

Pelican Lake Association Annual Meeting minutes

June 6, 2026

Fire District Building - Pelican Lake

1. President Steve Tripp called the meeting to order at 10:00
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Board of Directors present – Steve Tripp, Ted Nelson, Wayne Morgan, Alex Rossman, Pat Schenk, Larold Lodholz, and Bob Mott
4. A quorum has been established.
5. Proof of Notice – Ted Nelson in Constant Contact and PLA Website early May
6. Agenda Approval – Motion Kerry Romsa 2nd Ed Rueckl Passed without opposition
7. Approval of minutes from PLA Annual Meeting 6/7/2025 Motion Jim Frymark 2nd Judy Boelter Passed without opposition.
8. Approval of Special Meeting to add 2 BOD members September 22, 2025 Mott explained that these minutes as read to the membership were best recollection of BOD. Only action was to approve Larold Ludholz and Alex Rossman to the BOD to fill positions until today's meeting. Approval of those two members was unanimous at that meeting. No other business was conducted Motion Kerry Romsa 2nd Ted Nelson Passed without opposition
9. Speaker – Nick Johnson partner in Aquatic Plant Management of Minocqua
 - Part owner since 2020 APM and Nick have worked closely with the Water Committee and Onterra (praised highly for professional approach) APM helped with the recently completed Pelican Lake 10 year Management Plan
 - APM has a great deal of experience dealing with Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM)
 - APM deals with management and strategies for control through 3 methods - A. Mechanical Harvesting B. Diving and hand removal C. Aquatic Herbicides
 - Need to understand how and where EWM grows. Nonnative but well suited to climate in Upper Midwest
 - Fragments – grow roots out of pieces- white roots Caused naturally at times in the year and breaks caused by Stressful events such as high rain events and sharp temperature changes in the water. Plant panics and shed pieces. Auto fragments are neutrally buoyant. Not much concern with fragments from mechanical harvest as roots not formed.
 - Large masses of EWM form and can outcompete natives for sunlight/growth area. Some overwintering – falls back and begins again in spring
 - Problems -1. Impairs navigation 2. Crowds out native vegetation 3. Impairs natural fishery and population of game fish changes

- Integrated Pest Management
 - o Biological
 - o Manual
 - o Mechanical
 - o Chemical
- Continuous monitoring is needed. Onterra is by far the best at this area. They generate quality maps that APM can use to decide on course of action.
- Have done 38 projects with Onterra – work smoothly together. Have worked with 10 other companies like Onterra but Onterra best
- Strategies
 - o Biological – example – grass carp or beetles. Sometimes the bio control leads to other problems.
 - o Manual -Diver assisted scuba harvesting (DASH) diver uses a 50-foot suction hose to gather EWM at root and bagged on pontoon. Mitigates fragments Limited by visibility and size of area to be attacked - Labor intensive.
 - o Mechanical Harvesting-Like a combine goes down 4-6 feet. Give EWM a haircut. Depending on the water clarity and sunlight penetration, determine how often needs to be harvested. Clear lakes can grow a foot a week. Pelican's low visibility limits growth. Weeds harvested are off loaded at landing and then taken by truck to disposal site. Very rich fertilizer value. Can cut 4-5 acres a day. Pelican cut in June may not need another for rest of year. Lake Tomahawk cut 90 days straight.
 - o Chemical Control- 10-100 acres. Cost per acre lower than other methods. Consider: A. DNR permit needed. Becoming more difficult to get approval B. How are non-target species affected C. Chemical tolerance of weed builds over time. APM avoids if possible; in some instances it makes sense.
 - o No Control – let nature take its course. Live with it. EWM may reach a certain plateau and then remain at that level.
- Be adaptive; be flexible.
- Pelican Lake some areas little or no control other than navigational lanes
- Historical Data shared
 - o 2020 - 32.5 cu ft removed
 - o 2021 – 535 cu ft 4 fold increase
 - o 2022 – 481 cu ft DASH in Outlet and Musky
 - o 2023- 2200 mechanical and 533 DASH
 - o 2024 – 8865 mechanical and 466 DASH

- 2025- 3425 Mechanical 303 DASH (EWM crashed in Outlet; found auto fragmenting in June – maybe due to high water temperatures

Late Season Mechanical Harvesting Clear cut large area. Pilot project to see if late season delayed growth the following year and thus delay when PLA had to pay for Mechanical harvesting. This seemed to work on other lakes.

2026 will shift away from DASH since areas are too dense. Cut navigation lanes. Will do a late season harvest in Musky and Treacherous

Audience questions

-When does auto fragmentation happen? A. usually August but can vary- stress factors cause at other times – heavy rains/water temperature drops

-Would it be better to use divers earlier- better clarity? A. Can't do it too early as EWM not up enough. Usually June to early July

- Are there emerging technologies to add innovative approaches to battle against EWM? A. AI technology is being developed to discover and map more precisely EWM Also Herbicide chemistry Need to find a chemical to just target EWM.

- What's the best guess as to what caused the die off in Outlook and slow growth elsewhere? A. Turbidity; lack of water clarity; lots of rain; Every species down. Higher water; less light penetration

Presentation ended at 10:53

Presentation of Nicolet College AI developed video of PLA Newsletter. Well received. It answers who are we and what do we do.

Buoy discussion

Initially driven by the decision by the Enterprise Town Board to not pay for placement of buoys in the Enterprise part of Pelican Lake as the town had done in the past., Cited economic reasons. Schoepke had allotted money for the buoys as in the past.

PLA board felt that it is in the best interest of the membership to support the placement, maintenance, and purchase of buoys for Pelican Lake. A fund of 3 years cost is being developed with Steve Tripp and wife contributing \$10,000; Kerry Romsa raffling a hunting blind to raise another \$10,000; and the additional \$ 10,000 or so

coming from membership donations. Will do all Putting in and taking out; maintenance; purchase new; and store in Schoepke maintenance building.

PLA has a Buoy Memorial fund- replace as a memorial - \$ 375.00 Memorial put on buoy. Try to place near home initially Also a Buoy Operational and Maintenance Fund will be maintained.

Committee needs authorization to maintain the Fund for 3 years and to distribute excess funds to other areas of the PLA.

Kerry Romsa stated that support from the towns would be eliminated (donations accepted) This is a way to always have buoys on lake for safety reasons. Jim Frymark did a lot of legwork on this.

May have some of the old buoys available at FunFest (20 have been replaced) as a way to fundraise.

Question – PLA will do this forever? A. BOD feels strongly that buoys are needed and that this approach will do that.

Question – Why not let the \$30,000 fund build? A. Feel that a large excess needs to be used and maintain just what is needed for 3 year period and see how things go.

Question – Does PLA face a legal responsibility if it is responsible for the buoys? A. Towns still hold the permits from DNR.

Question- Who is on the Enterprise Board? Can't we just contribute to them? A. No specific answer.

Comment- Don't assume people will continue to contribute. Response -PLA has received quite a few donations already. People are interested. May change in future.

This is a 3-year cushion. Pressure on Enterprise- no one shows up at their meetings. No demand made by citizens. 12-15 appear at Schoepke Town Board 2 at Enterprise.

Motion read by President Tripp "To modify description of account 4620 "Buoy Maintenance Fund" to become "Buoy Operational/Maintenance Fund". The Buoy Operational/Maintenance Fund will be funded by direct donations from membership. The objective of this fund is to support the association when needed with resources to deploy and retrieve all Buoys, repair or replace damaged or retired Buoys and assist with any resources required to properly locate the buoys. The goal is to establish a fund which will carry approximately three years of Buoy Operational/Maintenance expenses. If the fund exceeds the three year anticipated expenses, donors are to be advised that the board may, at their discretion,

reallocate the funds to the general revenue fund (currently account # 4100). The Buoy Operational/Maintenance fund is not designated to be the only means to meet the buoy operational/maintenance needs, but rather as a supplement or buffer to be allocated by the board when needed. Motion Tripp 2nd Kerry Romsa Passed without opposition.

Membership is requested to hear and approve and support the board to engage Mr. Paul Tomczak- Salty Dog Services LLC with a three year agreement to manage all of our buoy issues. The board has approved his contract for 2026. However, with an affirmative vote the board will sign and engage Mr. Tomczak for two additional years per his response to our RFQ. Motion Tripp 2nd Kerry Romsa Passed without opposition

Frymark explained that he had contacted several lake associations to find businesses that handle buoy placement. The cost to install, remove, maintain is \$175. Received 1 proposal from Salty Dog – 3-year contract at \$ 8750/year. Approve without opposition.

Break 11:52

Reconvene 12:05

Finance – 3 areas.

1. 2025 Statement 2. Review process is explained 3. 26-27 budget discussed

Ed Rueckl head of Financial Review Committee along with Sherry Aulik and Judy Boelter explained their independent work (not part of PLA board) They found that some accounts had been misstated. They did a complete review. Problems were discovered. Statement of what was received and expended; Reviewed Statement of Financial Position as of December 31, 2025. The BOD has not seen the review.

The Review is less in scope than an audit.

Opinion of committee is that the committee is not aware of any changes that need to be made to the Financial Statement.

Looking for a new chair of the Financial Committee. Sherry and Judy want to continue but not to chair. Easy for a person who has the background, 1 day's work.

Steve states- Kelly did a fine job as treasurer. QuickBooks is difficult. Rick and Beth Steiner are now here full time and are CPAs. Rick discovered the double entry and was able to correct. Suggested that the Financial

Committee meet quarterly to stay on top of concerns before entries are made and become difficult to adjust. NOTE: No money has been incorrectly used. There were double entries that led to some confusion but have been corrected

Wayne says that there is a lot to learn as treasurer Be sure to ask for help- he got help from Kelly. Suggested that the treasurer's job be split into 2- 3 parts. By-Laws don't allow but treasurer can assign.

The Budget has been approved by the Board of Directors.

Motion to approve the 2026 revised budget and the 2027 budget – Kerry Romsa 2nd Randy Mixis Passed without Opposition

Dues increase- Steve proposed raising the dues from \$ 25.00 to \$30.00 a \$5.00 increase per member. Noted that no dues increase since 1964.

Motion Tripp 2nd Kerry Romsa Passed without opposition

Fundraising

Pat Schenk –

-July 11 Ski Show at Lakeview. Also having a Cardboard Boat Regatta. Corrugated cardboard, string, rope, tape – Rules available on PLA website. Would like preregistration; different classes; timed distances; 2 person teams. Band 5-9 provided by Gerritts. Merchandise available and 50/50 cash. Need judges and help in the water.

- July 25 FunRaiser – 2 bands; Need lots of basket; Help needed as always.

- August 15 Member Appreciation Day at Boiling. Edgie and Tina pay for band

- August 22 Meat raffle/Rib Fest depends on new owner – probable Kudos to Kelly and Pat who are no longer on the board. Will need people to become leaders

Kelly and Pat are preparing a book to help new people.

Bob Mott- Water Committee

-RFP sent out to 6 companies to ask them to provide mechanical harvesting; some diving for evaluation; and provide the cutting of navigation lanes. Only company that could do all was Aquatic Plant Management of Minocqua. They will be awarded the contract.

-This year navigation lanes will be cut in Musky and Outlet Bays.

-Areas in Musky and Treacherous will be cut late season to continue looking at how late season cutting affects growth the following year. Onterra will provide an addendum to the report they produced

regarding the grant that was mostly completed in 2025. The report will be used to apply for the Final Payment of that grant which will be about \$33,000.

Mary Schmitzer – Land Use. Bob read report.

- Working on shoreline at Schoepke Town Hall.
- Request made to have either the PLA or town board to apply for grants to have a portion of the shoreline fixed apply for grants – work in 2027
- Plants are being added to prevent erosion and filter water- Homeowners can do the same. Last year's shrubs doing well.
- Received donation from Robert Briggs- black dirt
- Small section of Wi Native Garden has been redone. Some donated- more needed ID tags on some of plants- temporary – more permanent to come.
- Some plants may be transferred temporarily
- More gravel needed for walkway. Will try to get more split rail fencing. Will get quote from Builders Supply
- Auto timer will be added for watering,
- Project needs lots of maintenance People needed to help.
- Thanks to Pam Dantoin as Co-chair. Also thanks to Roxy Sankey for generous help,

Alex Rossman – Lake Survey. Alex reported that Mr. Cason from company that did new lake survey would restrict access to the PLA board unless instructed to do differently.

Alex needs volunteers to decide how new information that was developed by Cason company should be used and shared. How to distribute and amount of detail. Complete print and digital are available.

This is a big deal as it cost the PLA in the range of \$ 20,000 and was approved by membership 2 years in a row.

Jim Frymark

Adopt-A-Highway

Saturday June 13 meet at Schoepke Town Hall at 8:30 to divide work and get bags/safety vests. 26 miles (13x2)

Will also do in Fall

Some people do on own. Jim needs a report on the number of bags collected for his report.

Fish Committee – Scott Sankey

Currently a new rule is in effect – 10 fish limit for panfish (crappie, perch, bluegill figured together as one bag limit). Goal to increase overall size. Biologist said it would be 10 years to see effect.

Musky- any stocked musky or captured in nets will have a PIT tag which is an identifier about the size of a grain of rice. A reader can be used to check for tag. Reporting the information on the tag helps give the DNR growth and survival information. Scott has readers available.

Not successful so far in having Natives record musky that have been speared

- Size structure says 20% natural reproduction
- One angler caught over 80 musky on Pelican last year,
- DNR surveys say that Pelican Lake is an excellent fishery. Last year had an outstanding walleye hatch.
- Have some materials left for new cribs.
- New signs will be posted at the landings and better organized.
- Area biologist impressed with the level of involvement of the PLA
- Need lake temperature monitors- see Scott
- DNR looking for people who can ID spawning areas in lake.
- There is concern by DNR of number of musky speared in winter where there is no limit or reporting. Will be meeting soon.
- Question -any more discussion on slot limit for walleye? A. Not aware of any.
- Around 500 walleye speared with 1187 allotted. Can net. 17 musky taken 33 allotted.

Communication Committee- Ted Nelson

Recognized that an update was needed. Possibly a designated webmaster. Bob Mott serves on Nicolet Board of Trustees and connected with Don Schindhelm – communication specialist at Nicolet and a student who have developed websites and communication networks for nonprofits.

- Alex is working with Ted to advance a new and easier to use system for PLA
- Google makes entire workspace available for non-profits.
- There are some automated ways to reduce workload. Alex and others need to be effective in helping the PLA from a distance.
- Will work to keep all PLA information in one place.
- Aim to allow members to be effective as leaders from a distance.

Nominations for the Board of Directors

- Pat, Bob, and Steve are off the BOD.
- Alex and Lud will be elected to full two year terms
- Looking for 3 full term candidates.
- Steve Tripp nominated Judy Boelter. She accepts.
- Kerry Romsa nominates Rick Schroeder. He accepts for a one year trial.
- Lud Lodholz is nominated by Scott Sankey. He accepts.

- Alex nominated by Ted Nelson ; he accepts
- NOTE: Wayne and Ted do not have to be nominated – serving their 2nd year of two year terms
- Jim Frymark nominated by Steve Tripp accepts.
- All approved unanimously by membership.
- The 2026-2027 Board of Directors are Wayne Morgan; Ted Nelson; Alex Rossman; Lud Lodholz; Rick Schroeder; Judy Boelter; Jim Frymark.
- Officers will be chosen by the BOD.

Membership comments

- Have elections earlier in the meeting. Many have left already.
- Power point presentation was outstanding.

Drawing for merchandise held.

Meeting Adjourned at 1:28 by acclimation.

Respectfully submitted

Bob Mott

Secretary PLA