



BWLA Board Meeting Minutes

Monday June 6th, 2026

Location: Pierson Township Hall

ATTENDEES

Present: Eric Hendrickson, Diane Ferris, Susan Smith, Ron VanTimmeren, Lisa Beyer, Laura Wiltz, Dave Cornelius, Tom Krehbiel, Mike Dazy, Jeff Moore, Pat Mead

Absent: 0

MEETING NOTES

- **Roll Call**

- Meeting called to order by Eric Hendrickson

- **Approval of the minutes from May 11th, 2026, meeting**

- Motion approved by (Wiltz/Hendrickson)

- **Opening Remarks – Hendrickson**

- Welcome to all, and thoughts about the importance of our BWLA community
- Our community and our people are truly what make our lake community high quality and special. Enjoy the summer and memories you will create during this special season.

- **Welcome New Members**

Eric & Lindsay Antvelink

Dave & Kim Dunn

Mark & Amy Judge – returned to the lake!

Mike & Julie O’Keefe

- **Sheriff Montcalm**

- - Life jackets and a seat cushion preserver are required to be onboard
 - Fire extinguishers with in 12 years of manufacturing date
 - Sunset, need navigation lights on until sunrise.
 - Navigation rules- counterclockwise everyone, PWC laws no use from sunset to 8 am, PWC people with a birthdate of Dec. 31 of 1978 & after need to attend boater safety classes. Need fire extinguisher on PWC.
 - Under 6 wear lifejackets always
 - See the lake rules & guidelines in your directory on page 8 & 9

- **Treasurer report –Submitted by and signed by Diane Ferris**
 - E-Mailed to our BOD and to be posted on our website, includes the Revenues and Expenditures to Budget, the Weed fund, and the Sewer Fund
 - Contact Diane with any questions

- **Township Updates- Patrick Maioho**
 - Fire updates- Nelson twp. SLFD Contract under review of attorney – July/August will have fire coverage from Sand Lake Fire Department.
 - Sewer system – some parts are 40-50 years old. Had some review from asset management group, do not want 5-6% bond, need 4 Million in next several years. Updates will be posted on BWLA Website – will see a doubling of our current payments, Big Whitefish will be responsible for 2 million for capital in stages. LWFL will also be responsible for 2 million. Look at website for the sewer informational slide deck.
Questions to Pierson twp, Patrick Maioho or Eric Hendrickson
 - Experience issues on the south end (south site failed) and watched use last 4th of July. Costly emergent situation, trying to plan ahead.
 - All BWFL will be included in the new Sand Lake Fire Dept. contract. The contract with the Village of Sand Lake was reviewed extensively last fall and a number of issues were analyzed. The contract had the boundary for service going straight through the lake. The coverage area was ambiguous. This will be corrected.

- **Sewer Updates – Ron VanTimmeren**
 - Directed members to our directory for septic system tips to ensure a safe healthy sewer/septic system.

- **Ecology – Dave Cornelius**

1. PLM / Weed Control

- a. PLM treated for EWM & Curly Leaf on May 20th. Our goal is to manage and control these 2 invasive species to minimize the “nuisance”
- b. Starry Stonewort has also invaded the deeper water (10-20 ‘depths) and is present on much of the lake bottom outside the “weed line”. So far, I don’t see any impact on fish spawning.
- c. Algae: Significant lifting from the bottom this week as the water temperatures reached the 70F point. Most of what was floating was dispersed by wind the last two days. I expect more to lift next week as the water continues to warm.
- d. Algae Treatment:
 1. Only once between May 1st and June 30th
 2. Max treatment limit of 100’ from shoreline of developed areas only
 3. Cannot use Copper Sulfate. Can use Chelated Copper – not as effective.

2. Water Quality & CLMP. (Cooperative Lakes Monitoring program)

- a. Data is collected weekly from Mid-May through Mid September to monitor the lake’s health
- b. Results are compiled in a report generated by the CLMP program MSU Extension office.

c. The data collected is used to calculate a TSI (trophic state index) Score. The lower the number, the higher the quality of the lake.

d. TSI Score of “high quality” lakes:

1. Crystal (Benzie Co.) 28

2. Big Glen 29

3. Gull Lake 34

e. Big Whitefish 39 – which is fantastic for a lake in this area

f. TSI Scores of other local lakes for comparison:

1. Murray 42

2. Kimball 42

3. Big Pine Island 46

4. Bostwick 47

5. Cranberry (Ottawa Co) 69

3. Fishing

a. the Lake Bottom and fish are the property of the State of Michigan. If someone buys a license, they have the right to fish, including under our docks.

b. As irritating as many of us find that, they have a right to do so. They can't be on your dock or destroy your equipment, but they can fish under it. You can't legally harass them, but you can walk out on your dock and ask them politely how the fishing is- which pretty much scares away the fish they are trying to catch!

• **Committee Reports – Lisa Beyer**

- Mix & Mingle moved to Saturday June 6th – Amato's, Stout's and Ottenweiss's 6:30 pm
- Jaye Lynn- Apparel program look to Facebook closed tomorrow June 7th. Float & Find sign with letter, figure patriotic phrase takes part for prizes Questions for apparel, If an item is listed as out of stock, it is out of stock-
- Boat parade – want participation encourage involvement, July 4th theme is songs & music. BWFL Facebook page for more information
- New directories are here – supplies being picked up to deliver. Binding and sizes are different. Reasons for a later delivery relates to chasing members for dues, sponsorship creative ads, going forward -if your payments aren't in for May 1st you will not be in the book. Get information in, correct and pay your dues timely.
- Fire Works- Mark Wiltz, not on July 4th, 250th anniversary of country, our budget doesn't compete with others. New company this year and we don't have to assemble and tow our barges. Will be using Fresh Coast Dock & Lift – and also have some insurance updates. July 2nd, make-up date July 5th. Lighting of flares, 15 minutes before fireworks. Use LED's asked for volunteers to assist with this committee!
- Fun run on July 4th, 8 am registration 9 am fund run, pie eating and other fun contests afterwards. Look to the directory or contact Kelley Root for information.
- Fishing July 18th contest, Thank you to Poisson family for hot dog lunch contribution!

- Mary Underwood on annual golf outing Sat August 8th, 8 am check in, lunch/prizes. 70\$ /golfer includes cart, golf & lunch – August 1st sign up is due. See the directory for information.
 - Cheryl Stormzand – poker run, first year! 5 boats registered and paid for- information on FB page- 5 host docks – Grimms, Ottenweiss, Hendrickson, Underwood, Stormzand/Trexlers, June 20th- information is being shared with members on facebook and email blasts.
 - PB Social 11 am, share snack, no skills required, a lot of fun
 - Lisa is new neighborhood watch chair, keep her in the loop if you see issues
 - Spearing 7/25 contest
 - Music on the Lake – July 30th Brena band at Hubbard & Grimms – band starts at 6pm, party starts at 5:30, come by boat or drive over!
- **Communications – Jeff Moore**
 - Dream Host new website host is being used, communications managed by Jeff Moore
 - Jeff is working to improve the website
- **Hillis Road/Pickleball Courts Updates – Pat Mead/Mike Dazy**
 - Quiet period, driveway crushed stone, and court resurfacing
 - A couple more wish lists, thank you to the membership for voluntary donations, have \$5900 in kitty. Significant contributions this year! On our wish list is to upgrade the pavilion, it is over 50 years old, small group from lake to discuss what it should look like, size, location etc.
- **Board of Directors – Fall Elections & New Business**
 - - Potential vacancies on the board (3 Yr commitment)
 - Openings this fall, contact Eric Hendrickson if you are interested!
 - Need for a new fire truck for our Sand Lake Fire Department coming up soon, so we are starting to fundraise for capital needs- the Fire Ball will be on Saturday September 12th, at the Whitefish Lake Golf Club! See the flyers passed out today. Save the date!
 - Sand Lake Fire Dept. was purchased by Nelson twp. from the Village of Sand Lake April 1st. The “New contract”- will include Ensley, Nelson, and Pierson Townships. Clarification of coverage- Until the new contract is signed with Nelson twp. the current EMS is by only Montcalm County, current Fire service is Howard City if available., Sand Lake Fire Department will serve all of BWFL, which is the same coverage area as the Village of Sand Lake covered under the expired contract. There is no change to the service area. The ambiguity of the service area is in the Howard City current contract.
 - Curb appeal of republic containers, move it back from the road!
 - Successful shrink wrap program, we saved approximately 77,500 lbs of shrink wrap and it was recycled! GO BWFL!
- **Adjourn**
 - Meeting adjourned with motion by: (Wiltz, Ferris)
- **Board Meetings (6 pm start)**

July 13th - Wiltz

August 10th - Dazy

- **Membership meetings**

- Fall Membership Meeting – August 22, 2026