Mead Lake District

4th Quarter Meeting Minutes – Draft

Date:	October 10, 2026
Time:	8:30 a.m.
Location:	Mead Town Hall

I. Meeting called to order by Chair Rutkowski at 8:30 a.m.

II. Roll Call:
   a. Present: Steve Rutkowski (Chair), Mary Schalow (Secretary), Paul Proksch, Bill Martens (Town of Mead), Joe Waichulis, Jr. (Clark County)
   b. Absent: Will Ruemmele (Treasurer), Justin Running
   c. Quorum reached

III. Approval of minutes from 3rd Quarter Meeting. Motion by Waichulis to approve minutes of Board Meeting of 8/8/2026. Seconded. Motion carried.

IV. Treasurer's Report
   a. Rutkowski presented Treasurer Ruemmele's Report, attached.
   b. Motion by Rutkowski to approve the Treasurer's Report. Seconded. Motion carried.

V. Old Business
   a. Purchasing AEDs – Waichulis noted a meeting with a Clark County Forestry and Parks member didn't happen due to busy budget meetings. Will be scheduled in the future.

   b. Connecting with the Campground to discuss donation to District – Meeting will be scheduled.

c. Need to move Nanobubblers – Need to store 2 small units. Rutkowski will obtain the units from Larry Koschak today.

d. Selling of Nanobubblers – Justin Running was working on putting the small units on the online auction. The large unit was sold and a cashier's check of $27,000 has been sent to Ruemmele for deposit.

e. Interfacing with our ECRWA partners – Rutkowski is representing our Board at these watershed meetings. Meeting minutes will be shared with our Board going forward.

f. Correspondence sent to district. No new correspondence.

VI. New Business

a. Sale of large Nanobubbler – This was covered in Old Business, above.

b. Sale of boat motor that was stored by Larry Koschak – Schalow motioned for Rutkowski to pick it up and use his discretion as to selling or scrapping the unit, with any proceeds coming back to the lake district. Seconded. Carried.

c. Recap of Lake Leadership Conference Mary S. attended - Meeting summary is attached to these minutes.

d. Schedule 2027 Board meetings and annual meeting – The following tentative meeting schedule was determined:
   i. 1st Quarter – February 20
   ii. 2nd Quarter – April 17
   iii. Annual – June 19
   iv. 3rd Quarter – August 21
   v. 4th Quarter – October 9

e. Discuss 2027 Budget
   i. 2028 budget planning will be put on agenda of next quarterly meeting
   ii. Attendee Phil Strand questioned the amount of money placed in the non-lapsable fund. Motion made by Schalow to schedule an additional Board meeting to review the 2027 budget as related to the non-lapsable fund

approved at the annual meeting. Seconded. Carried. The Board Meeting will be held on November 7th.

f. Review additional lots on Mead Lake for potential taxation – Clark County requested that our Board review the additional outlots that were added since our last assessment. Schalow motioned we NOT assess the lake district tax to those additional outlots, to be consistent with past practices. Seconded. Discussion. Motion carried.

g. Education Funds Allocation – Lakes & Rivers Conference April 14-16 2027. Schalow motioned the approval of up to $1600 for attendance at the 2027 Lakes & Rivers Conference, to be equally divided among Board members who choose to attend, toward covering their expenses. Seconded. Discussion. Motion carried.

VII. Public comments

a. Colleen Koschak provided information on use of copper sulfate; DNR will not permit its use.
b. Larry Koschak provided information re: ECRWA's monitoring of nutrient and pollutant loads across the watershed (attached). Clark County will install water quality monitoring at the Mead Lake dam and at the bridge.
c. Dave Nowak requested action on lake improvement.
d. Waichulis emphasized the need for everyone to get along.
e. Colleen Koschak informed the board of Clark County Conservation department's efforts to educate Mennonite and Amish farmers.
f. Waichulis stated that he attended an all-day meeting on parliamentary procedure. He learned that the term "Special Meeting" can be used to describe special board meetings or special voters' meetings and the Chair can participate in discussions.
g. Rutkowski stated that the Board is actively working to make progress, and needs support of the district.
h. Larry Koschak reminded the board of the request by himself and others for a meeting to address a written complaint mailed to the Board in June.
i. Brian Hafner reminded the board of the upcoming vote at the 2027 annual meeting to dissolve the lake district.
j. Phil Strand hand-delivered two formal open records requests to the Board, related to annual meeting voting procedures and insurance RFPs and purchases.

k. Bill Martens asked how quickly meeting minutes must be posted. No formal deadline exists.
l. Phil Strand recommended remote access to board meetings.

VIII. Bill Martens motioned to adjourn at 10:02 a.m. Seconded. Motion carried.

Mead Lake District Secretary, Mary Schalow

6/12/26 balances		
Checking	2,782.02	
Money Market	9,772.42	
CD	45,462	
Quarterly Checking activity		
#843	975	ECRA 2026 Dues
#844	806.4	Lake Conference reimbursement
#845	void	
#846	2024.92	District Insurance Annual Bill
#847	194	District quarterly Liabibility ins. bill
#848	90.96	Printing bill reimbursment
#849	932	Wi. St. Lab of Hygiene
#850	86.65	Enterprise meeting notice ad
#851	192	District quarterly Liability ins. bill
Quarterly checking total expenses		
$5,301.93		
Quarterly Checking Deposits		
9/21/26	300	Loyal Sports club donation
7/24/26	5,000	transfer from MM account
Current Balances as of 10/5/26		
Checking	3,649.80	
Money Market	15,637	Includes transfer from matured CD on 9/14
Lake Proj. CD	35,000	9 month cd start date 9/14/26
Pending deposit		
Bubbler Sale	27000	Cashier checked collected 10/5 by Steve R.

Learnings from Lake Leader Conferences – MEAD LAKE SPECIFIC

Mary Schalow 10/10/2026

1. Mead Lake is an "impoundment", created by placement of a dam on the South Fork of the Eau Claire River. Most of our water is replaced every 1-12 days due to river movement.
    i. There are no magic solutions for "cleaning up our water", as it's constantly different water. Problems need to be addressed ***at their source*** (watershed and shoreline), addressing the water that is continually entering and leaving our lake.

2. The number of eutrophic and hypereutrophic lakes is increasing nationally, due to development.

3. Phosphorus overload – thus the algae issues
    a. Causes – **MEAD LAKE SPECIFIC**
        i. Watershed runoff, mainly from agriculture.
            1. Solution: Work with watershed group (ECRWA) and Clark County to approach farmers/businesses re: better practices.
                a. Mary obtained contact information for a conservation technician in Clark County who may be able to assist us
        ii. Shoreline runoff and erosion. DNR considers the shoreline to be "the ribbon of life" for shoreline habitat. Plant life at the shoreline benefits wildlife and nearby spawning sites.
            1. Rock and deep-rooted vegetation barriers do not naturally exist on much of our shoreline because we are not a natural lake, and we are impacted by riparian ownership.
            2. Studies have proven that every newly developed lot adds to the pollution of a lake. When shoreline and lots are cleared for development, runoff increases.
            3. Erosion occurs when shoreline is unmanaged. Adding riprap prevents erosion, but runoff occurs directly around riprap after rainfall if no other barriers are in place.
            4. **Riparian owners can create water filtration process (through the soil) that greatly slows the return of water to the lake and filters out harmful chemicals.** Solutions:

a. Create water filtering buffer on shoreline. Plant or allow deep-rooted native shrubs and grasses to exist at shoreline. **Can be planted between or behind riprap if erosion is a concern.** The larger the area planted, the better the filtration.
    i. DNR provides detailed guidelines and types of vegetation to plant.
b. Avoid construction of large expanses of concrete on lawns, especially close to the shoreline. Rain flows over the concrete and washes into the lake without being filtered.
c. Place a group of stones under each downspout. This catches the water and sends it downward into the soil to be filtered (moving one foot per day as groundwater, rather than flowing directly over your lawn and down to the lake).
d. Avoid use of chemicals, especially lawn fertilizers with phosphorus component.

4. Fish habitat:
    a. Lake groups can place "fish sticks", which are dead trees anchored to the shore, for fish habitat. When shoreline trees die and fall into the water, do not remove unless they present a hazard.

5. Sedimentation
    a. This will always be an issue because we are not a natural lake.
    b. Dredging costs millions and would need to be repeated periodically.
    c. DNR staff recommends dredging when navigation becomes an issue.
    d. Actions:
        i. Keep leaves out of water whenever possible. Dump in woods or compost.

6. Invasive plants
    a. Mead Lake is extremely fortunate in that invasive plants, such as Eurasian Water Milfoil, have not impacted our lake.
    b. Many lakes in Wisconsin have purchased "harvesters" to remove invasive plants so the waters remain navigable. Example: Okauchee Lake in Waukesha County removes 250-350 dump truck loads of invasive plants every year.
    c. Eradication:
        i. Once a new invasive species arrives, it must be managed. Eradication efforts will fail.

ii. An unpopular option is to promote tolerance, to do nothing and let nature take its course. May subside with time but recreational use of lake will suffer.
iii. Herbicides may work temporarily as last resort in small, enclosed bodies of water.

d. Prevention:
i. DNR attendees recommended reminders at boat landings to do visual check of plants on boats, tossing any plants in a trash barrel before launching.
ii. Boat washing stations are not much more effective and are very expensive. Water needs to be 140 degrees to kill plant life.
iii. Good option is to have friendly volunteers at the boat landings, politely recommending boaters to check for plant life upon arrival and departure.

7. Invasive carp can cause damage to native plants and fish. There are removal strategies.

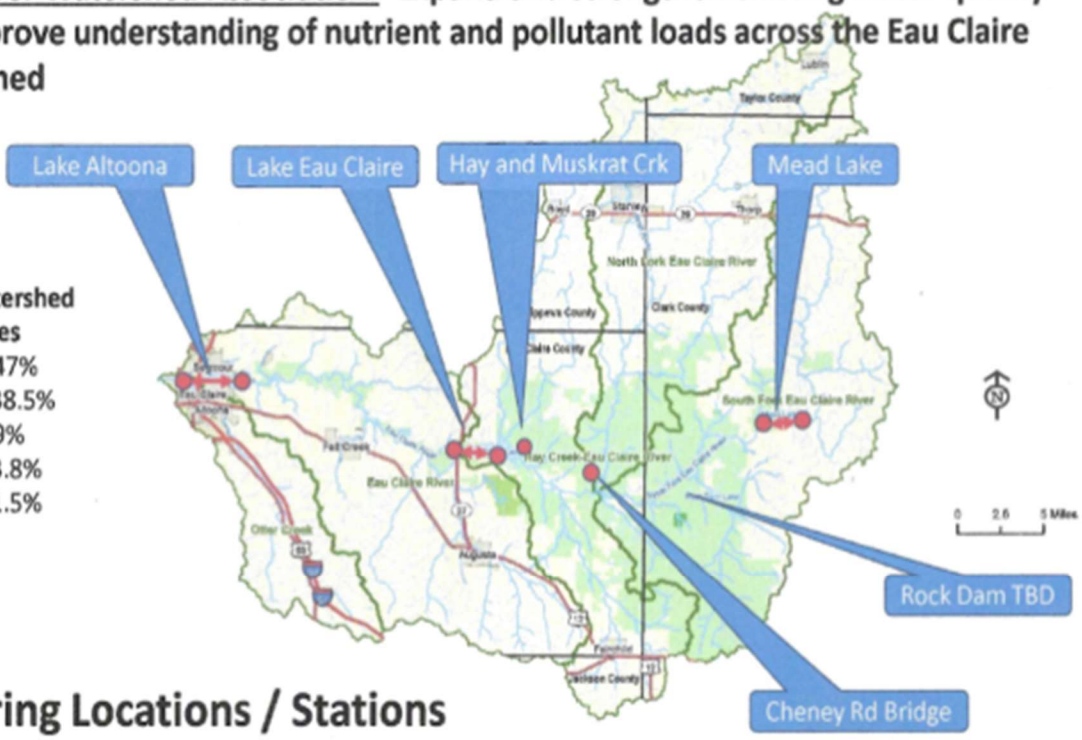
8. Mary asked many attendees if boaters were charged to use their landings. All but one said "yes". Fees differ by lake.

9. Fish stocking was discussed. Some lakes are paying $4-6 per fish for stocking. DNR informed us that survival rate of stocked fish is roughly 5%. One attendee calculated they are paying $100 per fish, based on survival rate. He doubts they'll continue…

10. Wake boats are detrimental to any but the largest lakes. Many towns/counties are adopting ordinances to prevent use BEFORE they are introduced.

11. Many grants are available to assist with the above strategies. All grants are equally available to Lake Districts and Lake Associations.

Eau Claire River Watershed Association - Expand and strengthen existing water-quality data and improve understanding of nutrient and pollutant loads across the Eau Claire River watershed



Eau Claire River Watershed
882 square miles

- Eau Claire County 47%
- Clark County 38.5%
- Chippewa County 9%
- Taylor County 3.8%
- Jackson County 1.5%

Monitoring Locations / Stations