

Lumberjack RC&D Council Meeting Minutes
JULY 30, 2026 at 9:00AM
Host: Shawano County – Farm Inn on Main, Shawano

COUNCIL MEMBER ROLL CALL

	VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT in BOLD (includes first seat, alternate or proxy)	OTHERS PRESENT
Florence	Excused	
Forest	Tom Tallier	Kayla Littleton
Langlade	Excused	Katie Bahr-Bender, Lindsey Laskowski
Lincoln	Bill Bialecki	Tom Boisvert
Marinette	Wally Hitt	Sheri Denowski
Menominee	Jeremy Johnson	
Oconto	Tim Cole	Ken Dolata, Wayne K.
Oneida	Collette Sorgel	
Shawano	Lynn Tober-Steinke	Lori Mathew
Vilas	Excused	
At-Large	Steve Heimerman – Oconto Bob Mott - Oneida Mary George – Vilas Arlyn Tober – Shawano Mark Orlovsky – Florence (EXCUSED) Doug Curler - Langlade	Staff: Janelle Lekies, Derek Thorn, Tracy Beckman, Coleman Kaiser Project Presenters: Shanda & Corey from WAMSCO and Tracy from the Town of Underhill
Past President	Wayne Plant - Lincoln	

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Bialecki at 9:06am. Members recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

INTRODUCTIONS: Those in attendance introduced themselves and a roll call appears in these minutes.

REVIEW/APPROVE AGENDA: Motion by Tober/George to approve the agenda as presented. Motion Carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The project deadline is 9/1/26 so plan for Aug committee visits, UMISC registration is open. Welcome to Janelle Lekies, the new WHIP Coordinator.

MINUTES: Members reviewed the minutes of the 4/30/2026 Council Meeting and the 7/16/2026 Executive Committee meeting. Motion by Tober-Steinke/George to approve the minutes as presented. Motion Carried.

TREASURER REPORT:

Approve Reserve Fund – Motion by Hitt/Plant to approve the 2026/2027 fund in the amount of \$70,521. Motion Carried.

Review/Approve Treasurer’s Report with balance sheet/budget update & project update – A report dated 7/31/2026 was presented showing a checking account balance of \$512,367.27 and a fund balance of \$1,003,592.49. Motion by Tober/George to approve the report with the changes 1) move the approved line-item transfer of LJ reserves for a projected budget shortfall in the amount of \$19,200 from the income section to the bottom of the report and 2) correct the ‘spent’ column calculation on the project update. Motion Carried. Heimerman requested an updated copy and Beckman will send it to him.

Review/Vote to transfer 2026 project funds - Motion by George/Dolata to transfer \$60,780 from the project account to the checking account to pay for already approved 2026 projects. Motion Carried. This will leave the fund balance with \$63,191.44 after paying 2026 projects and BEFORE approving the fund calculation sheet for 2027 projects.

Review/Vote Project Fund Calculation Sheet – Members reviewed the fund calculation sheet which, after entering all the figures from the end of 2025, shows for the first time a negative \$5,429.80 leaving a balance of \$57,761.64 for 2027. The policy is to have at least two years’ worth of funds available (\$60K per funding year or \$120K for two years.) Since the calculation shows a deficit, the Council discussed 2027 funding options. Mott suggested using reserves to completely fund the program for two years at \$120,000. Reasons for the loss were discussed, and Heimerman wanted the record to reflect that

the council should be fully aware that anything voted on today has future implications. Mott suggested then that we use reserves to bring the balance from \$57,761.64 to \$60K (\$2,238.36) and then see what happens with expenses over the next year. Boisvert agreed to the 2027 fund being set at \$60K per the policy. George noted that we do have reserves and being a non-profit, we should have a plan for our funds. She also suggested project applicants be asked if they can get by with less so we could fund more projects. Dolata/Tober-Steinke moved to transfer \$2,238.36 to the project fund so it will be \$60,000 in 2027 and then revisit the fund balance discussion at the July meeting in 2027. Motion Carried.

FOLLOW UP PRESENTATIONS: WAMSCO gave an update on their Rain Garden & native plant showcase and Tracy Winkler gave an update on the Town of Underhill's park project.

Review/Vote on Investment Strategy – members reviewed the handout showing the Executive Committee's investment recommendation after meeting with financial planner, Ryan Wempe of Financial Planning and Information Services. The Committee recommends investing \$300K in staggered increments of \$100K over the next three months. Tober-Steinke mentioned the plan is sound and shows we're being good stewards of the funds. Mott noted that Ryan Wempe has five other very satisfied non-profit clients. Motion by Dolata/Tober-Steinke to approve the recommendation and invest the funds. Prior to the vote, Heimerman asked members to acknowledge that a YES vote means they're ok with taking an occasional loss now and then but that sticking with the plan over time has shown to realize more gains than CDs or money markets. Several members acknowledged that is the way investing works and they are fully aware of the risks. Motion Carried unanimously with zero NO votes.

Policy Votes

Proposed By Laws Change – the proposed bylaws change is being made to reflect that land and water committees are not authorized to vote on Lumberjack project proposals. The language states they are required to vote. The proposed change was reviewed and edited to read "each sponsor county shall participate in Lumberjack's Grant Program by reviewing project proposals submitted to their committee and have the minutes reflect their review. With those changes, a motion by Tober/Johnson was made to approve the new language. Motion Carried.

Proposed County Dues increase from \$200 to \$500 – Members reviewed a handout showcasing the mutually beneficial relationship between Lumberjack and our sponsor counties. Boisvert noted that many of the benefits on the plan are services of the sponsored agencies. It was so noted that the benefits Lumberjack receives by sponsoring agencies and having good relations with the counties should be part of the benefits sheet. Motion by George/Johnson to approve the increase from \$200 to \$500 effective on 1/1/2028. Motion Carried.

Proposed At Large Member Policy Change - The policy is being changed to clarify that elected county board supervisors who are not assigned to the Lumberjack Council, may serve as At Large members. Motion by George/Heimerman to approve the policy change as presented. Motion Carried.

At Large Member Elections: Doug Curler was to be an At Large member representing Langlade County. On a motion by George/Hitt and a unanimous vote, Curler's nomination was approved. He was welcomed to the council with a round of applause.

STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE – all attendees were given the SWOT worksheet and then Heimerman facilitated an open discussion in which strengths, weaknesses, opportunities & threats were revealed. Beckman will compile the results for future planning sessions.

SPONSORED AGENCY & PROGRAM UPDATES: Kaiser for FIA, Thorn for FLOW, Beckman for TIP & Janelle Lekies for WHIP.

PUBLIC COMMENT AND LUNCH – Public comments were heard while everyone enjoyed lunch by the Farm Inn.

ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned at 1pm

Submitted 7/31/2026 by Tracy Beckman for Arlyn Tober