

**Bone Lake Management District
Commissioners Meeting
Saturday, February 21, 2026
9:00 a.m. via Zoom
Minutes DRAFT**

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

1. Roll Call

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

Guests present:

- X John Ukura

AGENDA

1. Roll Call
2. Polk County Report — Doug Route/Karen
3. Town of Bone Lake Report — Andy Brown
4. Georgetown Report — Shelley Rose/ Cary
5. Grant update – Cary Olson
6. CBCW – What do we want to do this year? All
7. Treasurers Report – Alex Chorewycz
8. Committee Reports
 - a. Boating/ Harvester – Mike Musial
 - b. Watershed —Shelley Rose
 - c. Lake Management Plan – Shelley Rose
 - d. Waterfront Runoff — Alex Chorewycz
 - e. Aquatic Plant Management — Cary Olson
 - f. Fisheries — Bob Boyd
 - g. Wildlife and Natural Beauty — Karen Engelbretson
 - h. Communications — Karen Engelbretson
 - New Website
 - Review 2026 Map handout for landings & new property owners
9. Annual Meeting Location – Luck School
10. New Business
11. Adjourn

Key Decisions and Outcomes

- Town of Georgetown has signed on with six other towns to sue Polk County over the shoreline ordinance.
- The board approved printing 1,500 new Bone Lake maps at approximately \$1 per map.
- Karen Engelbretson presented the new Bone Lake website design, which includes comprehensive information about the lake and a document archive.
- The board will hold the 2026 Annual Meeting at Luck School.
- The board discussed implementing a program for monitoring boat cleaning at landings.
- John Ukura will be taking over water quality monitoring duties.

Motion to approve agenda: Rose/Chorewycz. Carried.

2. Polk County Report

- Karen contacted Doug Route about opposition to the Shoreland Protection Ordinance on Facebook by Adam Jarchow, who suggested returning to general Wisconsin ordinances. Karen sent a letter to the Environmental Services Committee in support of the draft ordinance.
- Doug Route has an opponent for County Board election in April.
- Cary: Georgetown has signed on as one of seven townships (six others besides Georgetown) planning to sue Polk County over the ordinance.
- Shelley: Adam Jarchow (who is running unopposed for county board in the April election) is leading the effort against the ordinance and is also running for Unity School Board. The Towns claim the ordinance is more restrictive and against DNR rules.

Background: Adam Jarchow previously served as a WI State Assembly person and passed AB155, which disallowed counties from having separate classifications for lakes and setback rules. This provision was opposed by 32 county boards across Wisconsin.

Karen: DNR reviewed the ordinance line-by-line and all requested changes were made. The ordinance includes updates like allowing boathouses up to 26 feet (including any apron extending from shore)

3. Town of Bone Lake Report - Andy Brown

Brian Randall committed to burning the burn piles next week before snow melts and everything becomes a fire hazard.

4. Town of Georgetown Report - Shelley Rose

Shelley and Cary attended the February Georgetown meeting and reported several items of interest:

Ordinance lawsuit: Cary reported that Georgetown has signed on as one of seven townships (six others besides Georgetown) planning to sue Polk County over the ordinance.

Balsam Lake Rod and Gun Club will be on March Georgetown agenda regarding “walk-on access and boat landings”.

Shelley will attend to monitor. Historical context: The club previously attempted to create a boat landing on a steep Bone Lake property but DNR declared it a wetland under federal jurisdiction. An illegal artesian spring/water spigot was removed. Federal wetland rules may have changed under new administration.

Treasurer position: Georgetown discussing changing treasurer from elected to appointed position for more flexibility and to ensure qualified candidates (similar benefit for clerk position which requires 5-8 years to become proficient).

5. Grants Report

South Landing Grant Application

- Cary presented the grant application to Town of Georgetown for South Landing improvements.
- Grant structure: Up to 50% matching grant through DNR Lakes Committee (if district contributes \$20,000, DNR provides \$10,000)
- Georgetown approval: After discussion about funding sources and property ownership, Georgetown approved being the grant recipient and will be responsible for land-based improvements (including the biffy/restroom?)
- Facility requirements: Based on Half Moon Lake’s experience with similar projects (\$100,000 landings), DNR typically requires handicapped parking spots and dock railings for accessibility.
- Timeline: Cary will work with Cheryl to submit to Patrick Anderson before April 1st for review, then to DNR to be in queue for September/October approval meetings.
- Town chair Jeff Traynor will be the go-to person to attend the DNR meeting to support the grant application since Georgetown is the official applicant.

6. CBCW - What do we want to do this year

Discussion about implementing a program to monitor boat cleaning at landings without participating in the CBCW grant program. Cary suggested hiring people (18+ years old) to monitor the landings and inform boaters about cleaning requirements, paying \$20/hour and having the monitors wear identification vests (similar to safety vests) to establish an authoritative presence.

- Alex emphasized that monitors should not be “enforcing” but rather “informing and recording possible violations,” reporting violations to the sheriff rather than confronting boaters.
- John Ukura noted that the cleaning station isn’t used much and expressed concern about reporting violations by lake residents who are just putting their boats in for the season after having been stored over the winter and haven’t been in other waters.
- Shelley suggested focusing on service providers (dock and boat installation companies) who visit multiple lakes in one day, and tournament participants who pose the highest risk.

Conclusion

- Cary will work on a job description for landing monitors.
- The focus will be on informing boaters and recording possible violations rather than enforcement.
- Special attention will be given to fishing tournaments and service providers.
- Key concern: Bob Boyd previously found zebra mussels in weeds pulled from a tournament boat that then went into the water, highlighting the importance of monitoring tournaments.
- Tournaments: All fishing tournaments, regardless of size, must register with the state. The district will obtain information about tournament registration requirements
- Coordination: The District could work with Bone Lake Township to handle payroll of inspectors, similar to the harvester operator arrangement.

7. Treasurer’s Report

Alex presented the 12-month actual revenue and expense report.

Overall status: No major surprises; revenues and expenses tracking as expected

Insurance savings: Actual insurance costs were significantly less than budgeted due to participating in Bone Lake Township's insurance program

Budget timing: Evaluation and studies spending appears high while consulting appears low, but this is just timing related to the lake management plan phases — no concerns about staying within overall budget

Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report: Rose/Engelbretson. Carried.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Boating Safety - Mike Musial

No report. Mike Musial was not in attendance.

Watershed - Shelley Rose

No new projects currently in process, Monitoring land sales in the watershed area.

Future 10-year plan will focus on conservation easements and protections for land surrounding the watershed.

Sandy Hook area experiences significant springtime runoff that can overflow the road - existing culvert infrastructure already in place but high volume during snow melt.

Lake Management Plan — Shelley Rose

8-person advisory committee has been formed (includes Shelley, Karen, and John from this meeting)

Meeting schedule: Starting March 11th, every other Wednesday through May 6th.

Process: Cheryl will send out 2-4 page fact sheets before each meeting on specific topics for review and discussion, allowing for education and input throughout the planning process.

Water Quality Monitoring — John Ukura

John will be taking over water quality monitoring duties from Bob Boyd.

The Board expressed appreciation for John volunteering for this important role.

Lions Club, North Landing — John Ukura

John thanked the board for continued financial support of Lions Club park maintenance. No dock damage last year for the first time - success attributed to turning the first wheel to inside of dock instead of outside. Board members praised the Lions Club for maintaining a beautiful space on the lake

Waterfront Runoff — Alex Chorewycz

Nothing to report.

Aquatic Plant Management — Cary Olson

- Harvester is in storage; Mike will prepare it once ice is out.
- Permit for weed removal has been filed and paid.
- Steve Schieffer will conduct mapping of curly leaf pondweed and other plant beds.
- District has option to request permits for native plant removal in areas where boat passage is significantly blocked (requires DNR inspection and approval).
- New property owner near Karen has concerns about shallow water (18 inches) and heavy native vegetation — not suitable for the harvester or their intended high-activity recreational use.

Fisheries — Bob Boyd

Bob was not present. Unclear who will handle fisheries reporting going forward.

Wildlife & Natural Beauty — Karen Engelbretson

- Karen reported that a chimney swift tower will be constructed by a contractor and then placed on site. Terry Albright will coordinate with the Lions Club on the placement location.
- Discussed plans to restore the 10x30 native planting at the landing which has become overgrown. The project may

involve replacing some forbs with denser grasses that are easier to maintain. This may require equipment, permits, and significant excavation work.

- Shelley suggested that volunteers could be recruited for the planting restoration as a one-time project, noting that people showed interest in this type of volunteer opportunity during previous outreach.

Communications – Karen Engelbretson

New Website Update

- Karen showed the homepage design with main sections for: About, Management District, Boating, Lakeshore Property, and Fisheries and Wildlife. Also includes a special “Visitors” tab for people visiting the lake.
- Karen demonstrated the document archive feature with unlimited storage capacity for all district documents with automatic linking capability. Shelley organized and named all documents about 3 years ago. The archive will be updated with recent documents.
- Karen explained that the site will include information organized for visitors and detailed information about the lake’s ecosystem history, sensitive areas with photos, invasive species (using tab or accordion formats), wildlife (comprehensive bird surveys, frog calls, macroinvertebrates, building permits process, septic systems, and more).
- Alex asked about additional costs for completing the website. Karen estimated about \$3,500 more would be needed to complete the site. Eric Tam has been donating significant volunteer time to support the technical development.
- Photos from annual meeting slideshows will be used, requiring permission tracking.
- Email signup: The board discussed adding a property owner checkbox to the email signup form to help identify and build a list of district property owners.
- Recognition: Shelley suggested nominating Eric Tam for a volunteer award for his donated web development work.

Map handout for boat landings and new property owners

- Karen presented an updated Bone Lake map.
- A “wake sports bubble” was added indicating recommended wake sports area: 500 feet from shore and water depth greater than 20 feet deep (based on best practices from other lakes like Wapogasset and Balsam Lake).
- Added information about observing slow-no-wake within 100 feet from other watercraft, docks, swimmers, and buoys in response to several requests.
- The back of the map includes rules about boat cleaning rules currently being reviewed by DNR staff.
- Karen requested approval to print 1,500 maps at approximately \$1 each, printed on synthetic waterproof paper suitable for use in boats. Digital printing was chosen for this quantity level.

Motion to approve \$1,500 expenditure for maps. Olson/Rose. Carried.

- Karen will finalize the map design and send it to board members for review before printing
- Distribution plan: Ron Rosenthal will coordinate with Terry Albright to handle distribution at landings and include maps in new homeowner welcome packets which he prepares.
- Digital mapping: Colton Sorenson from Polk County will create a digital wake boat area layer for Bone Lake on the county website. Colton will attempt a mobile-friendly version of their Beacon map system that loads faster and shows only lake information without all county layers.
- Legislative update: Wake boat legislation pushed by the industry did not pass this session. The bill was amended to include sandhill cranes as game birds and won’t be taken up until next year.

9. Annual Meeting Location

Cary noted that Luck School has provided great support for past meetings.

Karen mentioned one complaint about screen visibility due to overhead lights creating glare on the screen. Chad Strege may have a brighter digital screen that could withstand the lighting issues, or the setup could be adjusted (moving presentation area or turning off specific lights).

Motion to approve Luck School as location for the 2026 Annual Meeting. Rose/Engelbretson. Carried.

10. New Business

Round Lake Ordinance Support

Shelley brought up a request from Round Lake for support on ordinance creation. Round Lake is looking for management districts to support the general concept that districts should have the ability to work with townships to create ordinances, even if individual districts don't plan to create their own. Shelley clarified that Bone Lake wouldn't need to create its own ordinance but would support the concept. BLMD board agreed to stay in communication with Round Lake on this issue, supporting the concept without committing significant resources to it.

Next meetings:

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 10:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Engelbretson
Secretary
Bone Lake Management District
February 27, 2026

**BONE LAKE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT BLM D COM-
MISSIONERS MEETING 21 February 2026 |
2025 STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL OPERATIONS APPROVED
BUDGET 1/1/2025 THROUGH 12/31/2025 ACTUAL REVENUE
& EXPENSES THROUGH 12/31/2025**

	Budget- FYE 2025 1/1/2025 thru 12/31/2025-APPROVED	Actual-Rev & Exp 1/1/2025 thru 12/31/25
Revenue		
Towns of Georgetown and Bone Lake	\$ 67,000.00	\$ 67,000.00
Frandsen Bank-Interest (Chkg. & Sav.)	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 7,965.69
Newsletter Ads	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,250.00
Interest: CD's	\$	\$
Grants Revenue	\$ 104,000.00	\$ 89,257.24
Misc. Other Rev.	\$ 500.00	\$
Total Revenue	\$ 177,500.00	\$ 168,472.93
Expenditures		
Lake Improvements		
Lake Mgmt (LM) incl. CBCW	\$ 22,000.00	\$ 18,756.98
Harvester Operations	\$ 27,500.00	\$ 560.25
Decontamination Stations & fees	\$	\$ 1,275.00
Dock-South Landing	\$	\$
N/S Landings-Donations-Improv./Mnt.	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 2,423.12
Harvester-purchase	\$ 273,000.00	\$ 169,394.67
Misc. Equip. purchase & maintenance	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 1,549.01
Sub-Total Lake Improvements	\$ 340,000.00	\$ 193,959.03
Lake Management Projects		
Watershed projects	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 250.00
Waterfront runoff projects	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 124.30
Septic Incentives	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
Evaluation and Studies	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 17,766.71
Wildlife and Natural Beauty	\$ 2,500.00	\$
Fisheries	\$ 500.00	\$
Communications/Education/Recognition	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 621.60
Consulting	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 2,219.72
Sub- Total Lake Mgmt. Projects	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 25,982.33
Total Lake Improvements	\$ 370,000.00	\$ 219,941.36
Public Safety		
Buoy Maintenance	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 3,475.00
Safety Patrol	\$	\$
Total Public Safety	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 3,475.00
Information and Education		
Newsletter	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 9,555.24
Dues-Associations	\$ 775.00	\$ 750.00
Internet & Website	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 2,594.23
Meetings/Workshops	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 4,468.74
Total Information and Education	\$ 13,775.00	\$ 17,368.21
Administration		
Insurance	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 2,302.00
Donations/Subscriptions	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
Misc office expense	\$ 750.00	\$ 196.99
Total Administration	\$ 13,250.00	\$ 4,998.99
Total Expenditures	\$ 402,025.00	\$ 245,783.56
Beginning Cash Balance	\$ 276,234.19	\$ 276,234.19
Ending Cash balance	\$ 51,709.19	\$ 198,923.56
Cash Balance - 12/31/2025		
Checking:	bal. book to bank-12/31/2025	\$ 94,362.13
Money Market Savings:	bal. book to bank-12/22/2025	\$ 104,561.43
Certificate of Deposit (CD)	\$ —	\$ —
Total:	balanced book to bank	\$ 198,923.56
Designated Funds approved for current Fiscal Year:	\$	30,000.00
Designated Funds used in current Fiscal Year:	\$	30,000.00
Designated Funds balance as of 12/31/2025:	\$	30,000.00