

TLIPA Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, May 29, 2025

Time: 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

Present: Linda, John, Donnie, Scott, Cade, Jim, Lauren

Excused: Tracy, Tom

1. Call to Order

- Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM.

2. Additions/Changes to Agenda

- **Added:** Discussion of July 5th Fundraiser (Item 14).

3. Treasurer's Report (John)

- \$1,855 collected from 53 members.
- Venue rental (UWW Community Outreach Center) discounted to \$100 (normally \$200).
- Other venues considered; Elkhorn Public Library, Walworth County Building, Local Banks, and Lake Lawn.
- **Motion to approve:** Donnie, **Second:** Jim. **Approved unanimously.**

4. Secretary's Report (Lauren)

- All past board minutes, newsletters, and spring meeting notes posted online (shared via email 5/22).
- 57 membership forms submitted as of 5 PM.
- Strong stance on **member confidentiality**; concerns raised over unauthorized email use.
- In the past, Peggy Chambers, as treasurer, was adamant about not sharing emails.
- Legal concern: Risk to nonprofit status for improper data sharing.
- **Motion to approve:** Donnie, **Second:** John. **Approved unanimously.**

5. Water Level Update

- Water level readings received May 28 at 5:42pm: 900.305 ft (Mark Alba).
- Board clarified confusion over required level for lifting "no wake" status:
 - Township chair initially stated 900.25 ft at 5/20 township meeting
 - Confirmed correct threshold is **900.29 ft.** to lift no wake.
- Board agreed that timely communication with members is essential, even if levels don't meet threshold.
- Suggestions:
 - Install permanent **staff gauge** for visibility.
 - **Future option:** live camera or satellite reading tool connected to TL website.
- The board agreed that Donnie will coordinate with Mark for regular readings
- Discussion on permanent gauge installation, possibly via DNR consultation (Heidi).
- **Action:** Gauge installation prioritized over camera; revisit camera in fall.
- **Concerns raised:** Beaver activity related to high water level, need for clear documentation approval if installing gauge on private property.

6. Outlet Flow (Jim)

- No new progress; awaiting post-election (June) for further discussion.
- Jim to research long-term outlet control possibilities.
- DNR (Heidi) notes Turtle Lake is a seepage lake—makes dam projects difficult.
- Discussion tabled until after elections.

7. Goose Roundup

- Previous roundups: 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2024.
- USDA requires **40-bird minimum** for roundup. Cost: \$3,500.
- Contract must be signed stating 40 birds are present to remove.
- May 28, 2024 count: **29 birds**—below requirement.
- Due to not meeting the minimum requirements, the previous board voted not to proceed with the round-up.
- 35 birds were removed in 2024.
- The TLIPA did pay in 2024 toward cost of bird removal.
- 2025 Avian flu testing required for donation to food bank added \$600 (not proceeding).
- **Decision:** No roundup in 2025 due to low bird count.
- Jim to report June 3 count to confirm.

8. DASH (Diver-Assisted Suction Harvesting) Update

- Contracted with Reese Aquatics.
 - \$200 deposit
 - Est. 2 days/14 hours labor.
 - If less time is needed, we will only be charged for labor used.
 - DNR Permit: \$50, Disposal: \$175 (\$100 credit from Tracy Porter disposing plants at her farm)
 - **Estimated total: \$3,635**
- Pulling invasive species at boat launches.
- Concerns raised about lakebed disruption.
- **No chemicals** approved by the board for lake management.

9. Bylaw Review (John)

- Public confusion addressed about current bylaws and grant qualification.
- **Historical versions since 2003 all failed to meet DNR grant criteria:**
 - Cannot restrict membership by age (e.g., 18+ limit disqualifies).
 - Multiple votes per household create disqualifying ambiguity.
- **We remain eligible to apply for grants under the current bylaws, provided we have support from local government-either the township or county**
- Proposal for bylaw updates will be reviewed by the board and discussed at the annual meeting. Potential vote at fall buoy meeting.

10. Wakeboard Boat Update (Lauren)

- TLIPA's stance of "wait and see" shared by Tracy at Richmond Township meeting.
 - No township vote yet
- Attended Whitewater Township Meeting
- Historical parallel drawn to jet ski controversy in 1990s.
- Ongoing monitoring of wakeboard boat legislation at the state & local level

11. SEWRPC / Aquatic Management Plan Update

- **Contracted for \$3,300 aquatic plant management plan.**
 - Current board has acted fiscally responsibly.
- Clarified: the board **did not** approve the full comprehensive plan totaling \$11,500 and has no plans of moving forward with the full comprehensive plan.
- The email regarding SEWRPC report offerings was shared inadvertently with a member.
- Budgeted \$8,000, only \$3,300 to be paid on completion of report and approval by DNR.

- Noted: SEWRPC report did not satisfy all board members due to impaired status; appendix to be added prior to approval from TLIPA board, next step is DNR approval.
- Report submitted to WDNR water evaluation staff for requested update, showing promise for removal from impaired list.
- A board is elected to act on behalf of its members. We are working on trust. We are relying on the board's experience and leadership. Focusing on both short term and long-term goals. We have acted in the best interests of our members.

12. Annual Meeting Location Update (John)

- Annual meeting confirmed at UWW Community Engagement Center, Whitewater.
 - \$100 fee (negotiated from \$200 standard).
- Other venues located in Richmond, Elkhorn, & Delavan are unavailable.

13. Schedule: Annual Meeting Prep Session

- To be scheduled; details to follow.

14. Added Item: July 5th Fundraiser

- Will be discuss in **Annual Meeting Prep Session**.

15. Motion to Adjourn

- **Motion to Adjourn at: 8:11 PM**