



BWLA Membership Meeting Minutes

Saturday, June 7, 2025

Location: Pierson Township Hall

MEETING NOTES

- **Call to Order – Laura Wiltz**
- **Roll Call – Ron Van Timmeren** (Present: Wiltz, Dykhous, Durren, Mead, Dazy, Cornelius, Hendrickson, Ferris, Krehbiel, Van Timmeren. Absent: Smith).
- **Approval of minutes from August 24, 2024, membership meeting (approved by Julien/Herrema)**
- **Opening Remarks – Laura Wiltz**
 - Thank you to the membership, board of directors, committee chairs and volunteers. Special thanks to committee chairs (applause).
 - Welcome if there are any new members in attendance.
- **Treasurer's Report - Respectfully Submitted/Signed/Jon Durren, Treasurer Dated June 7, 2025 – Approved (Underwood/Parks)**
 - See the attached full Treasurer's Report which is posted on the BWLA website.
- **Township Update – Dan Buyze**
 - The Township continues to make improvements to the park next to the township hall. Shaded areas added near the pickleball courts and more kid toys coming soon. Basketball court finished/look great.
 - The Township has completed five-year Master Plan! Document can be viewed on the Pierson Township website.
- **Ecology – Dave Cornelius**
 - A full report is attached. Overall the lake is in fantastic shape! Not included in the attached report is new information regarding PFOS levels in fish. The standard of measurement has been adjusted resulting in the 2018 data taken from our lake fish triggering a warning not to eat more than four meals a month of fish caught in our lake. There will be more testing done to update that 2018 data. Dan Buyze reported that the new test wells nearest our lake resulted in a "non-detect" for PFOS/PFAS.
 - **Special Assessment District (SAD)** - a \$217 assessment tied to winter taxes for weed control is set to expire. Motion to approve (Julien/Gilfillan) was made to extend this tax

for another five years (2025 - 29). Unanimously approved by verbal vote. A June 16 public hearing is scheduled.

- **Sewer Report – Dan Buyze**

As we all learned, over the last year it was discovered that our proprietary sewer system is badly in need of improvements. Much work and research has been done resulting in several next steps identified:

- North treatment site needs to update a metering/measuring system in order to comply with new EGLE requirements that includes daily reporting of usage. Cost shared 60%/40% with Little Whitefish Lake
- South treatment site is now officially incorporated into a single sewer district that includes both North and South treatments sites. **The South site is failing due to age and needs to be replaced.** Bids are being requested now. Costs are 100% BWL responsibility but obviously a failure of the south site impacts the entire lake
- North site capacity continues to be a challenge as the Gallons Per Day occasionally reaches maximum capacity. Just what needs to be done and the cost is still to be determined.
- The overall costs for these updates/improvements will likely to be more than the \$620,000 we have in reserve now. The Sewer Advisory Committee will update members on all the cost/payment issues as soon as possible (bids due in six weeks). Discussed the potential for a one-time assessment to members to cover any shortfall.

- **Conservation, trash, yard waste – Ron Van Timmeren**

- Our sewer system peaks during the summer months of July and August as the flow of water down the drain/into our sewer system reaches as high as 53,000 gallons per day. Tips on how to conserve water were discussed with more information found on page 93 in the 2025 lake directory.
- Republic offers recycling and trash disposal that is free to Pierson Township residents. Residents need only to apply (in the office at the scale) for a "paddle" that identifies you as a resident. This entitles you to drop three bags of trash once per week (plus recycling materials) into the dumpsters next to the recycling area.
- Yard waste/leaves may no longer be blown/deposited along the road (particularly along Dagget on the golf course side) that the county recently excavated for drainage and planted grass. Yard waste should be dumped at the Republic yard waste area using your paddle for access.
- Discussed making our roadside look better by moving the Republic containers back from the road/hidden as best we can after pick up on Monday. Hopefully everyone will take a look at how their property looks from the road and make improvements as necessary.

- Once again this year the board financially supported the purchase of supplies needed to recycle about 20 blue winter/temporary boat covers. Over the three years we have supported this effort we successfully kept about 60 big plastic covers from getting dumped in a landfill.
- **Hillis Road (tennis/pickleball courts) Update – Mike Dazy/Laura Wiltz**
 - Mike Dazy gave a recap of the upgrades made to the Hillis Road property. Courts have been resurfaced, new nets were donated, benches have been purchased, brush has been cleared out and the parking lot has been resurfaced with crush concrete. All this survived the winter remarkably well!
 - Next is building a storage shed. Looking into costs.
- **Committee Reports**
 - Communication – Judy Warner: Please continue to check for email and Facebook page communications. If there are any contact information changes or problems with using the website, please reach out to Judy Warner.
 - Fireworks – Mark Wiltz/Jerry Poisson: Fireworks will be held on July 4 in 2025. Volunteers are needed to help stage the pontoon barges and clean up after. Please contact Mark Wiltz to sign up. Members are encouraged to purchase/display flares on July 4...available on Amazon (reusable). Page 25.
 - Boat Parade – Laura Wiltz is passionately challenging all members to make this year's boat parade the best ever! Theme is "your favorite sports team" (pro, college or high school). Page 27
 - Mix and Mingle – was held May 30. Good time had by all in spite of the cool weather. Discussed moving the event back a week next year to June 5, 2026
 - Pickleball Social – Laura O'Rourke announced the social will be June 14 from 11am - 1pm. Just show up - no sign up required. The round robin tournaments will be held in July and August (dates TBD).
 - Spearing Contest – Dan Buyze: July 26. Page 33
 - Fishing Contest – Kelley Root: July 19. Always one of the highlights of the summer! Thank you to Jerry and Cindy Poisson for hosting the hot dog cook out again. Looking for volunteers! Page 35.
 - Golf Outing – Mary Underwood announced the golf outing will be August 9 at The Links of Bowen Lake. Big group expected again this year Page 31
 - Fun Run/Walk, pie eating contest, balloon toss– Kelley Root: July 4. Once again volunteers are needed for a short time that morning. Page 25.
 - Boating safety - Jacque Brayman would like all members to read over the boating safety information on pages 70 - 79. It is imperative all members, their families and guests follow these rules for the safety of everyone. Special mention was given to being aware of the many shallow areas in our lake-especially between

the the grass island and the West shore/point. Slow down, trim your engine and observe the "no wake" rule for that area.

- Apparel - Jaye Lynn Bergers reports no new apparel for 2025...new stuff for 2026. She also announced there will be a pre Fourth of July contest called **Float, Find and Figure It Out** (6/28-30). Details to come.

- **Board of Director - Fall Election**

There are two or three seats where terms are expiring this fall. Always looking for new board members who would like to be more involved in our community!

Property Use - Laura Wiltz requests anyone looking to use lake assets such as the fireworks pontoon barges or the tennis/pickleball courts to first notify a board member.

- **No comments questions or new business. Adjourn 10:47- Emery/O'Rourke.**