 30-foot wide zone and may not be in a new area or additional to an area where plants are controlled by another method; or
2. Removal of nonnative or invasive aquatic plants as designated under s. NR 109.07 when performed in a manner that does not harm the native aquatic plant community; or
3. Removal of dislodged aquatic plants that drift on-shore and accumulate along the waterfront.

(b) Is not located in a sensitive area as defined by the department under s. NR 107.05 (3) (i) 1., or in an area known to contain threatened or endangered resources or floating bogs.

(c) Does not interfere with the rights of other riparian owners.

(d) If wild rice is involved, the procedures of s. NR 19.09 (1) shall be followed.

- (4) Control of purple loosestrife by manual removal or use of mechanical devices when performed in a manner that does not harm the native aquatic plant community or result in or encourage re-growth of purple loosestrife or other nonnative vegetation.

(5) Any aquatic plant management activity that is conducted by the department and is consistent with the purposes of this chapter.

- (6) Manual removal and collection of native aquatic plants for lake study or scientific research when performed in a manner that does not harm the native aquatic plant community.

Note: Scientific collectors permit requirements are still applicable.

- (7) Incidental cutting, removal or destroying of aquatic plants when engaged in beneficial water use activities.

History: CR 02-061; cr. Register May 2003 No. 569, eff. 6-1-03.

Statute 30.66 Speed restrictions.

(1) Speed to be reasonable and prudent. No person shall operate a motorboat at a speed greater than is reasonable and prudent under the conditions and having regard for the actual and potential hazards then existing. The speed of a motorboat shall be so controlled as to avoid colliding with any object lawfully in or on the water or with any person, boat or other conveyance in or on the water in compliance with legal requirements and exercising due care.

(2) Fixed limits. In addition to complying with sub. (1), no person may operate a motorboat at a speed in excess of the posted notice as established by regulatory markers.

(3) Prohibited operation.

(a) No person may operate a motorboat within 100 feet of any dock, raft, pier, or buoyed restricted area on any lake at a speed in excess of slow-no-wake.

What is the meaning of this for Mead Lake:

No boat may operate above slow-no-wake speed within 100 feet before or after any Mead Lake no-wake marker buoy. Two examples of improper operation are:

1. Approaching the no wake zone at high speed and then immediately slowing at the buoy is improper. The boat must slow down 100ft before the bouy.
2. Acceleration immediately after passing through the no wake zone and bouy, is improper. Boat should not accelerate until 100ft past the bouy.