

Minutes
Dunkirk Dam Lake District (DDL D)
January 21, 2026

In Attendance:

Board Members	Attendee Members	Guests
• Jason Mackey • Nicholas Schmuhl • Becky Dakin • Mike Engelberger (absent) • Dan Jenks	• Ted Christman • Lauri Hodge • Marty Zweifel • Kathy Peterson • Justin Adsit • Andy Gove	• none

Topic	Discussion	Action
Minutes	The minutes from the October Annual Meeting were approved as written.	Becky, save as apprvd and post to the website
Town of Dunkirk Update	• Dan Jenks reported that there will be an election on February 17 to elect one Dane County judge. • Dan asked that the DDL D consider some sort of effort to care for the wild area of the river south of the dam – a general effort to keep it natural. • Becky said that she and Dan should be sure to include this in the Dunkirk Comprehensive Plan that is being rewritten.	Becky, include Yahara River above and below the dam on the agenda of the Comprehensive Plan Committee.
Dane County Update	Becky read a report submitted by Mike Engelberger sharing: • Proposal for \$100mil in private funds to remodel the Dane County Veterans Memorial Coliseum into a venue that will bring multiple sports and concert events. This is a public/private partnership. The proposal needs review and approval by County Board to move forward. • Alliant Energy Center ROI to seek development on the AEC campus to include hotels, restaurants, housing, office space and other amenities creating a similar destination as Deer District in Milwaukee to attract visitors. • The county approved 2026 budget that had the smallest tax increase since 2019. Overall, spending is down from last year by a little over \$10mil.	None
Safety Committee Update	• Ted shared that there are no current safety issues. The Dunkirk Public Works Crew has tied up the dock for winter. The gangway has been removed and placed over by the dam fence.	
Lyon's Park	• Becky shared that she and Ted will be getting signs	

Expansion Update	made this spring for signage around the new dock and proceeding across the portage path, down to the property below the dam.	
2026 DDLD Financial Picture	• Jason shared a slide outlining how the \$38,000 DDLD budget that was passed in October and how it will be spent throughout the year.	
Treasurer's Report	• Nicholas shared two slides showing the current funds in each account. He also explained recent income and expenses.	
Member questions	• One member asked if we knew why there was so much seaweed in the millpond this past summer/fall. Discussion suggested weather and dredging in the Madison lakes. • One member discussed the huge tax increase on his property. We discussed that all of Dunkirk had been re-assessed. The previous assessment was ten years ago. We also discussed the huge tax increase for schools. Several members had attended the sessions to challenge the tax increase and were told that since they live on the river, of course their property is assessed at a high value. One member commented that their taxes increased by 110%.	
Move April Meeting	• Becky discussed that our next quarterly meeting is scheduled for April 15. She and Ted will be attending the WI Lakes & Rivers Convention on behalf of the DDLD. The special "Dam Session" is being held the afternoon of April 15. • The group discussed other possible dates but realized that there were other Dunkirk meetings already scheduled for those dates. • Becky said she would talk with Kathy Olson to see if we could choose another date.	Becky, talk with Kathy regarding April meeting date.
Other – solar farm	Dan mentioned that a big solar farm is coming to the east part of Dunkirk. The leased properties also include parts of Porter and Albion. The group discussed that solar farms are a concern as it is a loss of agricultural land – it essentially destroys the land for years, even after removal. The optics of solar farms are a concern to Dunkirk's rural culture. Residents have also shared concerns that solar farms cause micro-climates that affect neighboring land. The solar farms must be 200ft from a resident.	
Adjourn	• 7:15pm	

Next meeting: April 15, 2026 (The meeting will not be moved.)