Minutes
Dunkirk Dam Lake District (DDLD)
July 15, 2026

In Attendance:

Board Members	Attendee Members	Attendee Members	Guests
• Jason Mackey • Nicholas Schmuhl • Becky Dakin • Mike Engelberger • Dan Jenks	• Ted Christman • Jack Lyon • Kathy Peterson • Justin Adsit • Dough MacKenzie	• Rich Morris • Mary Ellen Mackey	• Tom Reiss, Dunkirk Dam Lessee

Topic	Discussion	Action
Minutes	The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:34pm. The minutes from the April meeting were reviewed and approved.	Becky, save as apprvd and post to the website
Town of Dunkirk Update	• Dan Jenks reported that Dunkirk's Rural Preservation Program is doing well. Dunkirk has almost $1mil in reserve to help purchase development rights with the help of Groundswell and other grant dollars. Dunkirk is close to "closing" on properties, Hanerville Acres (NE of the Town Hall) and Felio property. This will use money from the Town, County, and Grant $. Dunkirk has hired a consultant to work with the Rural Preservation Committee. This person is well-schooled in this project and will help with identifying and writing grants. He will also help the process of future purchases of development rights. • Dan continued that the Town has had public meetings regarding the Solar Installation that is taking place in the four-corners area of Dunkirk-Albion-Porter-Fulton. There were 80-ish people at the last meeting. The installation is cited for 950 acres. When the project is under 100MW, we just essentially sit and watch. Over 100MW, the project is controlled by PSC. The farmers receive $150-$250 per acre for raising crops. The Solar company is paying them $1500 per acre. One farmer is using the solar money to use to buy more land. Other towns, using their solar dollars, are out-bidding local farmers to purchase land. The current solar project involved four towns and two counties. • Dan provided information on the road repairs that are underway.	
Dane County Update	• Mike reported that the coliseum project is in negotiations. This will use private donation funds. • The Alliant Energy campus is involved in proposals for development. The city wants this to be self-sustaining.	None

	• The county broke ground on a new landfill site – Hwy 12 & 18. The land purchase for this included a portion of the golf course. This is a $36m project slated for completion in 2027. This landfill will be self-sustaining and will not require taxes to fund it. • The group FOLKS – Lake Kegonsa – are trying to raise funds to purchase 8 acres on the Lake to preserve the land and prevent development. The purchase price is just under $1m. County donated $400k toward this endeavor. They have approx. $100k to go in their fundraising efforts.	
Safety Committee Update	• Dan Jenks resigned as Chair. Ted Christman agreed to take-on the role of Chair. • Ted reported that the southern part of the Dam Park, "Hansen's Landing" is complete: The Dunkirk Roadcrew has refreshed the wood-chip path, they've constructed a driveway-style kayak put-in. Previously, they met with the DNR to adhere to their rules. They were not to disturb the shoreline. They cut down one tree (did not disturb the roots) and brought in some rock/gravel. The Southern-Downriver put-in/take-out is complete. • Ted and Becky are working on the portage signage and will complete installing these in the morning. Portage signs will be installed by the dock, on the woodchip path, and at the downriver put-in. • Ted reported that the Olson family, in honor of Ted Olson, has purchase a commemorative bench. It has been placed on the northside of the dock. • Mary Ellen Mackey asked about the commemorative bench that was supposed to be placed in the southern portion of the park. Dan replied that he has been in conversation with the Hansen/Adler family for several months deciding what type of bench they would prefer. The ball is in their court at this point as they did not like our few suggestions. Dan is waiting to hear back from them. • Becky shared that the Kiosk has also been installed at the park. Simple signage describes the properties, how to fish behind the dam, trash removal, etc.	Becky, update this on the website.
Old Buss: Yahara River south of the Dam	• At the April meeting the group discussed the possibility of having a "friends" group for the southern portion of the river. • Dan explained that the southern portion of the river in Dunkirk is only watched by the DNR – there is no designated group to keep an eye on things. There are only a handful of properties. • The group clarified whether this effort would fall under the	

	Town's efforts and not the DDLD. Becky clarified that DDLD could be involved since Lake Districts are able to put their efforts and dollars toward things that enhance their two-mile stretch of the river in any way – that includes efforts for upstream and downstream.	
Old Buss: No Trespassing Sign on County N by Stebbinsville Dam	• The group continued this topic clarifying that the landowner has placed a "no trespassing" sign near where the Stebbinsville dam used to be. • It was clarified that the landowner does indeed own the property near the road but does not own the property along the river. Essentially, the landowner can block access to the river because he owns the property near the road. • Dan said he talked with the owner, and he was concerned about people parking along the road and making this into a turnaround. • The group thought that kayakers may want to ask for personal permission to cross his land to get to the river. • Next time we see Matt Koshollek, ask him about in/out signage • Next agenda talk about the increase in traffic in our section of the Yahara and how best to place "location signage."	Next agenda: "Location Signage along the property on the river"
Treasurer's Report	• Nicholas reported that we had no expenses; minimal interest; no transactions in savings and checking. Deposits consisted of minimal interest and the Special District Computer Aid from the state of $911.	
New Business "Take-Out" up-and-over the dam/dike	• The Safety Committee wanted the group to discuss taking our the "Take-Out" sign located on the dike on the west side of the Tainter gates. • Ted showed a slide of the FERC guidelines pertaining to portage around the dam. FERC policy emphasized that portage was NOT to involve access to the dam or dike s. • The reason that the current portage has been "up-and-over" the dike is because, before there was no access downriver. • Now that the dock has been installed, the woodchip path installed, and the driveway-style put-in installed below the dam, there is no reason to encourage the "up-and-over" portage. • The group discussed that many folks have used the "up-and-over" portage for years and may continue to do so. The group, however, agreed to remove the "Take-Out" sign on the dam/ dike. Portage signs will now be placed by the dock, on the portage path, and at the downstream put-in. • The group also thought we should install a sign stating, "No Fishing from the Dike" on the far-west side of the dike to further discourage fishing from the dike.	

Next Meeting	• Jason explained that our next meeting is in October – our Annual Meeting where we will approve a new budget. • Doug MacKenzie brought up that one of the DDLD Commissioners was up for re-election in October. We weren't sure who that is. Becky will look into this.	Becky, determine which Commissioner is up for re-election in October.
Tom Reiss	• Jack Lyon mentioned that we should hear from Tom Reiss since he was in attendance. • Tom stated that there's nothing new. He agreed that we need to establish clear take-out and put-in areas so kayaks can continue downriver. • Dan asked Tom if he is currently generating electricity at the dam. Tom stated that he didn't know. He would need to look at the logs in the powerhouse. • Becky mentioned that the grass really needed mowing inside the fence at the dam. Tom said he came tonight to take a look, and he would have his people get that done.	
Adjourn	• 7:23pm	