



## Lakes Committee Meeting Minutes

01/23/2025

10:00 AM

Lake County Central Permit Facility, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Medium Conference Room  
500 W. Winchester Road Libertyville, IL 60048

### 1. Call the meeting to order

Alana Bartolai, Lakes Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:01.

### 2. Roll call

Anna Niedzinski, DRWW Coordinator performed role call. Members present: **Alana Bartolai**, Lake County Health Department (LCHD); **James Bland**, EPS Inc.; **Rob Flood**, Northshore Water Reclamation District, Gages Lake Conservation Committee; and **Nick Huber**, Lake County Forest Preserve District (LCFPD). A quorum was present. James Bland, EPS, Inc. entered at 10:11am.

Others present: Anna Niedzinski Lake County Stormwater Management Commission (SMC); Alyssa Casey, Sylvan Lake Improvement Association; and Tom Casey, Loch Lomond Lake Management.

### 3. Public Comment

Tom Casey, Loch Lomond Lake Management, informed the Committee that Lake County Lake Lovers (LCLL) acquired 2 water quality testing devices that will be used as a shared resource for lakes communities within Lake County. Bland added additional information, the probes contain 4 sensors for Dissolved Oxygen, pH, Temperature, and Chlorophyll. There are plans by the LCLL to train a core group of volunteers with science backgrounds to utilize the probe. There are still concerns on where the devices will be stored and calibrated.

### 4. Approval of Meeting Minutes

#### a. \*October 24, 2024 Lakes Committee Meeting Minutes

Flood motioned to approve July 25, 2024 Lakes Committee Meeting minutes, seconded by Bland. Motion passed with consensus vote.

### 5. Old Business

#### a. Update of Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program (VLMP)

Bartolai provided an update on the status of the VLMP program. The VLMP Coordinator met with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to discuss if Illinois EPA can reestablish the program, currently the agency supports the program but does not have the staffing capability to run the program. There are discussions with Riverwatch to have them run the VLMP, however the organization is limited through funding. Flood asked if LCHD has to capacity to build a Lake County Program. Bartolai replied that LCHD does run a County program however they collect limited amount of parameters due to staff obligations which is dictated by funding, which is why there is interest in having a statewide organization run the VLMP.

**b. Update on Leaf Collection Survey**

Bartolai provided an update on the Leaf Collection Survey. It was approved by the Monitoring Committee and Executive Board for distribution. The survey will be distributed at the upcoming Annual Membership meeting on February 20, 2025 and included with the annual membership dues email.

**6. New Business**

**a. 2025 DRWW Lake Education Events**

Bartolai opened to floor for discussion of upcoming education events within the Des Plaines River (DPR) watershed and to discuss topics to discuss. Bland informed the committee that the LCLL will have an educational meeting on February 4, 2025. Tom Casey advocated for topics on emerging technologies to improve water quality. Alyssa Casey suggested presentations to lake managers on identifying beneficial aquatic plants. The LCHD will follow-up with the Lakes Committee on setting up a lakes management forum for the summer.

**b. Update on Illinois Lakes Management Association (ILMA)**

Bartolai provided an update on the upcoming ILMA conference in March 17-19, 2025. Illinois EPA will have a representative presenting on available funding.

**c. 2026 Lakes Committee Meeting Schedule Change Discussion**

Bartolai suggested adding an additional meeting to the 2026 schedule. Currently the DRWW by-laws state that committees should meet quarterly. There was a general consensus that the Lakes Committee should meet more frequently. Niedzinski suggested to the committee moving the Lakes Committee meeting from the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month, in order to relay updates to the Monitoring Committee and Executive Board in a timelier fashion.

**7. Member Remarks**

Bland brought to the attention of the committee the recent outbreaks of bird-flu, and the potential that the virus could break-through to infect humans. Bartolai provided an update on the status of bird flu outbreaks in Lake County. Illinois Department of Natural Resources is not investigating bird flu outbreaks. LCHD has more information on their website.

Bland wanted to thank Niedzinski for taking the meeting minutes.

**8. Meeting Dates:**

- a. DRWW General Membership Meeting: February 20, 2025 from 1:30pm-3:30pm, Lake County Public Works (650 W. Winchester Road, Libertyville, Conference Room)
  
- b. DRWW Lakes Committee Meeting: July 24, 2025 from 10:00am-11:00am, Lake County Central Permit Facility (500 W. Winchester Road, Libertyville, IL 60048, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Medium Conference Room)

**9. Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn by Flood, seconded by Huber. Motion passed with unanimous vote, Bartolai adjourned the meeting at 11:05.