



Lakes Committee Meeting Minutes
07/24/2025
10:00 AM
Lake County Central Permit Facility, 2nd 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 10:04.

2. Roll call

Anna Niedzinski, DRWW Coordinator performed role call. Members present: **Alana Bartolai**, Lake County Health Department (LCHD); **Rob Flood**, Northshore Water Reclamation District, Gages Lake Conservation Committee; **Tom Morthorst**, Village of Third Lake; **Brian Valleskey**, Geosyntec Consultants; and **Nick Huber**, Lake County Forest Preserve District (LCFPD). A quorum was present.

Others present: Anna Niedzinski Lake County Stormwater Management Commission (SMC); Ashley Strelcheck, SMC; Alyssa Casey, Sylvan Lake Improvement Association; James Fitzgerald, LCHD; Nick Psimaras, LCHD; and Tom Casey, Loch Lomond Lake Management.

3. Public Comment

Tom Casey, Loch Lomond Lake Management, is starting to form a small group of lake managers to share information and resources. Casey and Allysa Casey, Sylvan Lake Improvement Association feel like they are reinventing the wheel because of the turnover among lakes managers.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes

a. *January 23, 2025 Lakes Committee Meeting Minutes

Flood motioned to approve January 23, 2025 Lakes Committee Meeting minutes, seconded by Huber. Motion passed with consensus vote, with Morthorst abstaining.

5. Old Business

a. Update of Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program (VLMP)

Bartolai provided an update on the status of the VLMP program. 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 is still a search for a statewide government or non-governmental organization to run the program. Valleskey asked if anyone has investigated the cost of compiling VLMP data. Bartolai responded that no, but this can be brought to the Illinois Lakes Management Association because they several methods for collecting data. The North American Lake Management Society (NALMS) has a public-facing database which can be shared with local lakes groups, which the DRWW Lakes Committee can try to promote.

b. Update on Leaf Collection Survey

Bartolai provided an update on the DRWW Leaf Collection Survey. The survey received only two responses. The Committee agreed that the survey should be brought to the upcoming August DRWW General Meeting; providing a physical copy of the survey during the meeting with additional email reminders to the membership. Morthorst expressed disappointment on the low response rate and brought up if there was a way to reach homeowners considering proper leaf collections. Several methods were proposed; having municipalities putting leaf collection information in utility bills, premade articles to include in village newsletters, or seasonal reminders to municipalities. The actions of the Committee will be determined by the result of the leaf survey.

c. Update on Illinois Lakes Management Association (ILMA)

Bartolai provided an update on ILMA activities. ILMA had their annual conference in Northbrook in March 2025. ILMA is interested in partnering on education and outreach events, and will be partnering with LCHD to host an educational event on July 30, 2025 on Bangs Lake concerning aquatic invasive species.

6. New Business

a. Compilation of Phosphorus Education Materials

Bartolai notified the Committee that the Nutrient Assessment Reduction Plan (NARP) suggests compiling phosphorus education resources, and it was suggested by the Monitoring Committee that the Lakes Committee could begin the process. It was discussed that there is a lot of materials regarding phosphorus reduction, but it needs to be more organized to make it easier to access for homeowners and municipalities.

b. Lakes Committee Role in Education and Outreach for DRWW Discussion

Bartolai opened the floor for discussion for Lakes Committee role in education and outreach for the DRWW. The Lakes Committee was formed because the Des Plaines river watershed has a large number of lakes which affects the hydrology of the watershed. Many implementation tasks listed in the NARP focus on education and outreach and the Committee has been moving forward with those tasks. There was a consensus that the Committee should continue with the education component. There was discussion on the methods of reaching out to lakes groups, municipalities, and homeowners. It was suggested that the Committee should create a lakes directory in addition to templates for lakes management associations.

c. Upcoming DRWW Lake Education Events

Bartolai notified the Committee that there are no DRWW led education events upcoming but opened the floor for other members to announce any upcoming events. Flood mentioned that Lake County Lake Lovers does monthly education events. Morthorst mentioned that LCFPD is performing a project on Mill Creek which will act as both flood storage for Third Lake and a plant nursery. The Lakes Committee would like to more information on this project at an upcoming meeting.

d. Jim Bland Resignation

Bartolai notified the Committee that Jim Bland submitted his resignation from the Monitoring and Lakes Committee. EPS Inc., which Bland represents, is still a member of the DRWW.

7. Member Remarks

There were no member comments.

8. Meeting Dates:

- a. DRWW General Membership Meeting: August 21, 2025 from 1:30pm-3:30pm, Lake County Central Permit Facility (500 W. Winchester Road, Libertyville, 2nd Floor Conference Room)
- b. DRWW Lakes Committee Meeting: October 23, 2025 from 10:00am-11:00am, Lake County Central Permit Facility (500 W. Winchester Road, Libertyville, IL 60048, 2nd Floor Medium Conference Room)

9. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Morthorst, seconded by Valleskey. Motion passed with unanimous vote, Bartolai adjourned the meeting at 11:16.