

**MONTHLY MEETING OF THE WIND LAKE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**Norway Town Hall**

**Tuesday April 28, 2026**

**7:00 pm**

Present: Chairman Mike Bluemel, Treasurer Todd Flunker, Secretary Jeremy Sauld, County Rep Joe Bellante, Town Rep Mike Lyman, and Commissioners Pat Calliari and Jim Bluemel.

5 citizens were present for the meeting.

**Minutes**

**Meeting Called to Order by M Bluemel at 7:00pm with the Pledge of Allegiance**

**USGS Monitoring Presentation by Mrs. Oliver**

-M Bluemel introduced Mrs. Oliver from the United States Geological Survey (USGS) noting that she had come tonight to present on information that USGS monitors pertaining to Wind Lake.

The following are key points from Mrs. Oliver's presentation:

- USGS has monitored Wind Lake for ~40 years, including water quality sampling and operation of water level gauges at the dam (headwater funded by district, tailwater by Racine County).
- Wind Lake is currently in the top 1% of lakes regarding historical data available.
- Monitoring includes phosphorus, chlorophyll, salts (chloride/sodium), metals, and full depth profiles (temperature, oxygen, pH)
- Alum treatments (1997, 2011) correspond with a notable improvement in water quality.
- Spring runoff is a significant water quality risk; watershed inputs strongly influence lake conditions. Spring runoff events are generally a greater concern than summer storms due to lack of vegetation and higher potential nutrient loading.
- Increasing salt (chloride) levels are a major concern; Wind Lake is among the highest in the region and is approaching or exceeding EPA chronic thresholds for aquatic life.
- Salt primarily comes from road use in winter and is very difficult and costly to remove once in the water. Prevention (reducing application) is the most effective strategy as there are no practical biological or mechanical methods to remove salt from lake water.
- Watershed inputs (including upstream lakes and runoff) significantly influence lake conditions; a full water/phosphorus "mass balance" study could help target controllable sources.
- Additional monitoring (e.g., inflows or stormwater pipes) is possible but may have limited impact unless tied to actionable management strategies.
- Long-term data is valuable; further detailed analysis (especially post-2011 trends and sediment phosphorus) is recommended when considering a future alum treatment.

**Approve Minutes for March 24, 2026 Meeting**

-M Bluemel called for a discussion on the March meeting minutes. Calliari motioned to approve the minutes as presented. J Bluemel seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

## **Treasurers Report**

-Flunker provided written and verbal reports for the period of March 24<sup>th</sup> to April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Motion by Sauld to approve the treasurer's report as presented, seconded by Bellante. Motion passed 6-0.

## **Public Comments**

-Patty Mueller (25011 Loomis Rd) inquired if there would be a goose roundup this year. Flunker noted the decision is typically made later in May and the roundup has typically occurred in June. A short discussion amongst the board followed.

## **Information and Correspondence**

-Bellante noted that he talked to staff from Solitude and the chemical treatment permit application has been submitted. Additionally, notice has been posted in the Waterford Post.

-M Bluemel noted that he has had correspondence with Tom Halter regarding Wind Lake's water level and dam operation. Tom advised that he will slowly be closing down the dam to allow farmers downstream an opportunity to pump water out of their fields. A short discussion amongst the board followed

## **New Business**

### **a. USGS Monitoring Presentation by Mrs. Oliver – Discussion and Possible Action**

-Presentation moved to earlier in meeting.

### **b. No Wake Discussion – Discussion and Possible Action**

M Bluemel noted that the no wake emergency had been lifted. A short discussion on in improving communication of future no wake emergencies followed. No action taken at this time.

### **c. Sadler Drive, Tree in the Canal – Discussion and Possible Action**

Sauld noted that the district received an email regarding a tree that had fallen into the canal coming into Wind Lake and is impeding navigation. Sauld went to the property of the individual who had contacted the district and spoke with the homeowner. Sauld also reached out to the DNR to discuss and was informed that the DNR does not remove trees that fall into the water if caused by natural causes. Lyman noted that the town does not currently have an ordinance regarding this issue but that he would bring it up for discussion at the next town board meeting. A short discussion amongst the board followed. No action taken at this time.

### **d. USCG Boat Inspections / DNR Land Use Agreement – Discussion and Possible Action**

-M Bluemel noted that the current Land Use Agreement with the DNR will need to be renewed if the USCG Boat Inspection program is to continue. A short discussion amongst the board followed. It was noted that in the past, most boat owners avoided the inspection and participation numbers were routinely low. The

consensus amongst the board was to not renew the land use agreement with the DNR at this time.

### **Old Business**

**a. Update on Fence Completion – Discussion and Possible Action**

-The fence is complete and final adjustments will be made once harvester is removed from the property and grading is completed. A short discussion amongst the board followed.

**b. Discussion on Weed Harvesting – Discussion and Possible Action**

**i. Weed Pickup – Proposal by Jerry Kotarak**

-M Bluemel presented the board with a proposal from Jerry Kotarak to pick-up roadside weeds nine times this summer for a fee of \$1,800 per pickup. 2026 roadside weed pickup dates include: 6/8, 6/22, 7/6, 7/20, 8/3, 8/17, 8/31, 9/14, and 9/28. Jerry has also submitted a bid to renew trucking of weeds from the weed cutter at a rate of \$90/hr. Bellante motioned to approve the proposal for roadside weed pickup including the nine proposed pickup dates at a cost of \$1,800/pickup. Sauld seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0. Sauld then motioned to approve the proposal of \$90/hr for trucking of weeds from the weed cutter. Flunker seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

**ii. Harvesting Operators – Jerry Kotarak Update**

-M Bluemel updated the board that Jerry Kotarak has accepted the position as Harvesting Program Manager for 2026. A short discussion regarding Harvesting Operators was then had amongst the board. Following the discussion on operators, M Bluemel noted that the new harvester will be scheduled the week of May 18<sup>th</sup>. Calliari then noted that the new harvester runs on gas instead of diesel. A short discussion amongst the board followed regarding how to efficiently transport and refuel the harvesters.

**c. Lighted Buoys Update**

-Sauld noted that the buoys have been ordered and we are just awaiting delivery.

### **Adjourn**

-Motion by Sauld to adjourn at 8:47 pm, second by J Bluemel. Motion passed 6-0.

Note: The next monthly meeting will tentatively be held at the Norway Town Hall on Tuesday, May 19, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting dates are subject to change. Consult **WLMD.org** for the latest information.