

Mead Lake District

Annual Meeting Minutes – Amended Draft

Date:	June 14, 2025
Time:	9:00am to 11:00am
Location:	South Lake Rd., Mead Lake Pavillion at the Dam

1. Meeting called to order by Commissioner Rick Mews
2. Roll Call: Rick Mews, Philip Strand, Lisa Zepplin, Greg Evans, Al Baierl, Bob Eckes (Mead Township), Roy Tyznik (Clark County)
3. Moment of silence for Mead Lake members that have passed: Brad Lovelace, Jack Wissell, Joyce Wiskerchen, Steve Wolf, John T. Schultz, Larry Dick, Liz Koschak-Laundre.
4. Adopt Agenda: Larry Koschak made a motion to adopt agenda 2nd by Colleen Koschak. Voice vote adopted.
5. Annual Meeting minutes from June 15th, 2024 read by Lisa Zepplin. Amend the \$14,000.00 for Calcium Chloride to \$10,000 but cannot be amended as it was voted on.
6. Public Comment:

Bob Semmelhack (Scout Road) expressed concern of the fish population and the lack of DNR response to bag limits.

Paul Proksch asked why we did calcium chloride differently this year. No response.

Unnamed attendee asked if it had ever been resolved whether we are able to spend money on town roads, being they are located outside the Lake District? Attendee thought it was resolved when we purchased the equipment.

Mary Schalow commented that she consulted with the University of Wisconsin lake experts that exist to give advice to lake districts and associations. They felt the district can spend money on calcium chloride outside the district as long as it benefits the lake district members and the funding is approved by the voters. They did recommend periodic water testing for salt if that is a concern. Mary recommended we place this on next year's agenda for funding.

Will Ruemmele asked what equipment was voted to be purchased and what did we buy? Is there a detailed breakdown in the annual reports? There is not. Will asked what we learned in the water quality test and learn. Philip Strand replied that we didn't learn much due to the DNR bringing the program to a halt due to a complaint that had been filed.

7. Treasurers Report: Philip Strand presented 2 budgets
 - a. Extended Fiscal Year (June 1, 2023 to December 31, 2024) Starting Balance \$110,052; Ending Balance: \$96,366. List of expenses available.
 - b. Year-to-Date (as of May 31, 2025) Starting Balance: \$96,366.11; Ending balance: \$173,105.52; Expenses: \$37,733.61; Revenue (tax assessment and interest): \$14,473.02. Motion made to accept Treasurer report 1st Bill Martens 2nd Greg Evans
8. Update on Hwy M bridge construction and lake level management, Curtiss Lindner. Did not attend.
9. Update on AED: Cost of units is over \$2,500.00 each. Clark County will not help. Colleen Koschak stated we need to attend Clark County meetings to have our voices heard. Roy Tyznik stated that Forest and Parks would be the committee to approach regarding this. Larry Koschak made a motion to remove from further agendas. Jodi Larson 2nd. Hand vote: Yes: 22 No:12 Motion passed to drop this item.
10. Update: Wake/surf boat operations: As of now the DNR has no different rules for this type of boat.
11. Lake management projects

- a. Healthy Lakes and River Grants: Residences can get up to \$1000.00 for planting a 350 sf area with native plants (75-25 grant; owners covers 25% or labor) to filter rainwater/water before it enters the lake. You can have up to 3 of these areas(practices).
- b. Mead Lake District water quality improvement program: We are allowed to run only one nanobubbler. It will run June-Sept. with testing done twice monthly; also testing for zooplankton and algae.
- c. New Mead Lake Management Plan: Updated version is available as PDF via MeadLake1952@gmail.com.
- d. Lake bottom mapping: Map available via MeadLake1952@gmail.com
- e. Fish crib/fish habitat improvement program: Sept. 27th, 2025, we will be assembling at the South side boat landing. They are easy to build but we need volunteers. Our goal is to build 4 pyramid/pallet cribs and 18 single log cribs.
- f. Philip Strand expressed appreciation to Bob Karo for connecting electrical power to the nanobubbler, and to Larry and Colleen Koschak for many volunteer hours.

12. Resolution to approve 2026 budget and mil rate levy: 3 ways for a Lake District to generate revenue.

- a. Revenue Generation (Chapter 33):
 - i. General Property Tax (mill rate levy)
 - ii. Special Charges (fixed amounts for services)
 - iii. Special Assessment (for capital purchases)
- b. Proposal for Mill Rate for Operational Expenses:
 - i. Operational expenses expected to decrease
 - ii. Separates operational from capital expenses, allowing annual adjustment.
 - iii. Document detailing tax impact by proposed mill rate available.
- c. Capital Purchases (e.g., Nanobubble Project):
 - i. Fall under special assessments.
 - ii. Lake District can assess county and local governments.
 - iii. With 53% of shoreline county-owned, county could fund 53% of capital improvements.
 - iv. If county refuses, state can withhold funds from shared revenues.
- d. Discussion on Mill Rate vs. Flat Tax:
 - i. Unnamed attendee: Is a mil rate the only way to separate capital and operational expenses? We must already know the difference.
Mary Schalow: Law requires separation of expenses. The experts at the University of Wisconsin say there is nothing wrong with how we are

currently doing it, with equal taxation. A mil rate is based on property value; those with higher property value would pay more taxes, and lower property values would pay less.

- ii. Mary stated that carrying an undesignated surplus is illegal for local governments (county on down). Lawsuits in the state of Wisconsin have resulted in refund of property taxes. This has been reaffirmed by the Wisconsin Attorney General and the Wisconsin Supreme Court. Voters need to designate our surplus to a project or we need to stop taxing.
 - iii. Phil Strand: Capital improvements are not subject to a mill rate but a flat special assessment, including the county, based on shoreline ownership.
 - iv. All expenses presented to and voted on by members.
 - v. Electors expressed concerns about Clark County's lack of financial contribution.
 - vi. State will enforce county payment if notified.
 - vii. Mill rate impact: 88 properties pay <100, 4 pay \$100-\$125, 14 pay \$125-\$200, 4 pay >\$200.
 - viii. Anastasia Dzenowagis stated that she would pay less taxes under the mill rate but does not feel it would be fair to those paying more.
 - ix. 2026 budget includes \$13,000 for DNR testing for nanobubble project (second/final year).
 - x. Post-project operational expenses would not exceed current (\$13,800 total).
 - xi. Mill rate for operational expenses would not exceed current (\$13,800 total).
- e. Opposition to Mill Rate:
- i. Will Ruemmele stated we cannot ignore the surplus. If we continue taxing, we are breaking the law. He also supported Anastasia's comments about fairness. He expressed concerns about unproven nanobubble technology. He stated that we don't own Mead Lake. A study in 2008 found that 84% of nutrient load in the lake was coming from outside our lake district in a 20-mile watershed. We have only 130-140 properties, many part-time, in addition to use by campground, ice fishermen, horses, boaters, rainfall, etc. The nanobubble technology is unproven, with no full successful lake implementation completed anywhere in the world. Yet this board is buying expensive equipment and pushing a mill rate. Meantime, a nearby lake has committed to nanobubbles and has also been delayed by the DNR. He stated we should wait and watch them to

see what happens. Meantime, we don't have the legal right to collect one more tax dollar.

- ii. Chapter 33.30(4)(D) allows non-lapsable funds for capital costs and maintenance; current board asserts compliance.
- f. Rod Zika, from Eau Claire, noted Lake Altoona and Eau Claire have water districts and budgets; A statement was made that Mead Lake's water is tested and is safe for swimming.
- g. Nanobubble project cost: \$288,000 (not \$1 million); with 53% county funding, existing balance could cover over half of district's portion, reducing individual costs. Nanobubbles expected to help with muck.
- h. Tax Levy Motion
 - i. Mary Schalow moved to levy no tax this year due to high surplus; mill rates to be discussed when we have a need to tax again.
 - ii. Seconded by Paul Proksch.
 - iii. Vote: 32 in favor, 12 opposed (carried).
- i. 2026 Budget Approval (Expense Part)
- j. Board of Supervisors requires budget approval to authorize spending.
- k. Proposed 2026 budget: \$24,908.
- l. Includes potential funding for a flow, temperature, and chlorophyll sensor at the dam, contingent on Clark County fund. If not received, expense not incurred.
- m. Motion by Colleen Koschak to approve 2026 budget (expense part only), seconded by Gary Pszrniczny (carried).

13. Election of 3 commissioners by secret ballot: Randy and Pam VonRuden counted ballots.

Larry Koschak: 32

Mary Schalow: 38

Philip Strand: 22

Will Ruemmele: 32

Paul Proksch: 1

Frank Marano: 1

14. Extra:

- a. Fireworks will be Saturday July 5th, 2025
- b. Bob Eckes talked about the road work to be done on South Lake Road.

15. Motion to adjourn: Randy VonRuden, 2nd Jeff Thorson

Mead Lake District Secretary

Lisa Zepplin