

**Annual Membership Meeting**  
**July 15, 2023**  
*In person at the Tourje residence*

*Board Members in Attendance:* Tom Novitsky, Susan Edelman, Mackenzie DiVite, Tim Ellis, Jessica Ody, Bob Lissner, Stephanie Kirsch, Craig Bryant, Kate DeGraw

37 of 75 Members were present at today's meeting.

MEETING AGENDA		
<b>1. <u>OPENING &amp; INTRODUCTION</u></b>		
<b>REMEMBRANCE</b>		<b>Tom Novitsky</b>
<b>BOD INTRO &amp; ELECTION</b>		<b>Tom Novitsky</b>
<b>2. <u>SHORT REPORTS</u></b>		
<b>MEMBERSHIP</b>		<b>Cate DeGraw</b>
<b>TREASURY</b>		<b>Tim Ellis</b>
<b>WILDLIFE</b>		<b>Tim Ellis</b>
<b>WEEDS &amp; WATER</b>		<b>Bob Lissner</b>
<b>ROADS</b>		<b>Craig Bryant</b>
<b>VOTING</b>		<b>Tom Novitsky</b>
<b>RULES &amp; LAWS</b>		<b>Tom Novitsky</b>
<b>3. <u>MAJOR TOPIC</u></b>		
<b>STATE OF THE ASSOCIATION</b>		<b>Tom Novitsky</b>
<b>4. <u>UPCOMING EVENTS</u></b>		
<b>WRIGHTER LAKE DAY</b>		<b>Mackenzie DiVite</b>
<b>SCAVENGER HUNT</b>		<b>Stephanie Kirsch</b>
<b>FIREWORKS</b>		<b>Tim Ellis</b>
<b>FISHING DERBY</b>		<b>Tim Ellis</b>
<b>5. <u>TOPICS FROM AUDIENCE</u></b>		
<b>6. <u>REVIEW OF RESOLUTIONS</u></b>		

**1. OPENING & INTRODUCTION**

President Tom Novitsky called the meeting to order. The group held a moment of silence to remember those we lost this year - *Heather Snyder* and *Spence Calender*, as well as those we're remembering from the past.

Tom introduced the board of directors and appealed to the group to fill the two vacancies. Additionally, some directors will be leaving the board in the coming year, so we always need new volunteers. Please consider volunteering.

## 2. SHORT REPORTS

Tom reviewed the overall focus of the board and then turned it over to board members for committee reports as follows:

*Membership:* Cate DeGraw - If you paid dues, please pick up your membership card. If you still plan on paying please, you can still do so. Thank you to those who paid early! A lot of financial decisions have to be made early, so we appreciate that. Special thank you to Bruce and Meta for their help with membership.

*Treasury:* Tim Ellis - We have hit 75 members. We are right on the cusp of \$20,000 in the WLA Account. Please see the website for the account documents.

*Wildlife:* Tim Ellis - Only one person has reported seeing a beaver this year (last month). Our biggest issue right now seems to be geese. We may want to discuss moving them. An overabundance of geese can cause water quality issues!

*Weeds and Water:* Bob Lissner - On July 11th, Princeton Hydro completed their annual SAV survey. We do not have the official results yet, but early data suggests that the weed population has, in fact, decreased, especially in the Sandy Beach area. This is the 4th year that we've done the survey. The cost is over \$4,000.

The last water testing was in September 2022. We use a rotating system of 13 sites. Every three years we get a full picture of the entire lake. As predicated, our results continue to be very good. You can visit the exact results on the website.

*Question:* Will the results tell us what may have caused the increase or decline?

*Answer:* We can only theorize. The worst year, however, was saturated with rain.

*Question:* Are we looking to stock the lake?

*Answer:* We have a fish stocking committee and we are working on it. Please consider joining the committee! We also have some funds set aside for it.

*Stone and Roads:* Craig Bryant - Stone was delivered to each section of the lake roads and we've spent time spreading it and filling in locations. If anyone has any additional issues, please let us know. We want to thank Bruce and Tom and Meta for using their tractors. Please remind all of your friends, family, and guests that there is a speed limit and adhere to that.

Additional comment from Ellen Lissner: We have purchased some speed bumps on Locust Lane which seem to have helped some, especially with delivery drivers. Also, please remember to contribute to snow plowing funds. This is so important for people who live on the lake full time and as a community we want first responders to have access to our homes!

### 3. **MAJOR TOPIC**

Tom reviewed the water test summary. *Message - Please don't use fertilizer - phosphorous and nitrates are the major factor in causing weed growth.* Those are the number one concerns. Although low, we need to be vigilant.

Tom reviewed a comprehensive review of three years worth of weed surveys (2023 not included). All charts and reports can be accessed on the website. Things appear to be getting better.

Tom reviewed the expenses of the WLA and the current budget. We place all budgets and expenses on the website. Each balance sheet is kept up to date and published in a timely manner. Tom also looked back at a comparison of the last five years so that members can see the state of our finances. Expenses are up a little bit. We need to look at the future. At this rate and with a 3% increase for inflation, we are facing some challenges. We are projecting that in a few short years we will be operating at a deficit. We either need to increase income or decrease expenses. Our biggest expenses are the weed survey, fireworks, and Wrighter Lake Day.

Tom outlined a few options the board has discussed and we'd like feedback from the membership on which option is the best to pursue.

Option 1: We leave everything the same and increase the dues significantly. See projections for details.

Option 2: Eliminate in-person WLD. Increase dues less significantly.

Option 3: Do water testing every other year. Increase dues less significantly.

Option 4: Eliminate WLA financing the fireworks. Collect money for fireworks separately.

Minor changes to dues.

Option 5: Eliminate the Weed SAV Survey. See below for additional comments on this option.

Board's recommendation: Postpone water testing in 2023 for short term relief. Review 2023 Weed Survey at September meeting and discuss options based on results. Create a Weed Management Committee to continue monitoring the situation and look for other ways to monitor the situation - we would need volunteers for this.

Tom opened the floor for public comment on this topic:

*Observation:* East Shore is seeing less weeds significantly.

*Comment:* For people who are removing them by hand by the root - this may be helping tremendously. Please remember to continue to remove them all the way away from the lake.

*Question:* Can you burn the dry weeds you've pulled? What do you do with them?

*Answer:* If you can get them to dry! Haul them away. They smell!

*Comment:* We used to all maintain our own roads. I think an option is to not spend \$1000 on roads. They're not maintained equally.

*Comment:* We drink the water. We bathe in it. We cook with it. I think we should test the water every year.

*Comment:* We used to pay less for dues and then collect separately for fireworks. Either way, we're paying and some people aren't. Just leave it in the dues and increase them.

*Question:* When we doubled the dues, how many families did we lose?

*Answer:* 20-30 initially. We have gained some back.

*Comment:* We all have a significant amount of investment in our properties and we're quibbling over \$150. If the water goes bad or we have a water issue - those investments take a major hit. We should all consider what we're fighting here.

*Question:* What about selling the properties?

*Answer:* Not a long term solution. The other savings are greater.

*Comment:* Perhaps a tiered dues system is something worth looking into.

Once comments were over, we took an unofficial poll to gauge the pulse of the membership on this topic. Below are the results:

Option 1: Increase dues and not change anything: Approximately 30 in favor of.

Option 2: Eliminate In person WLD: 0 in favor of.

Option 3: Water testing every other year and dues increase: 0 in favor of.

Option 4: Fund fireworks separately: Approximately 20 in favor of.

Option 5: Eliminate weed testing: Approximately 15 in favor of.

We will take official voting and action along the lines of what we've discussed today and based on your feedback. Additional feedback can be given at [info@wrighter-lake.org](mailto:info@wrighter-lake.org)

#### 4. **UPCOMING EVENTS**

We've worked hard behind the scenes to bring back in-person WLD! Thanks to everyone who has worked so hard to make this possible! And thanks to Steve for offering his property.

##### WLD Timeline

9-11 Fishing Derby

10-4 Scavenger Hunt

1-2 Cardboard Regatta

2-4 Picnic, Games, and Yard Sale  
4-5 Chicken Dinner Pickup  
6-8 Creamworks Ice Cream  
9 Fireworks

*Question:* What kind of items for the yard sale?

*Answer:* Mostly household. Anything that doesn't sell will be donated!

Scavenger Hunt - Gets everybody out this year! Check your email and facebook page!

Fishing Derby - Hosted by Matt and Brenda at 219 South Shore. Register soon!

## 5. **TOPICS FROM AUDIENCE**

*Motion:* Is it possible to adjust boating and power noise rules from 9am to 10am on Saturday and Sunday from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

*VOTE:* Motion did not pass.

*Motion:* Should we pursue research on eradicating geese?

*VOTE:* Motion passed.

## 6. **REVIEW OF RESOLUTIONS**

*Comment:* Thank you to everyone who opened up their homes and tolerated everything that went into the wedding on July 8th.

Again, we will hold an end-of-summer membership meeting around Labor Day in order to further discuss action on the State of the Association topic, as well as review the 2023 results of the SAV Survey.

Thank you to Steve for allowing us to use this location for the meeting. And thank you to everyone for coming. We appreciate your continued support.

Meeting Adjourned.