

Minutes
Dunkirk Dam Lake District (DDL D)
April 16, 2025

In Attendance:

Board Members	DDL D Member Attendees	DDL D Member Attendees	Guests
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laura Davis • Becky Dakin • Nicholas Schmuhl • Michael Engelberger • Dan Jenks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ted Christman • Doug McKenzie • Rich Morris • Susan Albright • Mary Ellen Mackey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liz Vanderwerf • Jason Mackey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tom Reiss, Dam Lessee • Matt Kosholleck, Consvr Warden Dane County • Alex Brooks, Consvr Warden Jefferson County

Topic	Discussion	Action
Call to Order	Laura called the meeting to order at 6:30pm	
Past Minutes	Becky summarized the minutes from January. Minutes were approved with no changes.	Becky, save minutes approved and post to website
Treasurer's Report	Nicholas reported current funds and expenses. His report was approved through motion. Laura reminded us that we want to change the DDL D fiscal year to a calendar year to align with Dunkirk. Members will vote on this at the annual meeting in October.	
Dunkirk Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dan Jenks reported that all five elected officials for Dunkirk were re-elected unopposed. He said that the Dunkirk budget is 1.2mil. Road maintenance is the majority of that. Dan mentioned that the Town is handling concerns regarding the Hwy 51 detour. He stated that all Dunkirk properties will be re-assessed this Spring/Summer. • Dan mentioned that Becky Dakin sits on the Dunkirk Comprehensive Plan Committee and Ted Christman sits on the Dunkirk Rural Preservation Committee. They both keep these committees well-informed about DDL D and keep the river in the discussion. • Dan asked if we should post the park hours at Lyon's Park. Hours in Dunkirk parks are "Closed 10pm-6am." Laura said we would be discussing this later in the meeting. 	
Dane County Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mike shared that Melissa Aagard was re-elected County Exec. • The Dane County budget process starts again in May. The budget is worked on in summer and approved in November. 	
Safety	• Ted Christman reported that the fence upgrades were completed in November. There has	Ted will purchase new lock,

Committee	<p>been no additional damage/vandalism to date.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recent incident: two Jr Hg kids skipped school. Their parents started looking for them and called the Sherriff as the boys were fishing on the “no trespassing” west-side of the dam. The Sherriff cut the lock on the tall drive-through gate to access/confront the boys. They may cite the boys. This had not been determined. • Ted is in the process of replacing the lock and keys to everyone. • There is currently No Fishing south of the dam to the Hwy N bridge until May 15 due to spawning. 	<p>have keys made, and distribute keys.</p> <p>Tom Reiss Ron Vike Dunkirk Sherriff</p>
Lyons Park Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A call for bids for the installation of Phase I was published. We received one bid from Greener Valley Landscaping. Their bid was \$54,565. Parkitecture has worked with them before and recommended that Dunkirk accept their bid. Laura is managing this project. • Laura mentioned that current grant funds will be used for Phase I and may also include expanded boat barriers, signage, and kiosk. • Laura stated that the building permit expires May 28 so they are anxious to move forward with Phase I to be completed by this date. • Laura will attend the Town meeting on Monday to have the Supervisors review the bid and sign the contract so the project can begin. • Laura asked for a vote from DDLD members to support this project as outlined. Motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously. • Members stated concern that the current portage up and over the dam remain in place until Phase I and II of the project was complete. This was important so that kayaks/canoes could take out at the millpond new dock and drag their kayak on the path from the millpond south to the southern put-in. • Discussion continued that the current up-and-over portage is dangerous. Laura stated that this portage will be removed. Agreement was not reached on how/when this will be done. • There was also concern raised to understand if any of the project involves wetlands. Special permits from the DNR are required for this. 	<p>Laura will continue to manage this project.</p>
July Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since Phase I will be complete with the new dock in the millpond, DDLD hopes to have a community picnic at the July meeting to celebrate this accomplishment. • Becky will coordinate asking the Courier Hub to print an article about the project and picnic prior to this event. 	

Recap of WI Lakes and Rivers Convention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Becky Dakin and Ted Christman attended the Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers Convention March 26-28 • Attendees-578, Presenters-123, Sessions/Wrkshps-73, Vendors-40, Posters-20 • Attendees were passionate about their love for Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers: birders, boaters, anglers, hikers, naturalists, gardeners, environmentalists • Session: “Let’s Talk: Lake Districts Who Operate or Manage a Dam” Becky suggested this session to the conference planners. There were over 50 ppl in attendance. The session was led by Uriah Monday, DNR and Peter Jensen, Professional Emergency Planner for Dams. The leaders reviewed Chapter 31 of the Wisconsin State Statute regarding dams. They also reviewed required reporting/inspections. There were numerous serious issues brought up by attendees. All in all, Ted and Becky concluded that the management of the Dunkirk Dam is in good hands. • They attended other sessions regarding organizational structure, protecting shorelines, insects, state policies, state grants, and more. • Becky and Ted thanked the DDLD for paying their tuition to this conference. Members thanked the two of them for giving their time and energy to this. 	
Additional Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nick said he would like clarification on the tax settlement and tax levy received. • Becky asked if there is a preference for requesting reimbursement for expenses on a quarterly basis or annual basis. There is no preference. • Laura mentioned that we voted to create a \$25k reserve in our budget. We will discuss this in October. • Tom Reiss reiterated that a reserve fund is essential as you cannot predict storm damage. Members asked if Tom carries damage insurance. He stated that he now manages 17 dams in Wisconsin and only holds liability insurance for each. Damage insurance is cost-prohibitive and the cost of that coverage is usually higher than the damage. Becky mentioned that Lake Districts are eligible for special loans from the state at a very low interest rate for this very type of need. 	
Adjourn	Laura adjourned the meeting at 7:28pm	

Next meeting: July 16, 2025 – DDLD Quarterly Meeting & Community Picnic at Lyon’s Park