

Stormy lake Association Annual Meeting Minutes, July 4, 2026

At 9:30 a.m. the meeting, was called to order at the Conover Center by President Bruce Campbell, followed by the group reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Board members in attendance: President Bruce Campbell, Treasurer Jim Sieber, Secretary Valerie Laabs, Directors Shirley Prieffer, Greg Cook, Steve Fox, Tom Navratil, Dave Soderman, and Past President Debbi Benson

Bruce welcomed everyone and asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of the Stormy Lake friends who had passed away this year: Greta Anderson, Joan Gursoy, Paul Miller, John Gantz, Mary Suttle, Russ Zick, and Doug Lindberg

Valerie asked attendees to review the printed minutes of the 2025 Annual Meeting and offer any corrections. The minutes were accepted as printed.

Bruce introduced guest speaker Marquita Sheehan, Conservation Specialist from the Vilas County Land and Water Conservation Department, who spoke for about 15 minutes about maintaining good water quality. She summarized an analysis that was completed of Stormy Lake in 2023; the complete survey results are on our website. Findings include (1.) Our lake is generally very clear with little weed growth but, as a small watershed area, the quality of our water depends on the properties abutting the lake. (2.) The key to maintaining clean water and not increasing algae is eliminating the use of phosphorous fertilizers. (3.) Submerged logs create food, shelter, and breeding areas for fish and enhance fishing. The average Vilas County lake has an average of 340 underwater logs per mile. Our lake has only 6 1/2 underwater logs per mile.

Vilas County Land and Water Conservation Department Recommendations:

1. If you must use fertilizer, choose only those where the middle number is 0. This indicates the amount of phosphorous.
2. Maintain or create a 35-to-40-foot buffer zone between the lake shore and personal landscaping or buildings
3. Avoid bare areas such as mowed grass or paving in the buffer zone. These permit significant runoff into the water.
4. Plant native plants and trees or allow existing native plants to grow.
5. Let trees that fall into the lake remain in place except in swimming and dock areas,
6. The Department will consult with any property owner regarding their waterfront and possible corrections or enhancements.
7. A Lake Association can become involved with the Department, in a variety of activities that help maintain lake clarity by creating native shoreline gardens or adding "fish sticks" to the lake.

Officer Reports

Bruce reviewed past Annual Meeting reports and shared some of the common and/or recurring concerns that property owners identified over the years. These included concerns about the boat landing, courtesy boating behavior, fireworks, noise, floodlights, fluctuating water levels, invasive species, fishery concerns. The Association had sponsored some fun competitions in the past including sailboat races, photography, fishing, and paddleboat races.

Bruce shared a few interesting anecdotes of the past; a possible trailer park across the road with keyhole lake access, and a heliport,

This year's highlights include:

- Development of our website, www.stormylakewi.org
- A monthly newsletter (Loon Call)
- A new printed directory
- Continued participation in CBCW (Clean Boats Clean Water)
- New merchandise available directly online through Bonfire.com
- Approval as a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. The Association can now receive (and have received) donations.
- Obtained Directors and Officers liability insurance for the first time
- Paid memberships in the Vilas County Lakes and Rivers Association and the Wisconsin Lakes Association.

A Treasurers Report was printed in the attendees' packet of information. A question was asked about paying for the Clean Boats Clean Water initiative, and it was confirmed that we had received full reimbursement.

There was no lake clarity report

Valerie reported that the Lake is home to one loon family, two adults and a baby. They are out and about and often difficult to see. Please be aware as you boat.

Committee reports:

- A financial audit has been conducted
- The Nominating Committee asked several people to stand for the open Director position. No one volunteered, and no nominations from the Meeting floor were forthcoming.

Old Business:

- New signage for the boat landing will be a project in 2026-2027
- CBCW (Clean Boats Clean Water) contact Jim Sieber reported that we have better coverage on weekends this year. This is a useful activity that informs all those who use the landing to do their part to stop the spread of invasive species by cleaning their boat, bilge and trailer every time entering or leaving a lake

New Business:

- A written Constitutional amendment proposal was included in the packet. It was designed to align our Constitution with the current best practice of limited one vote per property. The proposal was unanimously approved.

Summer and Fall 2026 Social Events”

- The annual Boat Parade will be held today at 3 p.m.
- A Potluck breakfast gathering will be held on August 8 from 9-11 at Val and Dennis Laabs Six Birches, 4234 West Stormy Lake Road
- Adopt a highway clean-up will be hosted by the Association this fall

Members are encouraged to read and volunteer for one of the following activities:

- Philanthropy advisory group—where should our contributions go
- DNR Citizen Lake Monitoring Network
- Vilas County Lakes and Rivers Association contact
- Wisconsin Lakes Association contact
- Schedule a free fire safety property inspection by contacting Conover fire chief Rob Martinson (conoverfirechief2022@gmail.com)

Election of Officers:

- Steve Fox agreed and was unanimously re-elected for a second term
- Tom Navratil was thanked for his 12 years of service to Stormy Lake as President and as a Director
- One Director position remains unfilled

Check out www.stormylakewi.org for information about Lake history, the 2023 lake survey results, upcoming happenings, order SLA merchandise, Lake Directory, great photos of wildlife, and more.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.