

Mead Lake District

2nd Quarter Meeting Minutes – Draft

Date:	April 25, 2026
Time:	9:00 a.m.
Location:	Mead Town Hall

1. Meeting called to order by Chair Larry Koschak at 9:04
2. Roll Call:
 - Present: Larry Koschak (Chair), Will Ruemmele (Treasurer), Mary Schalow (Secretary), Greg Evans, Steve Rutkowski, Bob Eckes (Town of Mead).
 - Absent: Roy Tyznik (Clark County).
 - Quorum reached.
3. Approval of minutes of 4th Quarter Board Meeting. Motion by Koschak and seconded to approve the minutes. Carried.
4. Treasurer's Report - Ruemmele
 - Account balances and list of expenditures:
 - i. CD = \$45,591.19
 - ii. Business Checking = \$3,714.02
 - iii. CMMA (money market account) = \$9,769.61
 - No transfer activity since the last Board meeting
 - Paid three bills since the last quarter
 - Anticipate one more \$2,100 bill coming from the state hygiene laboratory
 - ECRWA has sent a bill for \$975 should we decide to continue in the watershed partnership
 - Enough money in checking to handle the known bills and ability to transfer from the money market if necessary.

- Questioned when the \$10,000 water testing grant (nanobubbles project) will be received. Koschak responded it will be paid whenever we ask for it; will discuss signing of the grant contract later in today's agenda.
5. Review and recommend Commissioners take an Oath of Office – Clark County Sheriff Kirn administered Oath of Office to Commissioners in attendance (Koschak, Schalow, Ruemmele, Evans, Eckes, Rutkowski). Notarized by Heidi Ashbeck, Notary Public for State of Wisconsin. Will be filed with the lake district's other official records in the town hall.
 6. Wisconsin Lake Leaders Institute – Crew 16 - Commissioner Schalow was named by the University of Wisconsin as one of twenty-nine 2026 Lake Leaders. The group will meet multiple times over the next eight months to “gain a better understanding of communication strategies, lake ecology, and how to work with state and local governments to assure lakes get the attention they need”.
 7. Liability insurance quotes for consideration – Schalow attended the 3-day Lakes & Rivers conference this month and learned our lake district should obtain General Liability and Directors & Officers (D & O) coverage. Requests for quotes have been sent to multiple insurers/brokers and we are awaiting responses. Without insurance, legal fees and/or judgments are typically assessed to lake district property owners in the following year's tax assessments.
 8. Posting of meeting notices in area newspaper – Schalow motioned the Lake District no longer post meeting notices and agendas to the Enterprise Sentinel as it is costly, not required by statute, and likely reaches few electors and property owners. Seconded and carried.
 9. Report on spending approvals by previous Board – Koschak stated that once a budget is approved by voters, any spending on approved projects needs no further Board approval. The 2024 annual meeting minutes did not capture the Board's promise to withhold purchase of the \$36,000 nanobubble machine until the testing phase was successfully completed. Therefore, the purchase was allowable. Ruemmele, Eckes, and Schalow disagreed, as the Board is accountable to voters. No action taken.
 10. Voter Qualification requirements – Changes will be implemented based on information learned at Lakes & Rivers conference:
 - No voter ID requirement at voters' meetings

- Sign Voter Certificate to vote if name not on the voter rolls
- Schalow will reach out to UW lake district advisors to answer these questions in writing before annual meeting:
 - i. Statutes say properties in a trust get one vote. Is there a difference in voting between revocable and irrevocable trusts?
 - ii. Do temporary renters (i.e. vacationers) get a vote if residing in district more than 28 days if not their permanent residence?
 - iii. Can property owner who purchases property after the tax rolls are printed still vote if they sign the voter certificate?

11. Disposal of district’s pontoon barge – Discussion and possible action – Old barge and functioning motor (never registered) were gifted to lake district long ago. Koschak motioned that we make a reasonable attempt to sell the engine that is on the district’s pontoon, and that we give away the boat to anyone at no charge, first come, first served. Seconded, carried.

12. Budget planning, review ADS Aeration project - Koschak

- Koschak suggested bringing this advisory question to the annual meeting: “Will you support a Mead Lake water quality improvement project that will cost you ZERO dollars to implement?”
- \$144,661 is purchase/installation cost. “Zero dollars” calculation would require:
 - i. DNR grant of \$89,927. Requires up-front money prior to grant reimbursements:
 1. Doubling of lake district’s previous tax assessment of property owners to \$200 per property to make up for lack of assessment in previous year. The Board is required to recommend this at the annual meeting, as motioned by Koschak and approved by voters that attended Special Meeting on August 30, 2025.
 2. \$42,000 from sale of 3 nanobubble machines. No buyer(s) yet identified.
 3. Donation of \$12,734 by two anonymous donors has been promised to Koschak to cover this shortfall, in addition to covering first three years of operational expenses of this project.
- \$4,700 in ongoing annual electricity costs are estimated by Koschak
- Unknown maintenance costs; Lake Eau Claire had one muskrat incident.
- No action taken.

13. Review two Grant contracts for acceptance – Discussion and possible action – Details of grant amounts are attached to 1st Quarter Board Minutes.

- LMI – Air Diffusion Aeration grant (LPT87926) – Koschak stated that signing the grant for the ADS Aeration System would not obligate us to move forward. Grant runs through December 31, 2029. Schalow motioned the DNR Surface Water Grant Agreement for LPT87926 be signed. Seconded, carried.
- Mechanical Aquatic Plant Control grant (LPL195526) – This grant is toward water testing for the nanobubble project. Grant runs through December 31, 2028.
 - i. Koschak motioned that we sign this contract for the expenses to cover the 2026 testing. Amendment by Ruummele to stipulate that nanobubbler not be placed in water and no water testing will be done until after annual meeting, to avoid water testing costs in case voters opt to halt the project; seconded. Koschak agreed with Ruummele that this motion as currently written gives us the authorization to acknowledge that a grant is available to us but we aren't actually applying for it, we aren't committing to it, and as currently voted on here, the only way we would do year-two testing is if it is approved at the annual meeting.
 - ii. Amendment carried 5-1 with Schalow abstaining. Koschak's motion carried 5-1 with Schalow abstaining.

14. Planning for 2026 Annual Meeting Agenda

- Budget being presented is for 2027. Additional expenditures for 2026 need to be put through as budget amendments for the existing 2026 budget with a separate motion at the annual meeting.
- Schalow motioned that we recommend to voters at the annual meeting that we discontinue the nanobubble testing project and sell the three nanobubblers due to unproven technology, risk of litigation, and unethical sales practices by the vendor, Moleaer. Seconded and unanimously carried.
- Several other potential agenda items were discussed; no action taken.

15. First draft of Policies and Procedures – Comment and feedback

- Many changes needed; no action taken

16. Public Comment – Topics not listed on agenda

- Bob Eckes informed us the Town Dump will be open on Saturday, May 23 and Saturday, May 30.

- Attendee stated that a non-lapsable fund was mentioned in old lake district minutes. UW advised her the fund stays in existence until voters end it or rename it. Offered notes from the Treasurer education session of the Lakes & Rivers Conference. Also noted a previous Board decision to not pay for calcium chloride. Handed out the UW's preferred format for the annual meeting budget.
- Attendee asked lake district to consider adding fireworks coverage to any new liability insurance policy.
- Attendee questioned whether one person owning three parcels gets three votes. One person can vote only once.
- Attendee suggested approaching Clark County about soliciting a stipend for our lake district, per camper, to help fund lake activities such as fireworks. The county advertises fireworks as a way to fill the campground.
- Attendee cautioned that few grants give up-front money and reimbursements can be slow. Receipts and reporting can be refused if not done exactly according to specs.

17. Motion to Adjourn – Motion to adjourn by Larry Koschak at 12:38. Seconded and carried.

Mead Lake District Secretary, Mary Schalow