

Tug Lake District Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes December 4, 2025

Present: Todd Nicklaus, Don Olson, Dieter Nickel, Buzz Sorge, Bill Wulf, Gene Simon, Jean and John Greenwood

Comprehensive Lake Planning Grant Project

The focus of this grant is to analyze and mitigate the Phosphorus produced by internal nutrient lake sources and external nutrient land sources. The main goal will be to reduce Phosphorus in Tug Lake by 15%. Dr. Todd Miller's summary report on internal nutrient loading and the Snap Plus Program summary report on external nutrient loading will determine if alum treatment is needed to achieve this goal. Twenty acres containing the deep holes of the lake would be treated with alum. Scott Van Egren, DNR Water Resources Management Specialist, will need to approve our proposal and then we will become eligible to submit a Comprehensive Lake Planning Grant proposal to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Sorge mentioned that Surface Water Management Grants up to \$200,000 are available and need a local lake district monetary match. Our Tug Lake acreage may be small enough to need a match approximately within the \$35,000 range. Sorge stressed that we need to get these details down very specifically.

External Nutrient Loading Mitigation Strategies

The Nicklaus family is using a strategic fertilizing approach for their land north of the lake focusing on the planting of grass and hay and applying less manure to help determine what specific nutrients needed. The ground not covered in grass is now rye. All of it germinated this year and it holds soil in place better than grass run-off. Todd said this will require the Klade family to keep the land the Nicklaus' family owns in grass rather than use as cash crop.

Dan Marzu, UW-Extension Land Management Consultant, will assist the Klade family with Snap Plus Program implementation and planting only grass on the land they lease from the Nicklaus family. Dan will also talk with Dr. Miller about

his final internal nutrient report. Buzz Sorge needs this summary report by January 31st of 2026.

Comprehensive Lake Planning Grant Action Plan (CLPGAP)

The Comprehensive Lake Planning Grant pre-application is due by September 2, 2026. To submit this application, we need to have a Snap Plus Report from Dan Marzu, and an internal nutrient report from Dr. Todd Miller by late winter of 2026. The CLPGAP needs to be drafted for Pre-Approval in November of 2026. Todd Nicholas requested a complete timeline to be provided by Buzz so we can present this to lake residents. The success of the plan hinges on the Snap Plus with the Klade family and Don talking with Dr. Todd Miller about his final report which needs to be completed by January 31, 2026.

Buzz Sorge will develop a Tug Lake Comprehensive Lake Planning Grant application which will be presented at the August 29, 2026, Tug Lake District Annual Meeting and then submitted to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources by November 15, 2026. Please refer to the accompanying CLPGAP document for a timeline summary of grant completion action steps.

The Comprehensive Lake Planning Grant Project needs to be a *community effort* which engages as many sectors as possible, e.g., the Lincoln County Board, the Town of Rock Falls Board, surrounding farmers and residents who do not live directly on the lake, the Lincoln County Land Services Department, etc.

Buzz will develop a Comprehensive Lake Management Plan with accompanying meeting dates for the Tug Lake district to implement. This plan will become available in January of 2026.

Board of Commissioners Volunteer/Succession Plan – Officer Mentoring Plan

- Refer to Tug Lake District November 2025 Newsletter

Tug Lake Resident Survey

- Todd Nicklaus, Don Olson, and John Greenwood will contact various Tug Lake residents to see if there is interest in becoming a commissioner on the

Board of the Tug Lake District. Potential candidates will be encouraged to review the Tug Lake Website, and Don will contact Kaying Her to discuss updates to the Website.

Motion to Adjourn

A motion was made by Don Olson, seconded by Todd Nicklaus, motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

John Greenwood
Tug Lake District Secretary