

## Meeting summary for NLLA Board Meeting via Zoom (04/10/2025)

**Present: Harris Goldstein, Sandy Loney, Mary McCormick, Becky Shawgo, Chuck Knopik, Martha Weaver West, Alan Albrecht, Patrick Schiller-Michels**

### Quick recap

The team discussed various topics, including the implementation of electronic payment options for membership dues and AIS contributions, the placement of buoys in the lake, and the potential liability of placing buoys in the water. They also discussed the installation of cleaning stations at Birchdale and Merrifield, the possibility of using Plm for surveys twice a year, and the funding of additional boat inspections for North Long Lake. Lastly, they discussed water quality testing for the lake, the upcoming picnic, and the need for new board members.

### Next steps

- Alan: Research and summarize liability issues regarding buoy placement and present findings at the May meeting
- Becky: Contact James from Freshwater Scientific to proceed with the \$1,730 delineation survey contract
- Harris & Patrick: Work together to develop requirements for electronic payment system implementation
- Harris: Continue investigating electronic payment provider options with costs under \$1,000/year
- Chuck: Follow up with Bill regarding camera service charges and clarification of the 12-month billing period
- Becky: Coordinate with PLM for surveying boat landings twice a year
- Chuck: Follow up with Marathoners regarding the \$25 meeting space fee proposal next week
- Becky: Contact Camden Droppo to complete public notification about possible lake treatment
- Becky, Mary, Chuck: Draft AIS report for the upcoming newsletter
- Becky: Contact Jessica regarding volunteer boat inspectors for the June 22nd fishing tournament
- Harris: Contact sheriff's Water Patrol to inquire about additional tournaments on the lake
- Becky: Coordinate with Crow Wing County for additional inspection hours for the June 22nd fishing tournament and three weekends after Labor Day
- Becky: Take photos of cleaning station installation at Birchdale and Merrifield for documentation
- Becky: Follow up with Carrie Pull at DNR regarding placement of cleaning stations at Merrifield
- Sandy: Contact Sarah at AW Labs to get details and pricing for Secchi disks and water sampling equipment
- Becky: Place picnic signs at boat landings as soon as possible

- Chuck: Deliver welcome bag to new neighbors Bill and Karen
- Becky: Complete welcome bags with updated newsletters from Chuck
- Harris: Contact David regarding boat landing surveys
- Chuck: Follow up with Brad and Nicolette Dunlap to confirm their presentations at the upcoming picnic
- Harris: Send out email regarding trash pickup day on May 14th at 8:30 AM at the geological marker
- Harris: Send email to board members tomorrow regarding required reports and content for spring communications with April 21st deadline
- Becky: Bring Gary Cayley to next month's board meeting
- Alan: Invite County Commissioner Rosemary Franzen to attend the annual meeting
- Board Members: Submit required reports and content to Harris before April 21st
- Sandy: Handle food arrangements and keep receipts for the picnic

## **Summary**

**Motion to approve previous minutes by Sandy, seconded by Mary. Motion approved.**

**Motion to approve Treasurer's report by Harris, seconded by Becky. Motion approved.**

**Implementing Electronic Payment Options** The board discusses implementing electronic payment options for membership dues and AIS contributions. Harris proposes moving forward with electronic payments as long as the estimated cost is less than \$1,000 per year. Motion seconded by Becky. The board debates the potential benefits, including increased membership and convenience, against concerns about cost and liability. After discussion, the motion passes. Harris and Patrick will work on requirements and reach out to providers, aiming to announce the new payment option at the annual meeting.

**Buoys Placement and Liability Concerns** The team discussed the placement of buoys in the lake to mark shallow areas. Harris suggested putting danger buoys in the channel to 371 bay, but Martha expressed concerns about liability. The team agreed to take a vote on the issue. Alan suggested marking the area where the water depth changes significantly. The team also discussed the need for a permit and someone to place the buoys. **Buoys Liability and Meeting Locations** The team discussed the potential liability of placing buoys in the water. Alan agreed to research this issue and provide a summary by the next meeting. The team also discussed alternative meeting locations, with Dunmire's and the Municipal Community Center being potential options. The team approved a \$5,725 bill for camera services, with Harris suggesting to ask Bill to clarify some charges. Motion proposed by Harris and seconded by Mary. Motion passed. The team also discussed the agenda for the annual meeting and the need to finalize it.

**Cleaning Station Installation and Survey Plans** The team discussed the installation of cleaning stations at Birchdale and Merrifield, with plans for future installation at the 371 boat access. They considered hiring Freshwater Scientific to survey for Eurasian water milfoil, with a cost of

\$1,700. The team also discussed the possibility of using Plm for surveys twice a year, which would be less expensive. The DNR requires a separate organization to survey before treatment, but the team questioned the necessity of this separation. The team agreed to move forward with the Freshwater Scientific survey and to consider Plm for future surveys. Motion by Becky and seconded by Mary. Motion passed.

**Amended Motion for Freshwater Scientific Proposal** Chuck proposed to amend the motion to approve the \$1,730 proposal from Freshwater Scientific, but to proceed only after consulting Sarah and finding a second bid that may be approved and less expensive. The committee agreed to this proposal. Mary expressed her satisfaction with the quality of work and the willingness of the companies involved. The motion by Becky and seconded by Mary was approved unanimously, with one member clarifying their vote was in favor.

**PLM Survey Boat Landings Twice** Becky proposed a motion to have Plm survey the three boat landings twice a year, with the exception of the Merrifield landing. The cost for this would be \$450. The group agreed to this motion, with Harris seconding it. The motion was approved, and it was decided that the group would move forward with discussing this with David.

**Boat Inspections for North Long Lake** The board agrees to fund additional boat inspections for North Long Lake in September and for a fishing tournament in June. Specifically, they approve inspections on Saturdays and Sundays for the three weekends following Labor Day at Merrifield Bay, as well as extra hours on June 22nd for a fishing tournament. The exact hours and details for the fishing tournament inspection still need to be determined. This decision aims to gather data on boat traffic and potential AIS risks as the lake association prepares for reduced state funding for inspections in future years. Motion by Harris and seconded by Becky. Motion passed.

**Board Considers Water Quality Testing** The board discusses water quality testing for the lake. Chuck proposes that instead of paying Sarah from AW Labs to conduct the tests, volunteers from the board could learn to do the water sampling and clarity measurements themselves. This would save money, as the actual lab testing is already paid for by the county. Several board members volunteer to help with the testing. Sandy offers to research the costs of purchasing the necessary equipment like Secchi disks and water sampling devices. The board agrees to wait until May to approve funding for the equipment, based on Sandy's findings. They also discuss plans for the annual picnic and placing signs around the lake to advertise it. The ice is starting to melt on parts of the lake, with 371 Bay completely open.

**Upcoming Picnic and Board Member Discussion** The team discussed the upcoming picnic and assigned duties, with Sandy taking charge of the food. They also confirmed the participation of the Water Patrol and Nicolette Dunlap in the event. Becky introduced her neighbor, Gary Cayley, as a potential new board member. Alan proposed inviting County Commissioner Rosemary Franzen to the annual meeting, which was well-received. The team also discussed the

trash pickup day and the need for new board members. Chuck announced his departure as President and handed over the gavel to the new team.

Motion by Harris to adjourn at 9:10 PM.