

2025-08-19 LLBDM Meeting Minutes

Meeting Header

- **Title:** Lake Association Formation Meeting
- **Date:** August 19, 2025
- **Time:** 6:31 PM – 7:52 PM CDT
- **Location/Platform:** Neenah Public Library
- **Attendees:**
 - Danielle Rand (Facilitator)
 - Steve Erb
 - Chris Rand (Communications/Web)
 - Tim Nelson
 - Cliff Halley
 - Nick Heinrich
 - Additional community members
- **Absent Members:**
 - Dick Sturm

Executive Summary

The Lake Association Formation Meeting provided updates on steps taken toward creating a community-led association for Little Lake Butte des Morts. Key outcomes included the agreement to finalize bylaws and establish the initial board of directors by the end of 2025, the plan for incorporating broad-based membership, and a focus on outreach, fundraising, and addressing lake management issues. Significant discussions centered on funding sources, organizational structure, and immediate lake priorities like invasive species and water quality.

Discussion Points by Agenda Topic

1. Welcome & Introductions

- Danielle Rand (Facilitator) opened the meeting, explained her volunteer role, and introduced the organizing committee.
- Emphasis on the group's mission: creating a legally sound, sustainable association dedicated to lake protection.

2. Membership Parameters

- Membership will be inclusive, with no geographic limitation—open to anyone.
- Statutory guidelines allow anyone within a 1-mile radius of the lake; committee seeks broader participation.

3. Value and Activities of a Lake Association

- The association will raise funds, apply for grants, coordinate lake management, enter contracts, and act as a voice for the lake community.
- Building a nonprofit structure will enable access to public/private grant opportunities.

4. Funding Sources and Commitments

- Initial year municipal pledges of \$5,000 each from Neenah and Menasha; Fox Crossing's participation not yet confirmed.
- Additional funding to be sought from state/federal grants (DNR, surface water, boating grants), community foundations, private donors, membership dues.

5. Survey Results & Community Concerns

- 2024 Fox Wolf Watershed survey: 441 responses, identified top concerns: algae blooms, excessive plant growth, water quality, and water level fluctuations.
- Survey to guide priorities; plan for future member-driven surveys.

6. Governance Structure & Timeline

- Organizing committee active; seeking more volunteers, especially with financial, legal, or project management experience.
- Draft bylaws and recruit board by end of 2025.
- Incorporate and hold board elections by Nov/Dec 2025.
- First official board meeting and grant applications targeted for January 2026.

7. Outreach & Stakeholder Engagement

- Committee to continue leveraging the website (llbdm.org), social channels, and

email bulletins for transparency and engagement.

- Ongoing liaison efforts with municipalities and lake stakeholders (property/business owners, recreational users).
- Plan to expand membership outreach, including new residents (e.g., 2026 retirement community development).

8. Lake Management Topics

- **Weed Cutting/Harvesting:** Feasibility confirmed; city of Neenah piloting harvesting at Arrowhead Park. Weed management possible with DNR permits and grants.
- **Invasive Species:** Specific committees to be formed as needed; current threat includes the round goby and milfoil.
- **Lock Issue:** Recognized as a high public concern; strategy will balance DNR/fisheries guidance and member input.
- **Property Rights:** Riparian rights allow landowners certain self-directed weed management without a permit.
- **Engagement in Fox Crossing:** Need to increase awareness and participation, as 90% of the lake border falls under this jurisdiction.

9. Open Forum/Q&A

- Residents asked about lock reopening, Fox Crossing's funding status, realistic weed management scenarios, and committee volunteer opportunities.
- Clarification given on municipal funding and outreach efforts.

Decisions Made & Responsible Parties

- **Finalize bylaws:** Organizing Committee, target by November 2025
- **Recruit board of directors:** Committee with assistance from broader volunteers, by end of Dec 2025
- **Proceed with incorporation and board election:** Committee, targeted Nov–Dec 2025
- **Ongoing website/social management:** Chris Rand
- **Municipal & public engagement:** Steve Erb and committee

Action Items

- Danielle Rand: Lead continued organizing efforts, coordinate bylaws drafting
- Steve Erb: Maintain municipal liaison, outreach to Fox Crossing officials
- Chris Rand: Maintain website, manage communications and updates
- All Members: Encourage broader Fox Crossing participation, volunteer for organizing committee or subcommittees
- Committee: Complete bylaws and structure for incorporation by target dates
- ALL: Raise issues/concerns via website, support outreach and recruitment

Deadlines:

- Bylaws and board recruitment finalized: August–December 2025
 - Incorporation and board election: Nov–Dec 2025
 - First board meeting and grant application start: January 2026
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Next Steps & Follow-Up

- Expand committee with new volunteers
 - Promote website for updates and transparency
 - Schedule next organizing meeting (TBD; updates via email and llbdm.org)
 - Plan for ongoing communication and feedback process
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Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 PM CDT.
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Unresolved Issues/Items for Follow-Up

- Final inclusion of Fox Crossing as a funding entity
 - Board recruitment (especially with financial, legal, or project expertise)
 - Ongoing: Member-driven prioritization of lake management activities (future surveys)
 - Coordination and clarity with DNR on permits/harvesting protocols
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Document prepared for organizational record and public reference.