

**Bone Lake Management District
Commissioners Meeting
Saturday, October 4, 2025
9:00 a.m. via Zoom
Minutes DRAFT**

Cary Olson called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m

1. Roll Call

- X Cary Olson, Chair
- X Shelley Rose, Vice Chair
- X Karen Engelbretson, Secretary
- X Alex Chorewycz, Treasurer
- X Mike Musial
- X Doug Route, Polk County Supervisor, District 2
- X Andy Brown, Town of Bone Lake
- Jeff Traynor, Town of Georgetown

Guests present:
None

2. Review Annual Meeting Minutes.

All requested changes have been made.

3. Motion to approve July 12, 2025 Meeting Minutes: Rose/Chorewycz. Carried.

4. Polk County Report - Doug Route

Shoreland Ordinance rewrite is moving slower as Logan Hacker has less time for it in the summer months. He is going out on two weeks maternity leave. Recycling fee update: A \$35 fee for recycling center is included on tax statements for all properties with an improvement. St Croix County exempts an improvement value of \$25K or less. Polk County established the exemption of \$50K or less. Before this exemption the county collected \$830K in fees, with exemption fees are down to \$750K annually.

5. Town of Bone Lake Report - Andy Brown

North landing: Brush pile separated into two dense brush piles. They expect to burn “before the corn turns brown.” The Town crushed 20,000 tons of gravel from the Town gravel pit. \$80K fee.

6. Town of Georgetown Report - Shelley Rose

Town is done mowing and they are trimming trees along roads. The merger of fire departments: Centuria, Milltown, etc. is an active issue.

7. Treasurer’s Report - Alex Chorewycz

Alex presented the Treasurer’s Report including interim financials through September 30. Grant dollars are in. Shelley: There is a Shoreland Survey bill at \$10K outstanding. Cary: There’s a CD3 bill coming. Vacuum isn’t working. We’ve scheduled a service call. **Motion to approve Interim Financial Report through 9/30/25: Olson/Rose. Carried.**

8. Annual Meeting Review.

Karen: Summary of exit survey results sent to commissioners. A better screen for slides is indicated. Thirteen surveys were returned. 63 people were in attendance; 54 signed in. We should think of other ideas for speakers to attract more people. Cary: would be good to have someone to talk about wake boats. People who care were there. Alex: Balsam lake

AGENDA

1. Roll Call
2. Review Annual Meeting Minutes
3. Approve July 12 Meeting Minutes
4. Polk County Report — Doug Route
5. Town of Bone Lake Report — Andy Brown
6. Georgetown Report — Shelley Rose
7. Treasurers Report – Alex Chorewycz
8. Annual Meeting Review – All
9. Bone Lake 10-year plan update – Shelley Rose
10. Review and approve grants for Nov 1 submission:
 - a. CBCW
11. Committee Reports
 - a. Boating – Mike Musial
 - b. Harvester Update — Mike
 - c. Waterfront Runoff — Alex Chorewycz
 - d. Watershed — Shelley Rose
 - e. South landing update — Cary
12. Election of officers - postponed from August 9 (lack of quorum)
13. Old Business
14. a. Green Fire Cafe - wake boat bill
15. New Business
 - a. Website redesign — new contractor and proposal
 - b. Newsletter content (due Oct 4)
16. Adjourn

attracts about 20 people. The surveys indicated interest in a septic incentive, a rain garden, and participation in activities. Cary: We had only three commissioners present. The date was known a year in advance. We need to make the meeting a priority. The audience did notice the lack of leaders. A quorum of commissioners is not required. It is a meeting of members and a majority vote. One attendee asked if commissioners were paid. We are not, but we could be rewarded somehow, perhaps a dinner for commissioners.

9. Ten-year Plan - Shelley Rose

Things are moving along very well. The shoreline survey is complete; the data collection is done, the report is coming. The property owner survey was developed from focus group data, and the surveys from 2013 and 2018 so we can make comparison reports. DNR was helpful with their feedback on the survey, making the wording more encouraging. In the mail on Friday. There is an online option to complete the survey. Advisory committee: 3 people interested so far, one from annual meeting, one from social event. Meetings can be done by Zoom. We are on track, on schedule, and on budget. Volunteer hours are higher than originally estimated. Shelley will send the letter, survey and responses for the BLMD archive.

10. Grants for November 1 Submission

The only grant we have is for CBCW. Cary: Should we continue the CBCW program? People at the landings are not directing people to use the cleaning stations. Shell Lake, for example is hiring adults to direct people to clean their boats using bleach spray or hot pressurized water. What happens if we drop out of the CBCW program? Amery has dropped out, Wapogasset is having trouble getting people. Do we want to hire 18+ people to direct use of the CD3 unit?

Shelley: Bob Boyd questioned whether CBCW has run its course for Bone Lake. We will have a big hole in volunteerism once Bob Boyd retires. If we are to monitor the landing we should get people to clean their boats in whatever way we can. If we are going to hire, then the District would have employees, and we need to figure that out.

Volunteers have aged out, and we need to get new volunteers. Cary: *We need to ask people to volunteer, to join.*

Shelley: Another social in the spring would help, but the board needs to define needs and methods. Alex: from a dollar standpoint we get \$8,000 in grant money, and we will spend an additional \$9,000 from District funds; those dollars could go toward hiring landing monitors.

Motion: Suspend the CBCW program for Bone Lake and do not submit the November 1 grant application. Engelbretson/Olson

Discussion: There is no one to run the CBCW program, the program appears to have run its course, so the Board will suspend the program. The budget approved for 2026 includes the CBCW budget; the money won't be spent because the program will be suspended. Mike: The program should continue this year since it's been approved. A lot of effort went into the program. New boaters come all the time. It's important for someone to be there to talk with them. We approved another season, let's move ahead with it. Cary: There is no one to run it. Shelley: I could run it for a year. Cary: Commissioners should not take on a program like CBCW with everything else they do. We have reports that the CBCW monitors are not approaching boaters while they are at the landing, although it is not their role to promote using the cleaning station. We should discontinue the CBCW program and find better ways to monitor the landings so people clean their boats using the CD3 station.

VOTE. Yes: Cary, Shelley, Alex, Karen. No: Mike. Motion carries.

11. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Boating Safety - Mike Musial

Buoys will be coming out. Repairs are done within one to three days. One repair done to south end dock; it should be good for another season but I'll know when I pull it out. We should park the harvester in the Bone Lake gravel pit, a gated area, rather than at the north landing. Do we have comprehensive insurance on the harvester? Cary: Yes.

Watershed - Shelley Rose

Nothing new to report.

Waterfront Runoff — Alex Chorewycz

Dick visited two sites where septic systems were failing; owners have not made decisions.

South Landing Update - Cary Olson

Cary filled out all the forms and sent all the information to Georgetown for their review of the \$10K grant application for one half the cost of the south landing improvement. (The Waterways Commission did not grant a landing this year because one project used all the funding. Maybe next year they won't allow one project to use all the available funds.) Cary will attend the next meeting to learn what Georgetown has decided about filing the grant. Our next option may be a petition to the Town of Georgetown to improve the landing. Michael Downing, Milltown Motorsports, said he would contribute \$2,500 for the landing repair. We could approach other similar businesses for potential funding. The District has up to \$10K for the project. Cary has contacted DNR about taking over the landing but has had no response.

12. Election of Officers

Everyone is ok with the status quo. 2026 Officers remain: Cary Olson, Chair; Shelley Rose, Vice Chair; Alex Chorewycz, Treasurer; Mike Musial, at large.

13. Old Business

Green Fire Cafe

Proposed wake board bill was written by the wake boat industry. Letters of opposition sent to legislators made a big difference in the outcome. "The industry was *flummoxed* by the opposition to the bill and the author of the bill has washed his hands of it." Discussion: Wake boat owners are in the minority. Other boaters will tolerate them, but only if they abide by rules. The rules should not be written by the boating industry, but by the people.

15. New Business

Website Redesign

Karen has consulted with a developer to redesign the site, based on a wire frame presented of the content similar to the current site. We voted a \$3,500 budget for the redesign which is "woefully inadequate" considering the amount of information and the structure we need to have. Websites are primarily viewed on small screens now, so more pages are needed for information for which access should be not more than 3 clicks deep. Estimates show a budget of \$10,000 is more appropriate for the scope of the project. How do we get more funding out of the budget for building the new site? Shelley: If we get started in 2025 we can move unspent money around to use 2025 funds, possibly up to \$4,000. In 2026 we have \$3,500 budgeted for the website. Commissioners discussed budget items that are likely to be unspent. In addition we have a cash surplus. The website must be updated to be a workable communications device for members and the public. Karen: We might not be able to accomplish enough to use funds in 2025. We may need to start in 2026 when everyone has time. We may need a meeting before February to discuss.

Motion: Approve up to \$9,500 in budgeted and/or unallocated funds to redesign and construct a website which includes \$3,500 in 2026 budget funds. Engelbretson/Rose. Carried.

Newsletter Content

Content was reviewed for the fall issue.

Septic incentives: Contact Jack Hopkins. He will send the report to Alex to confirm the septic incentive eligibility. Cary will provide contact information.

Next meetings:

February 21, 2026 — Start up new year, website updates

May 9, 2026 – Budget

June 27, 2026 – Budget, annual meeting agenda

July 11, 2026 — Finalize budget, finalize Annual Meeting Agenda

(Postcard meeting notices in homes by July 25,)

Annual Meeting: August 8, second Saturday of August

October 10, 2026

Meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Engelbretson

Secretary

Bone Lake Management District

November 9, 2025