

**Bone Lake Management District
Annual Meeting
Saturday, August 9, 2025 9:00 a.m.
Luck School
Online via FaceBook
Minutes DRAFT 8-30-25**

Cary Olson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Roll Call: Commissioners

- ✓ Cary Olson, Chair
- ✓ Shelley Rose, Vice Chair
- ✓ Karen Engelbretson, Secretary
 - Alex Chorewycz, Treasurer (not present)
 - Mike Musial (not present)
 - Doug Route, Polk County Supervisor, District 2 (not present)
 - Andy Brown, Town of Bone Lake (not present)
 - Jeff Traynor, Town of Georgetown (not present)

Motion: Motion made and seconded to approve agenda_ Carried.

Motion: Motion made and seconded to approve annual meeting minutes 2024. Carried.

Town and County Reports

Polk County: Doug Route has been the District 2 representative for 9½ years. Contact information: 715-472-2620 douglas.route@polkcountywi.gov

Town of Bone Lake: The Town of Bone Lake is working with the Bone Lake Management District to manage harvester operations and operator salaries. News from the north landing: a tree fell on the point, near one of the buildings; no damage occurred, and building insurance has now been secured. We are donating the cleaning stations and harvester to the township, which makes the insurance cheaper.

Town of Georgetown: Shelley Rose reported that the property reassessment is complete. The total cost was approximately \$146,000, \$124,000 from the assessor and \$22,000 from State of Wisconsin. The properties are up to date, and this should result in more fair and equitable taxes among properties. If you would like to keep apprised or give input to the township, meetings are typically 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. The agenda is on the Georgetown website <https://townofgeorgetownwi.com/> Minutes are posted one month later, after they have been approved.

Chair Report – Cary Olson

We have had absolutely crazy weather again this year. Ice out was April 9, 2025 at sunrise, and John Tomlyanovich is the trophy winner. The previous record was March 24, 2012. It was a cool and wet spring again.

The north landing parking lot continues to have great usage.

Water Clarity has been monitored with Secchi readings taken by Bob Boyd and John McCall. We have had above historical rain fall for the second year. Saturated ground leads to higher runoff and cloudier water, as abundant rainfall and lower average lake temperatures drive variability in the Secchi readings. Overall, clarity has been at average.

Agenda August 9, 2025 Commissioner's Meeting

1. Call to Order – Cary Olson
2. Introduction of commissioners and guests
3. Approve Agenda
4. Approve Minutes of 2024 Annual Meeting
5. Reports from Towns and County and Towns
 - Polk County – Doug Route
 - Town of Bone Lake – Andy Brown
 - Town of Georgetown – Shelley Rose
6. Chair Report – Cary Olson
7. Harvester Update – Cary Olson
8. South Landing Improvements – Cary Olson
Vote: Approve up to \$10,000 for South Landing Improvements
9. Watershed Report – Shelley Rose
10. Ten Year Lake Management Plan – Shelley Rose
11. Commissioner Election – Deb Dawson, Nominations Chair
 - Candidates: Alex Chorewycz and Karen Engelbretson
 - Call for candidates from the floor
 - Election: Vote for two commissioners**
12. Wildlife & Natural Beauty – Karen Engelbretson
 - Guest speaker – Eric Wojchik, County Conservationist, Polk County
13. Auditor's Report – Ron Rosenthal
14. Treasurer's Report
Vote: Approve Interim Financial Report
15. Annual Budget 2026
Vote: Approve 2026 Annual Budget
16. Volunteer Leadership Opportunities – Shelley Rose
17. Commissioner Election Results
18. Old Business
19. New Business
20. Adjourn

Bone Lake Elevation is below the ordinary high water mark (OHWM) per measurements maintained by John Ukura. The lake elevation is 1,153 ft, 1.2 inches above sea level. Fox Creek has sometimes been dammed by beavers; it is necessary to monitor and fix this when it happens.

Clean Boats Clean Waters team has noted better use of the CD3 Decontamination equipment. More boaters use it on the way out than the way in. Reminders to clean on the way in should be emphasized. The air compressor is used the most, followed by the vacuum. Cameras recorded 987 launches to July 14 vs. 946 in 2024. As of May 19, 2025, 85 boats entered north and 67 boats entered south. There were four (4) reported violations. Sheriff Hahn has done an excellent job following up on violations

Buoys went in April 26th Six (6) were replaced with new ones this year. Remember to stay 150 feet away from buoys for your safety. Buoys can get damaged when people hook on to them to anchor their boats at the sand bar. If you see buoys out of place call or text Mike Musial at 612-207-5254.

Boat Safety There are no reported injuries or accidents on Bone Lake this season. The North boat launch has a “Kids Don’t Float” kiosk.

There are boat safety handbooks available at the North and South landings. If you were born on or after January 1, 1989 you must have a WI Boaters Safety Certificate to operate a motor boat in WI. Mike is looking into getting updated brochures. Recommended paths for boating were published last year. If it looks like boaters are not following proper distance rules, send videos to sheriff.

Harvester Update – Cary Olson

The harvester and trailer arrived on June 24, one (1) month late due to painting vendor issue. Training for available operators was done same day as delivery June 24, and Mike trained other operators the next week. It is flexible, maneuverable and easy to operate.

Due to the delay in equipment delivery, we missed most of the curly leaf pondweed (CLP) season. CLP starts growing in February under the ice, and usual harvesting is mid-May through June. This year it came in and went out early. Mike took three (3) loads of CLP out of the entrance to the channel. CLP harvesting is done for the year so the equipment is in storage. If local navigation channels get clogged, we can ask the DNR for permission to use the harvester, but DNR must approve before use. A DNR grant paid for 50% of the \$270k harvester cost. We filed for the remaining \$62,716 of grant funds from the DNR.

South Landing Improvements – Cary Olson

The South landing has 8” concrete blocks cabled together that tend to get buckled by wind-blown ice. It can be treacherous and difficult, causing trailers to get stuck. We propose replacing the blocks with 12’ X 8’ precast slabs, cabled together, that would go out 40 ft. It would be excavated first, pulling out gravel and rock. Polk County completed the design for what is estimated to be a \$20,000 project.

This would be done in 2026 at the earliest. We are filing for grant by the Town Georgetown up to 50% possible grant, sharing the cost 50/50 with BLMD. We are therefore asking today for a vote to approve up to \$10,000 for South Landing Improvements.

Dave Brandt questioned whether we have a quorum to conduct business when only 3 out of 7 commissioners are present. Shelley Rose responded that quorum is defined in state law by those members who show up in person at the annual meeting.

Georgetown owns the landing up to the water, but not in the water, and has so far been reluctant to contribute financially to this project. Another option being explored is the possibility of Georgetown donating the landing to the DNR, and let the DNR take it over. There is question whether the DNR would have the funding or staff to manage it. Todd Pankow asked: if BLMD fixes it will Georgetown maintain it? Cary Olson responded that Georgetown says their

responsibility stops at the water. Commissioners have been in conversation with the DNR about working with them to get grants. Todd Fisher of the DNR has many lakes to manage; we can probably do better on our own.

Ken Prusak commented, as an owner, he wouldn't be interested in paying. If BLMD keeps donating, the townships won't be motivated to come up with funding.

Nancy Fudali suggested that the townships should charge non-residents. Cary Olson responded that is a good idea, and suggested that she attend township meetings and express concern. It was noted the two landings are in different townships: if one charged a fee and the other didn't, that would impact where boaters would launch.

Nancy also felt that the dock on the south landing is dangerous and in need of repair. Sheila Steiner asked who covers the insurance on the dock? Georgetown or BLMD? BLMD's insurance is for directors, commissioners, and liability.

Michael Downey, Bone Lake property owner and owner of Milltown Power Sports, proposed that businesses like his who use the landing to deliver boats, could be asked to contribute to the cost of ramp repair. He would be willing to contribute \$2500, and suggests other vendors be approached.

Judy Simon suggested that a \$5 fee be paid by each user. Cary responded that this has been explored before, but BLMD can't legally charge a fee because we don't own the landing, and the logistics would be difficult even if we did. Tim Fisher wondered if the concrete pad could be considered BLMD property if we paid for it, and could therefore charge a fee. Gerry Albright says that the Luck Lions Club has a donation box to support North Landing maintenance, but they only collect about \$200 a year.

Motion to approve up to \$10,000 toward South Landing improvements was made by Dave Brandt, seconded by Tim Fisher, and carried with 32 in favor and 8 opposed.

Watershed Report – Shelley Rose

Maps of the watershed and land use were reviewed. Bone Lake watershed includes 11,993 acres, including the lake, which is 1,709 acres. The land use acreages of the watershed were displayed. Bone Lake has relatively low ag land (1,200 acres, 12%) compared to other county watersheds. See annual meeting presentation on website for details.

An assessment of the watershed concluded that BLMD board and owners should pursue the following: identify and install agricultural best management practices; implement smaller shoreline improvement projects at the residential level; identify larger grant-funded project opportunities (sediment control basins, contour buffer strips grass, waterways, sediment ponds; nutrient removal wetlands, native plantings, rain water diversion and gardens and rock infiltration trenches.)

Ten-Year Lake Management Plan – Shelley Rose

2025 Progress: An application was made in 2024 to the DNR for a cost-sharing agreement, and was received. In 2025, three focus groups with an average of eight per group were held. A summary will be provided to the advisory committee. The watershed assessment has been completed, a shoreland survey will be done in the next 30 days, using new technology to compare with a 2008 survey. An owner survey will be out by mid-September, with online and hard copy options. The reports will be synthesized in the fall, and an advisory committee will be recruited to begin work in the 1st quarter of 2026.

Nancy Fudali asked if the focus group summary could be made available. Shelley Rose responded yes, it will be posted to the BLMD website.

2026 Plan: Goals and strategies will be prioritized. A plan will be drafted and submitted for DNR and public comment. Then the plan will be adopted for implementation.

Commissioner Election, Deb Dawson, Nominations Chair

The current candidates are incumbents Alex Chorewycz, and Karen Engelbretson. Deb Dawson called for candidates from the floor three times, as required by state law. Members were instructed to vote for two commissioners and ballots were collected.

Wildlife & Natural Beauty Committee – Karen Engelbretson

The purpose of this committee is to protect and enhance Bone Lake's natural beauty, wildlife populations and habitat. It seeks to help property owners learn how to support essential wildlife habitat at their lakeshore property and around Bone Lake while maintaining and enhancing Bone Lake's natural beauty.

Members include Teri Albright, Cris Dueholm, David Klopp and Karen Engelbretson.

A 12 ft tall wooden Chimney Swift tower has been proposed for 2026, and is a line item in the budget under Wildlife and Natural Beauty. This will provide nightly roost and nesting for Chimney Swifts, which are in steep decline. Construction and installation will be done at the North landing.

Native grasses, wildflowers, shrubs, and trees where the land meets the water can provide numerous benefits for water quality and restore valuable habitat.

Guest speaker: Eric Wojchik, County Conservationist, Polk County

Pollination is in decline. There are several things we can do on our property to establish a pollinator habitat and also help prevent shoreline erosion. Planting native species are more beneficial. There are several local nurseries who have product and expertise. BLMD may provide partial funding for planting 10' x 35' shoreline plantings. Information about these, as well as today's presentation, can be found on the website.

Auditor's Report - Ron Rosenthal

Ron reviewed our checking and savings accounts. He commended us for acquiring CDs to earn interest. There were no irregularities found. Financial books are in good order. Treasurer Alex Chorewycz has done a fantastic job of documenting and filing financial transactions.

Treasurer's Report

Revenue is slightly under budget at \$174,000, mostly grants. The harvester purchase was made with an \$84,000 down payment in 2024 and \$169,000 in first half in 2025, for a total of \$253,000 (7% under budget.) Harvester operations are under budget due to its arrival late in the CLP growing cycle. Finally, we anticipate a positive ending cash balance of \$171,749 which includes \$30,000 of designated funds to be carried over to 2026.

Ken Prusak asked what comprises the \$22,000 expense for lake management. This includes initiatives such as the \$13,000 for Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW), half of which is a DNR grant, the toilet at the south landing, the two landing cameras, and other lake management expenses.

Judy Simon inquired what is included in donations and subscriptions. Donations are to the Luck Lions Club to help with maintaining the North landing.

Joe Simon asked that we request the five-year warranty on the harvester be extended another year, since we effectively lost a year of use due to the manufacturer's delay. Cary Olson responded that he believes the vendor (Inland) be responsive, and will follow up.

Motion to approve interim financial report was made by Judy Simon and seconded by Dave Brandt. Motion carried unanimously.

Annual Budget 2026

Our tax levy has increased from \$67,000 to \$70,000 (4.5% ↑); the last increase was 2021. This amounts to about \$6 per property.

Grants are \$25,000; CBCW \$8,000; 10-Year Plan \$10,000; Cost-sharing (including South landing) \$11,000. Lake management includes landing cameras, internet, toilet; CBCW, lake management plan, aquatic plant management (APM). Harvester operations of \$27,500 include insurance, maintenance, fuels, operator, helper, trailer, storage, worker's comp; harvester personnel costs are \$16,000. South landing improvement up to \$20,000 with 50% of cost from grant for cost sharing. Consulting (\$9,600) includes general, grant writing, and lake management plan. Other line items include \$5,000 public safety (buoys in/out, maintenance, replacement), \$930 for the newsletter.

Expenses over revenue are from cash balance carry forward. Total expenditures are \$135,825 with designated surplus funds of \$30,000: \$10,000 each for cash reserves, aquatic invasive species and septic incentives.

Dave Frizell clarified that commissioner positions are volunteer, and expressed the opinion that they should be paid.

Ken Duncan re-iterated that the half dozen or so businesses who deliver boats should be asked if they can contribute to the South landing repairs. Why was the \$10,000 line item for South landing repairs put forward for a vote? Any item over \$10,000 must be approved by the members.

Motion to approve 2026 budget was made by Gerry Albright, seconded by Wayne Butler.

Q&A

Judy Simon inquired about that the \$500 for Fisheries includes. It is not a specific project, but the musky population has been in decline. The DNR is in the second year of a survey estimating the musky population. What do the tribes do with the muskies they harvest? They eat them.

Jeannie Voigt who lives near the sandbar, asked if there is a no-wake zone between the sandbar and the shore. Cary Olson responded that there aren't any no-wake zones on the lake. There used to be one in the channel between the small island and the shore. There are concerns wakes in that area destroy loon nests on the island.

Are there any regulations (e.g., distance) for swimming docks? They must have reflectors on them.

Jerry Lutkin expressed concern that among about 500 members in BLMD, only 45 votes are being cast today. People tend to show up only when there is something controversial being voted on. On Balsam Lake, 15 people attended last year.

Vote to approve 2026 budget carried.

Volunteer leadership opportunities – Shelley Rose

After 20 years of dedicated service, Bob Boyd and Dick Mackie are retiring, leaving the following three volunteer positions in need of leadership. Clean Boats Clean Water Director requires 5 hours/month for six months from April through October. Lake Monitor Lead requires 4-5 hours/month from May-Sept and a boat that can anchor at 45 ft. Equipment is provided. Septic Grant Evaluator typically gets 4-6 inquiries a year, which require 2-3 hours each. See position descriptions.

Additionally, Advisory Committee Members are being recruited to assist in development of the 10-Year Management Plan. This will be done between January and September 2026.

Commissioner Election Results

Karen Engelbretson and Alex Chorewycz were re-elected. There 45 votes cast, and no write-ins. It was noted that there are 580-590 properties on the lake, according to property assessors. BLMD includes properties within 1000 ft of the lake.

Old Business

Judy Simon inquired the status of zebra mussels. Nothing new – we have them in the lake. Please check your docks and lifts in the fall and report your findings to one of the commissioners.

What can be done about the geese problem? Cary Olson responded that you control your own shoreline. If you mow to the shoreline, they come up. Oiling eggs requires a permit from the DNR, with a documented problem, like E. coli on the beach or athletic fields. You have to go to the Dept of Agriculture which regulates migratory birds. An electric fence can be put up. Shelley Rose noted that they let their shoreline grow tall and it eliminated the problem. Some owners put pink tape across their shorelines. Cris Dueholm reported that the young ones have now learned to fly, and fly in groups. Dave Brandt noted we need to be mindful that large geese populations perpetuate a cycle of snails spreading swimmer's itch.

Ken Prusak noted ongoing problems with wake boats; he reports that Wisconsin Statute 30 allows for management districts to form their own rules. Wake boats can't be within 500 feet of shore or docks. Shelley Rose wondered about forming a boater safety patrol, and look at the logistics in the 10-year plans. However, we can't create an ordinance without authority from the Towns of Georgetown and Bone Lake. Round Lake has asked, and not gotten this support from the Town of Georgetown.

Nancy Fudali has observed pontoons with large motors coming within 100 feet of docks and piers. Cary Olson said to take photos and send it to the sheriff.

Dave Brandt noted that the distance between the small island and the channel is <400 feet. Can we look at a no-wake zone again? We used to have a no-wake buoy there, but Karen Engelbretson stated the DNR said it wasn't legal. We should revisit this no-wake zone in the new plan.

Joe Simon asked whether Wilkins has a no-wake buoy? No, there aren't any no-wake buoys on Bone Lake.

Nancy Fudali asked that the voice recorders on both landings be checked, as they sometimes seem not to be working. Response: they are on at certain times of the day.

Ken Duncan wondered whether solar lights could be put on buoys. Mike Musial did a trial on a few buoys, and they were stolen. Jeannie Voigt, whose property is by the large sandbar, would hate the lights being on the buoys, as would many other residents.

Joe Simon noted a proliferation of rabbits this year.

New Business

Door Prizes

\$20 Abrahamson Nursey gift certificate – Andrea Lopnow

\$25 Wilkins gift certificate – Dave Brandt

\$25 Café Wren gift certificate – Joe Simon

\$20 Dragonfly Garden gift certificate – Joy Gustafson

\$25 Bunnycup Winery gift certificate – Becky Carroll

2 Kaufmann's Field Guide to Birds of North America, donated by Cris Dueholm – Judy Simon and Ron Rosenthal

3 Magnifier loops – Clifton Gustafson, Bill Ward, and Todd Pankow

Adjourned 11:25 am

Recorded by Kathleen Killeen

August 9, 2025

Submitted August 30, 2025