

## Lake of the Woods Improvement Association

Annual Meeting, July 15, 2023

Board members present: Bob Richter, Marcia Ellis, Dawn Kortum, Mike Lyons, Tom Connelly, Julie Nosal

Guests Speakers: Jared Rotzien, M-6 and Dillon Moe, M-11 from the Van Buren County Marine Division of the Sherriff's Department.

Members in attendance: Dale Hughes, Amanda Howard, Joe and Debbie Panice, Sharon Neubauer, Kasha Balcerak, John Burke, Joanne & Warren Grosvenor, Rhonda and Chris Hasse, Kim & Tim Boonstra, Roy Pearson, Joe Lindbloom, Clem & Geri Dauskundas, Alex Kotlarz, Sherri Graziano, Wayne & Marsha Potter, John & Darlene Boersma, Chris Connelly, Jan Malburg, Anna Prieto, Florence Erickson, Paul ODonnell, Joe Hillyer, Carol & Roger Mattens, Paul and Libby VanWhy, Paul Rossi, Julie Nosal, Dawn and Jeff Kortum, Chris Stein, Chris Schaap, Julie Wainwright, Denise Rice.

1. Meeting was called to order by Bob Richter at 12:30pm.
2. Current board members were introduced.
3. The annual budget and financial report was shared with membership. (see below)\*
4. We currently have 110 members.
5. Bob read the water quality update from PLM (see below).\*\*
6. Bob reviewed the July 4 boat parade winners (see website).
7. Board nominations for 2023-4 are: Jim Tolfree, Joe Lindbloom, Kim Boonstra for 3 year positions. Tim Boonstra was nominated to complete Nick Virgilio's term. All were voted in by the membership present.
8. Bob reviewed the Michigan DNR Fishes Report. (see below)\*\*\*
9. If there are any concerns with the kids' campground note the date, time and color of boat and we will communicate this to Dayna Hardin. She is extremely responsive to lake residents' concerns.
10. If you wish to receive the Riparian magazine there is a link on our website to subscribe to it.
11. We are taking orders for our lake retro shirts that we had about 20 years ago. If you want a shirt put your name on the sign-up list.
12. Hamilton Township has arranged for Highs Marine to install and remove the lake buoys. Reminder: do not use the buoys for an anchor! Thanks to Highs Marine for the use of their equipment and storing our lake buoys.
13. Reminder to all who use the lake for boating: boat direction is counterclockwise for all inland lakes in Michigan. To those who rent their homes, please inform your guests.
14. Check our LOWIA website blog page to keep abreast of what is happening around the lake and for water reports.
15. Many thanks to Janet Richter for organizing our picnic today.
16. Thanks to the VFW and ladies auxiliary who did the cooking for our picnic.
17. 50/50 drawing for half of \$165: prize award of \$83.00 goes to Clem Dauskurdas.
18. Many thanks to our gift sponsors: Final Gravity, True Value Decatur Lumber, and Ace Hardware, and Julie Nosal. Please support these local businesses.
19. Thanks to Jim Rau at Apollo Marine in Lawton for supplying the boat parade prizes.

20. Members requested that Bob talk with Dayna Hardin about ski boats pulling a skier from shore in front of a passing pontoon or boat.
21. Members asked Bob to ask PLM to avoid spraying the lake just before a holiday weekend.
22. There was discussion about removing the No-Wake buoys by the launch ramp that were in stalled years ago. When there was not a no wake zone the weeds were not a problem. But now there is an overabundance of weeds in the bay area.
23. Our guest speakers discussed safety issues on the lake, followed by member questions. Several questions were about wave runners and distance limits. Must be 14+ years old to operate a wave runner. When wave runner is pulling a tube or skier there must be a spotter with the driver on the wave runner. All children under 6 years of age must wear type 1 or 2 life preservers. If there are any boating issues get the vessel number and report to dispatch, County Sheriff Department. There should be one throwable life preserver per vessel, a life preserver for everyone on board, fire extinguisher, and whistle.
24. Meeting adjourned for lunch.

Marcia Ellis, Secretary

**\* Lake of the Woods Improvement Association**

**June 25, 2023 Financial Report**

<b>Beginning Balance 1-1- 2023</b>	<b>\$11,992.19</b>
Printing, Stamps & Office Supplies	\$0
P.O Box Expense	\$68
Michigan Lake and Streams & Mich. Corp dues	Upcoming
Auto-Owners Commerical Liab. Insurance	\$279
July 4 <sup>th</sup> Fireworks	\$500
Annual Picnic/Boat parade Expenses	\$ Upcoming
Website Renewal	\$ Upcoming
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$847.00</b>
2022 Membership Dues (M.D)	\$1,240.00
2022 Membership Dues Electronically	\$1,077.55
<b>Total Deposits</b>	<b>\$2,317.55</b>
<b>Ending Balance 6-25-2023</b>	<b>\$13,462.74</b>

**LOWIA Budget**  
2022 – 2023

Lake of the Woods	2022	2022	2023	2023
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
<b>Dues</b>	\$3,500	3,003	\$3,250	
50/50 Raffle	125	142	125	
LOW Shirt Sales	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$3,625</b>	<b>\$3,145</b>	<b>\$3,375</b>	
 <b><u>Expenses</u></b>	 \$825	 \$908	 \$950	
Picnic & Boat Parade.				
Decatur Town Fireworks	1,000	1,000	500	
Liability Insurance	500	273	350	
MLSA Dues/Mi Registration	200	160	200	
Office Supplies/Postage	200	169	200	
Misc.	0	0	250	
PO Box Rental	56	62	70	
LOW Shirts	0	0	0	
Water Safety Eq.	0	0	0	
 Web Site (Domain Name)	 <u>100</u>	 <u>0</u>	 <u>200</u>	
 <b>Total Expenses</b>	 <b>\$2,956</b>	 <b>\$2,572</b>	 <b>\$2,720</b>	

**\*\* Lake of the Woods Management Update:**

The 2023 season has been a very good year for growing plants and algae. With very little ice cover during the winter months, plants like Eurasian watermilfoil had a chance to actively grow during the winter. It also appears that the mild winter helped fuel early season algae growth. Both algae and milfoil were issues on Lake of the Woods this spring. In addition to a mild winter, the constant sunlight and good weather has not hindered plant and algae growth.

This spring algae was treated fairly aggressively. Treatments were conducted on 5/17/23 and 6/6/23 for algae. Milfoil and curlyleaf pondweed were treated on 5/23/23. Based on follow up visits, the algae had significantly lessened and milfoil/curlyleaf pondweed has been controlled. Hopefully the nutrients in

the lake that cause algae growth have been reduced. Typically, algae will utilize nutrients like phosphorus and nitrogen early in the year. When the algae dies off, those nutrients are usually tied up in the lake bottom where they are no longer available to fuel algae blooms.

At this point in the season, management is shifting more to starry stonewort management. This is the “carpet” that grows on the lake bottom. Typically, this species starts in early-mid June but we are not allowed to treat it until after July 1st per EGLE permit rules. That puts a bit behind in the management and treatments are tightened up in July and early August to get it under control. Starry stonewort is not a plant but a macro algae similar to the native species chara. Chara has always been a dominant species on Lake of the Woods. Treatments will not eliminate starry stonewort but help reduce/control its stature. It often takes 2-3 treatments to get it knocked back.

We will be keeping an eye on the milfoil later this season to see what might be needed in 2024. Based on what we saw in the spring, the use of Sonar A.S. might be a possible option for next year. We will have to make that determination based on our September AVAS survey.

Water quality is also being monitored. Reports will be issued in the fall once all the data is in.

If residents ever have any questions or concerns regarding Lake of the Woods, please feel free to contact me anytime.

Thanks

Andy Tomaszewski  
Southern Lakes Manager  
PLM Lake & Land Management

\*\*\*Michigan DNR fishes report

2021 had 2 stockings of Walleye 1400 fish, 2022 had one stocking in October 1156 fish. Next stocking of Walleye should be in 2024 unless there is an over abundance of fish later this year.

The DNR tries for 4 fish per acre. Our lake is 289 acres.

Lakes in SW Michigan do not have the habitat for Walleye to spawn.

There was a lot of fish kill in SW Michigan, it was a short ice season and there really was no winter kill so lot of the fish were stressed, so the guess is that this is the reason we saw dead fish on the shoreline.

Anyone can call Matt at the Michigan DNR at 269-910-0157 and he can answer any questions you might have.

Also Wolf Lake State Fish Hatchery in Mattawan Michigan is open Mon – Sat 10-6 and Sunday from 12 - 6. This is a nice place to bring your children or grandchildren.

They used to have employees snip a fin off and send them through a fish counter. They did this so that any who caught a fish like this knew that it came from the State Hatchery. One of their goals was to have any fisherman on Lake Michigan that caught a Steel Head or Salmon fish could only keep a hatchery fish. But not all the states around Lake Michigan went for that idea so it never took off.