

WCLA BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 8, 2025
AT WENDI & NORM DAVIDSON'S HOME

6:34 called to order

In attendance: Maureen Lovewell, Rick Bruick, Wendi Davidson, Deb Eaton, Kris Ferguson, Jamie Skinner, Candie Ritsema, Marilyn Klemm, Ann Decker, Chris Decker, Phil Sliva, Kevin Bird, Ed Armbruster, Bob Darvill, Kevin Martin, Don Hoogerhyde, Pam Swigart, Craig Wasserman, Faith Peterson, Kim Covell, Mike Mills, Lou Fierrens, Tom Reynhout.

Wendi welcomed the new board representatives.

Voting in of officers:

Treasurer: Candie nominated Jamie Skinner, Kris 2nd, all voted in favor.

Secretary: Don nominated Kris Ferguson, Jamie 2nd, all voted in favor

Vice President: Phil nominated Chris Decker, Ed 2nd, all voted in favor

President: Jamie nominated Wendi Davidson, Candie 2nd, all voted in favor.

Secretary: Kris had emailed the minutes to the Board. Don motioned to accept the minutes, Phil 2nd, all voted in favor, motion passed.

President's Report: Wendi reported that she conducted the Annual Meeting, wrote the August President's Corner, is working on Waterline write-ups. Nate Brewick completed the boater safety course, she sent him an Amazon Gift card with a note. Wendi noted that she won't be writing a President's Corner for October due to being out of the country.

Treasurer: Jamie reviewed the final year to date for fiscal year end 08/31/25. Jamie and Wendi to meet to discuss budget. Last year we had 215 paid member, will be basing budget on that. Jamie reviewed budget items. She noted that the boater safety should go in budget, website came in over budget, insurance went up \$125/yr, was \$1247 last year, went up to \$1360, website came in over budget, PO Box increased by \$10. She asked if we wanted to renew the Michigan Lake & Stream Riparian. She puts a link to it in the WL, and asked if we need the paper copy? Wendi said that she'd like to have one paper copy. CD had expired, so moved to money market at 4.23% flat rate. Kevin Bird motioned to accept, Don 2nd motion passed.

Committees:

Fish Plant, Signs, Beavers: Don reported that the Fish Plant Committee (Ed, Tom, Bruce, Don) met with Stoney Creek. Have a \$8,300 budget, they decided to do 2,000 walleye and 200 yellow perch. He noted that they learned that Stoney Creek gets the bluegill and perch from south Indiana, walleye come from Minnesota. Don't have a date yet for the fishplant, but will let Faith know when it is scheduled. Wendi asked Don to do a little write up of what to expect for the Waterline. Walleye are \$4.25/pc we get 10% discount. The fish biologist said they go wherever they find food, they don't stay where planted. Launch code changed for September. Kevin Martin noted there is a sign down in front of Tom Meyers. Don will check.

Lake Sustainability: Chris reported that he's trying to get a good feel for timing for chemicals for next year. Will focus on channels. He said that Systemic chemicals will start in May. They seem to do good on the starry

stonewart. Wendi has received calls regarding lake levels. She did some due diligence and noted that lake levels everywhere are down. She met with Steve Spaulding, Tom, Don, Ed, and Norm to look at Stacey Street bridge, it's leaking but not horrible. Didn't appear to be significant enough to pursue. At Camp Concordia dam, they checked and the water is 2" below the dam, not flowing over. No water coming in or out. Also went to Coopers Creek, no obstructions, just dry. She called Joel at PLM who reached out to Joel Morgan of the Kent County Drain Commission (KCDC). Joel M said that they are getting a lot of inquiries regarding low lake levels. They copied Wendi on a letter to another lake that said that most lakes are suffering from lower than typical lake levels. Sand Lake is 17" down. Lake levels are low due to low to moderate drought for 2 years, below average rainfall in 2024, June and July 2025 had higher than normal evaporation. It goes down 1" due to evaporation every 4-5 days, which explains why many lakes and ponds are so low. KCDC said that augmentation wells are the only way to combat this. She explained the process. It's a lengthy 2-3 year process and once started, the riparian's are committed to the end, even if lake levels go up. All costs would be paid by Lake Riparian's. She estimates it would be about \$25,000 per riparian if they would like this option. Also KCDC won't provide a formal estimate without a commitment for the wells. It primarily boils down to the weather. The consensus for our lakes is that they are down 8-12", which is faring better than other lakes. Wendi will put some information in the Waterline. Tom R said that there's a golf course that will be doing the augmentation well and he asked if there's a chance they could dry up our lake? Wendi said that they can't do that, they can't dry up one thing to supply water to another. Wendi said that if riparian's wanted to consider augmentation wells, the chain would have to vote, and once the process is started, then you have to complete the process. It's a lot of money and big process. There's quite a few lakes that are lower than ours. Weather is biggest factor, people watering lawns, everything contributes. Wendi will share what she's learned in the Waterline.

Welcome Committee: Phil reported that Tim Hollenback is moving back, he's building a house on Horseshoe. We have 28 families in the directory.

Social: Candie reported that:

- Thursday, September 11 is social dinner
- Monday, September 15, Kathy Deane will host Wine & Charcuterie. RSVP to Kathy.
- Saturday, November 1, Wendi & Norm Davidson will host Chili Olympics. Wendi will put out a flyer before the event. Will do a theme with girls being blingy and guys in sports team gear.
- Christmas Party – Mike & Katherine Wolthuis have confirmed that they will host, need a date. We usually do 1st or 2nd weekend of December, potluck style, raffle, 50/50.
- Holiday Wine & Charcuterie- Last year Deb Eaton did a ladies wine and charcuterie/cookie exchange, she's looking into dates to host again.
- Event budgets: Wendi requested the same budget as last year for the Chili cook-off, which was \$350. Candie requested the same budget for the Christmas Party, which was \$500. Jamie made a motion to keep same budgets for both, Don 2nd, all voted in favor, motions passed.

Meal Train: Wendi reported for Mara. The Meal Train helped one family, and she also sent out a couple of cards for deaths.

Board Representatives List: Wendi explained how the 1 year 2 year terms work. Kevin Martin's name had one asterisk, but he signed up in 2024, so should have been 2 years. Discussed the lake reps for Woodbeck. It was explained that Alternates can't vote. This year we will plan to have a certified copy where people sign by their name.

New Business:

Budget: Pam proposed that we have a social budget. Jamie said anything that doesn't get designated somewhere else goes to social. She said that the budget needs to be re-figured so that we aren't going "over". Have 900 people that participate, so that's worthy of budgeting. If events are budgeted then we don't have to vote every time, otherwise we will continue to vote for each event.

Fish Plant Fundraiser idea: Mark Iteen (thru Norm) suggested a Texas Hold Em game or series to raise money for fish plant. Would need houses to volunteer.

Book Club: a book club was suggested. She said they could start it. They could talk to Candie.

Social Director help – Candie's daughter is graduating, and she may not have time to manage the social events in 2026. Kevin and Carol Bird said they would help when needed.

7:55 Meeting adjourned

Meetings and Annual Events:

Pancake Breakfast-

July 4th band on the lake-

July 4 Parade-

Progressive or Poker Kayak Event-

Golf Event-

Camp Greenwood Workaday-

Halloween Party- no party in 2025

Chili Cookoff- Saturday, November 1, 2025 at Wendi & Norm's house

Christmas Party- Friday, December 5, 2025 at Mike & Katherine Wolthuis

Cookie Exchange-

Sledding event-

Board Meetings:

Monday, September 8, 2025 at Wendi & Norm's house

Monday, November 10, 2025 at Wendi & Norm's house

Monday, January 12, 2025, location

Monday, March 9, 2025 location

Monday, May 11, 2025, location

Monday, July 13, 2025, location

Annual Meeting-