



Lakes Committee Meeting Minutes

10/23/2025

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 10:02am.

2. Roll call

Ashley Strelcheck, interim DRWW Coordinator, Lake County Stormwater Management Commission performed roll call. Members present: **Alana Bartolai**, Lake County Health Department (LCHD); **Rob Flood**, North Shore Water Reclamation District, Gages Lake Conservation Committee; **Gerry Urbanozo**, LCHD; **Tom Morthorst**, Village of Third Lake (entered at agenda item 5a); and **Nick Huber**, Lake County Forest Preserve District (LCFPD). A quorum was present.

Others present: James Fitzgerald, LCHD; and Sarah Skolozynski, SMC.

3. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes

a. *July 24, 2025 Lakes Committee Meeting Minutes

Flood motioned to approve July 24, 2025 Lakes Committee Meeting minutes, seconded by Urbanozo. 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 Lake County Health Department (LCHD) is in support of reinstating this program across the state. Strelcheck shared the July 24, 2025 Lakes Committee update again that the North American Lake Management Society has a public-facing database which can be shared with local lake groups, which DRWW can promote. Bartolai shared LCHD also has an existing database of lake groups, and LCHD currently has volunteers submitting lakes data through Survey123.

b. Update on Leaf Collection Survey

Strelcheck provided a printed summary of the Leaf Collection Survey, and asked Committee members how they wanted to use the survey results. The Committee was interested in seeing which members attended Winter Best Practices Workshops, adding a summary of the survey to the DRWW website, and getting more input from members' public works departments on their street sweeping programs. Bartolai thought it would be helpful to provide DRWW members with a handout on street sweeping permit requirements and best practices. Committee members subsequently reviewed permit language regarding street sweeping and leaf detritus. The Lakes Committee aims to have a draft street sweeping factsheet to review at the January 8, 2026 meeting.

c. Update on Illinois Lakes Management Association (ILMA)

Bartolai provided an update on ILMA activities. The annual conference is February 16-18, 2026, in Champaign, Illinois. Registration is opening soon.

d. Update on Compilation of Phosphorous Education Materials

Strelcheck provided an update on the compilation of phosphorous education materials for the DRWW. Lake County Stormwater Management Commission (SMC) and the U.S. EPA has a variety of resources. The goal is to utilize these resources for a DRWW Phosphorus Education Library webpage on the DRWW website. SMC will organize the materials into categories for the Committee review.

e. Update on Lakes Committee Role in Education and Outreach for DRWW Discussion

Bartolai provided an update on the July Lakes Committee meeting discussion regarding the Lakes Committee role in education and outreach on behalf of the DRWW. Urbanozo shared LCHD did educational events for Libertyville High School and Avon School. Hueber shared there is an ongoing Lake County Forest Preserve project near Third Lake; they are building a plant nursery. Lake County SMC is a project manager for a stream stabilization and compensatory storage project along Mill Creek (more updates will be provided when the project is fully completed).

f. Update on Upcoming DRWW Lake Education Events

Bartolai provided an update on upcoming DRWW Lake Education Events. This may be an opportunity next year to highlight some of the Lake Education event the LCHD and other local DRWW agencies perform in the DRWW annual newsletter.

6. New Business

a. DRWW Lakes Committee 2026 Meeting Schedule Discussion and Approval

Bartolai presented the following changes to the DRWW Lakes Committee 2026 Meeting Schedule: quarterly meetings and meetings held on the second Thursday of the month instead of the fourth Thursday of the month. Flood motioned to approve the DRWW Lakes Committee 2026 Meeting schedule, seconded by Morthorst. Motion passed with consensus vote.

b. Lakes Committee Two Open Positions: Nominations Discussion

Strelcheck provided an update on Lakes Committee members. Jim Bland, EPS has resigned from the Lakes Committee. Brian Valleskey, formerly of Geosyntec, Inc., is now with Baxter and Woodman. Valleskey plans on rejoining DRWW under Baxter and Woodman. Bartolai suggested reaching out to Gaby Rodriguez (Vernon Hills Park District) and the Village of Lindenhurst with Dave Kraft (Hey and Associates).

7. Member Remarks

Morthorst shared ABC 7 is airing a special on the Great Lakes on Sunday (October 26, 2025) at 11:00pm that may be of interest to this Committee.

8. Meeting Dates:

- a.** DRWW Lakes Committee Meeting: January 8, 2026 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 Huber. Motion passed with unanimous vote, Bartolai adjourned the meeting at 11:16am.