

West Battle Lakeshore Association Meeting

The West Battle Lake Lakeshore Association Board members met on Saturday April 12th, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. at the Shoreline Restaurant in Battle Lake, MN.

Open Forum for WBL Property Owners:

Mr. Neal Juers attended the meeting expressing an interest to possibly become a Voting Board member. NOTE: Upon Adjournment of the meeting Mr. Juers did not commit to joining the Board at present time.

The Board Meeting:

Tracy Rendz - Eldridge (Board President)

Called the meeting to order.

Noted Board members present: Treasurer & Board member Sean Belmont, Website & Facebook page Administrator & Board member Michael Smith, Board member Steve Slatten & Board member Matt Falck.

Noted Board members absent: Board member Dan Kolpin, Board member Jody Coleman & Board member Kyle Johnson. Board member, & Incoming Board President Mike A. Anderson was unable to attend. (Tracy had given notice to the Board members at the Saturday September 28th, 2024 Fall Board meeting of her intent to retire from her position as the WBL Lakeshore Association Board President, & a Board member, effective as of the Spring 2025 Board meeting Saturday April 12th, 2025).

Note: Long time Board Secretary & Board member John Hofflander provided Board President Tracy Rendz - Eldridge a letter of his resignation from the Board Tuesday February 25th, 2025, & effective as of Saturday March 1st, 2025.

Noted that a Quorum WAS present.

Note: Due to the absence of a Board Secretary Board President Tracy documented the meeting minutes.

Open Officer positions on the Board:

- 1) Vice President (No Volunteer to fill this position).
- 2) Secretary (No Volunteer to fill this position).

Sean Belmont: Board Treasurer & Board member:

Treasurer report:

Walley Fund Account balance =\$859.97

Certificate of Deposit #1 =\$26,009.01

Certificate of Deposit #2 =\$26,009.01

Main Account / General Fund=\$4,111.59

NOTE: Board President Tracy wrote and sent the following checks not yet posted as of the date of this Board meeting.

- 1) Check for \$859.00 to MN Lakes & Rivers for 150 Shoreland Guide Books for the Lake Steward program.
- 2) Check for \$880.00 to Otter Tail County "COLA" Organization. \$210.00 covered the WBL Association fees, & \$670.00 to pay for the Summer of 2025 Water Sampling fees.
- 3) Check for \$100.00 to the Shoreline Restaurant for the room rental fee for the Saturday April 12th, 2025 Board meeting.

These costs brought the Main Account CASH balance to: \$2,272.59. (The two \$25,000.00 CDs are part of the Main Account balance).

Due to the ever-growing volume of work involved handling the financial issues of the WBL Association, Treasurer Sean Belmont requested some assistance. All Board members present agreed to a budget of \$500.00 to obtain outside help for Sean. A local High School student will assist Sean with the Annual Dues letters which are very time consuming.

NOTE: Due to Tracy leaving the Board, all checks for all WBL Lakeshore Association Bank Accounts were returned by her to Board Treasurer Sean Belmont. Tracy will remove herself as an Account Signer from all of the WBL Lakeshore Association Bank Accounts. Due to incoming Board President Mike A. Anderson being unable to attend this meeting Board

President Tracy Rendz - Eldridge obtained Mike A. Anderson's agreement to become the 2nd signer, (besides Treasurer Sean Belmont), on the WBL Lakeshore Association Bank accounts via email prior to the Board meeting April 12th, 2025.

Open Forum for the Board members:

Discussion on the upcoming (possible) State, & County, budget cuts for the Aquatic Invasive Species Inspection program in Minnesota, & Otter Tail County. Also, the possibility the entire AIS Program may be eliminated in 2026 or 2027. Nothing definitive had been announced by the State, or the DNR, as of this meeting date.

VOTE: To donate our annual \$500.00 Donation to the Otter Tail County AIS Task Force to offset the annual operating expense of the I-LID Cameras at the East & West accesses. A Majority Vote in favor of this Donation was approved.

Steve Slatten: Board member & Pro Water Sampler:

Steve requested to be replaced as the WBL H2O Sampler. Steve will contact Board member Dan Kolpin for help as Dan has done the H2O Sampling in prior seasons. Also, the Board members present agreed to have Website Administrator Michael Smith put out a notice to the WBL Property owners asking for volunteers to step up to help do the H2o Sampling which is done one time a month May through September.

Michael Smith: Board member & Website / Facebook page Administrator:

Michael gave an update on both the WBL Website & FB page. Membership continues to grow and many positive comments are being received from the Property owners. A BIG Thank you to Michael Smith for all his time & nice work keeping the WBL Property owners informed as well as entertained, well-done Mr. Smith!

Open Forum for the Board members:

1) The 2025 Annual Members meeting scheduled for Saturday July 26th, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. Location to be decided. Tracy suggested the Clitherall Event Center as the Battle Lake High School Auditorium is not available this Summer due to construction. Board member Matt

Falck offered to set this up. Matt contacted Tracy Saturday night April 12th 2025 that he had reserved the Clitherall Event Center for the 2025 Annual Members meeting at a cost of \$250.00.

NOTE: On May 28th, 2025 the Annual Members meeting date was rescheduled to:

9:00 A.M. Saturday July 26th, 2025 at the Clitherall Event Center

2) **Walleye Fund & 2025 Walleye Stocking:** Current balance in the Walleye Fund as of the meeting date was \$859.97. Discussion on possible fund raisers to raise funds for the Walleye Stocking in the Fall 2025. (For the 2024 Fall Walleye Stocking \$18,000.00 from the Main / General account was used to hit the goal of \$25,000.00 worth of Walleye Fingerlings).

3) **MN Lakes & Rivers Lake Steward Program:** 150 Shoreland Guide Booklets were purchased by the WBL Lakeshore Association. They had not yet been delivered as of the April 12th, 2025 Board meeting date. They will be distributed to Dues paying members at the Annual meeting Saturday July 26th, 2025.

3) **Beach Captain Project:** All members present agreed to have Michael Smith put out information to the WBL Property owners via email & the website asking for Volunteers to help kick start the Beach Captain Program.

4) **Buoy Markers off Stony Point:** After 2 years of discussing this subject it was agreed by the Board members present to end the discussion on this idea due to the cost & liability issues.

5) The West Access: Fall 2024:

A) Courtesy Clean offs of the Boat ramps: On 3 different days last Fall the WBL Lakeshore Association paid Christensen Construction to clear the Boat ramps of sand. Sunday September 1st, Saturday September 21st & Saturday October 5th, 2024. Total cost was \$1,750.00. It will be decided at the Fall 2025 Board meeting if this will again be done this coming Fall.

B) Trash Dumpster provided during the 2024 - 2025 Ice Fishing Season. Total cost was \$667.89. The Dumpster was in place from December 14th, 2024 through March 14th, 2025. No illegal dumping occurred.

6) The Crappie limit on West Battle Lake WAS CHANGED by the MN DNR from 10, to 5, daily, per Angler, as of Saturday March 1st, 2025. This has been an ongoing discussion for several years with the WBL Lakeshore Association. A BIG Thank you to now former Board member, Board Secretary & Fisheries committee leader John Hofflander for his diligence & excellent letter writing skills to the MN DNR on behalf of the WBL Lakeshore Association to reduce the Crappie limit. Well done John!

7) Float parties on West Battle Lake Summer 2025:

Saturday July 5th, Saturday July 12th, Saturday July 26th & Saturday August 2nd.

No further issues, questions, or concerns were voiced by any Board member attending the meeting.

Adjournment:

Saturday April 12th, 2025 at 11:30 a.m.

I would like to take a moment & thank everyone for all the work accomplished by our Board members. I joined the Board in July, 2016. It has been an honor to be a part of this group for the past 9 years. A year as Vice President, & the past 5 years as the Board President has definitely been interesting, entertaining, & at times very challenging dealing with County, State, & DNR issues. The time spent over the years was well worth it to take care of West Battle Lake. I want to wish the Board members continued success as I step away from the Board.

Tracy Rendz - Eldridge

West Battle Lake Lakeshore Association Board President (Retired as of Saturday April 12th, 2025).

Minutes Published Friday June 27th, 2025