



Welcome Fellow LLBDM Advocates!

Community Update and
Formation Meeting

Tuesday, August 19, 2025

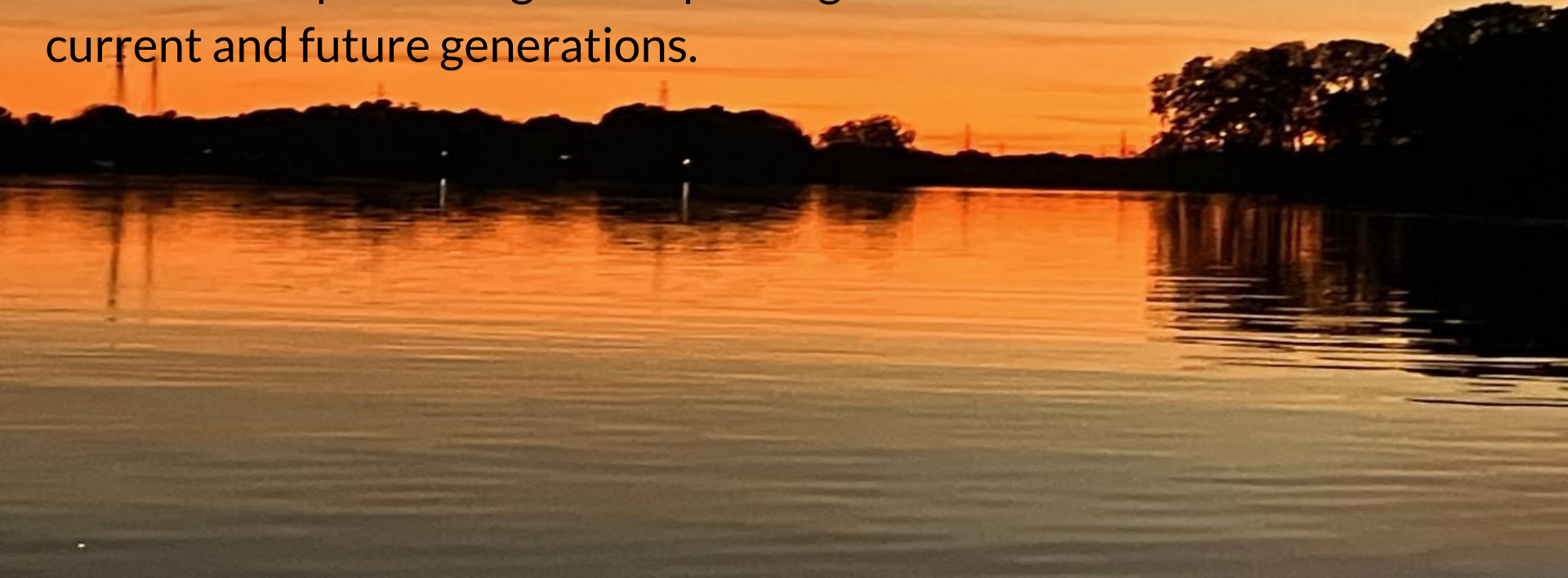
6:30 pm to 8:00 pm

Shattuck Room

Neenah Public Library

Mission

Our mission is to establish a community-led, qualified lake association dedicated to protecting and improving Little Lake Butte Des Morts for current and future generations.



Who Can Join The Lake Association?

- Wisconsin Statutes require membership be open to those minimally within 1 mile radius of the body of water. The organizing committee recommends no geographical limit on membership to maximize participation and municipal financial support.
- 258,000 people in the Fox Cities metro area.

517

Lake & River
Property Owners
(table on right)

County	City	Section	Family Residences	Condo Owners	Businesses
Little Lake	Butte des Morts and Fox River*		404	90	23
Outagamie			73	0	12
	City of Appleton		65	0	11
	Town of Grand Chute		8	0	1
Winnebago			331	90	11
	Village of Fox Crossing		251	90	5
	City of Neenah		24	0	5
	City of Menasha		56	0	1

What Can a Lake Association Do?

Qualified Lake Associations

Abilities:

- Require dues/raise funds
- Be eligible for state lake grants
- Borrow money (loans will need to be secured by assets)
- Make contracts
- Acquire and sell property
- Sue and be sued
- Have educational programs
- Communicate with units of government & others
- Conduct lake management activities such as:
 - Monitor water quality
 - Inventory/monitor aquatic plants
 - Manage invasive/nuisance aquatic plants
 - Purchase lands to protect sensitive areas
 - Restore wetlands
 - Develop erosion control programs
 - Develop long-range lake management plans



**And
More!**

Lake Association Objectives

- Form a legally sound nonprofit organization to meet public and private grant requirements.
- Unite LLBDM communities (Neenah, Menasha, Fox Crossing, Appleton and Grand Chute) for collective action.
- Secure financial resources (municipal seed funding, state/DNR grants) for lake improvement projects.

Lake Association Objectives (continued)

- Build a sustainable structure for ongoing stewardship and responsible water management.
- Ensure open membership and representation: individuals, families, businesses and organizations who support our mission.
- Foster community outreach, education and engagement to expand support and impact.

Leadership Transition Flow

- Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance helped launch our association effort, but has stepped back due to changes in support terms and focus.
- Our new Organizing Committee—made up of dedicated local volunteers—now guides the formation process.
- We continue to rely on expert partners, including the UW Extension Lakes Program, which supports hundreds of Wisconsin lake associations.
- Our path forward is modeled on proven, successful approaches used by lake associations statewide.
- This transition ensures cost-effective leadership rooted in community, with full access to statewide resources and best practices.

Organizing Committee

- Organizing Committee leads lake association formation efforts
- Members drive progress and achieve objectives
- Roles are crucial for successful lake protection
- We value our committee members' dedication



Dani Rand - Facilitator
Chris Rand - Communications
Steve Erb - Municipal Liason

Tim Nelson, Cliff Halley, Nick
Heinritz, Dick Sturm - Contributing
Members

LLBDM Concerns from Users

A 2024 survey mailed to shoreline property owners and open to the public generated 441 responses and identified 15 concerns with Little Lake Butte Des Morts. Item number 1 being the top response and ranked accordingly.

1. Algae blooms (Top concern for all)
2. Excessive aquatic plant growth
3. Poor water quality
4. Shoreline erosion
5. Water level fluctuations
(Rank 3 w/owners, 10 w/public)
1. Habitat loss
2. Aquatic invasive species
3. Shoreline development
9. Wastewater and industrial discharges
10. Polluted runoff
(farm/roads/residential)
11. Septic system discharges
12. Excessive watercraft traffic
13. Unsafe watercraft practices
14. Impacts of climate change
15. Excessive fishing pressures

Common Committees of Lake Associations

- Membership Committee
- Social Committee
- Finance Committee
- Land Use Committee
- Grant Writing Committee
- Boating Safety Committee
- Invasive Species Committee
- Aquatic Plant Committee
- Algae Mitigation Committee
- Municipal Coordination Committee



The Organizing Committee recommends that committees are not pre-established in bylaws, but are created by the Board based on prioritized issues once a lake association is formed.

Lake Association Funding

Where does the \$\$\$ come from?

Membership Fees/Dues - \$5 (min) to \$50 (max) per member

Municipal Funds - Neenah and Menasha has committed \$5000 each

State Funds - Typically Wi DNR - Recreational Boating Facilities Grants, Surface Water Grants (AIS, Lake Mgmt Planning, Boat Launch Monitoring, etc), Boating Infrastructure (BIG) Grants

Community Foundation of the Fox Valley Region

Fox Cities Convention and Visitors Bureau

Corporate Donors

Private Donors



Most sources require a detailed plan, strict financial controls and some level of “matching funds”.



What is Being Done Now?

- Draft Articles and Bylaws are underway
- Planning for 501(c)(3) status
- Getting the word out
- Website launched, see <https://llbdm.org/>.
- Email distribution list being transferred from FWVA

Timeline

Aug-Oct 2025: Bylaws &
Board Recruitment

Nov-Dec 2025: Incorporation
& Elections

Jan 2026: First Board
Meeting & Grant Applications





Board Recruitment



- Building a diverse and talented leadership team
 - Strengthening our association's capabilities
- Seeking project management, financial/bookkeeping and
legal expertise

Expanding Our Reach



Utilize website and social media for outreach

Send regular email bulletins to members


Engage actively with all stakeholders

Post Crescent Article



New Website: www.llbdm.org

LLBDM - LAKE ASSOCIATION

SEARCH 

HOME

ABOUT US

CONTACT US

LLBDM Lake Association Formation

Want to be a part of the forming lake association? Sign up for updates.

SIGN UP TODAY

GET MORE INFO

Discussion

- Please share your valuable feedback.



Potential Lake Association Names!

Little Lake Butte Des Morts Lake Association (or Organization)

Little Lake Butte Des Morts Waterway Association

Little Lake Butte Des Morts Basin Association

Little Lake Butte Des Morts and Fox River Association

Friends of Little Lake Butte Des Morts

Little Lake Butte Des Morts Citizens Association

Little Lake Butte Des Morts Supporters Network

Little Lake Butte Des Morts Stewards Association

Little Lake Butte Des Morts Advocates Association

Little Lake Butte Des Morts Alliance Association

Little Lake Butte Des Morts Improvement Association

Little Lake Butte Des Morts Advancement Association





Bylaws Discussion - Geography

What body/bodies of water are included in our definition of Little Lake Butte Des Morts?

The WI DNR defines the LLBDM boundaries from Neenah and Menasha Dams on the south to the northernmost end of Stroebe Island.

The Organizing Committee recommends including the Fox River section from Stroebe Island to Appleton Lock #1.

This recognized the contiguous waterway and conditions, brings in Outagamie County and the municipalities of Appleton and Grand Chute. This adds approximately 85 additional waterfront property owners and businesses to potential membership.

Bylaws Discussion - Dues/Votes/Proxies

- Dues/Fees
 - State statutes limit dues from \$5-\$50 per member. Organizing Committee discussion has led us to \$25 in order to maximize appeal and membership, especially beyond property owners. This will increase need for private, non-earmarked fundraising for overhead and non-project work.
- Voting
 - The Organizing Committee recommends 1 vote per membership, regardless of household size, organization or business. Multiple adults from a single household can have individual memberships.
- Proxy and Absentee Voting
 - The Organizing Committee recommends in-person (no proxy or absentee voting) due to challenges of verification, vote harvesting, etc (pending legal review).

Bylaws Discussion - Board of Directors and Officers

- Board of Directors
 - The Organizing Committee recommends 7 board members, elected to 2 year alternating terms, selected by the general membership at the annual meeting.
- Officers
 - The Organizing Committee recommends officer positions of: President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary, serving 1-year terms, chosen from and by the newly seated board each year.

Next Steps

- Organizing Committee will meet again in the coming weeks to continue working towards incorporation.
- Recruit additional board members.
- Continue community outreach, grow membership base, expand communication and gather feedback.
- Set date for founding meeting , board elections and bylaws adoption.
- Register nonprofit, start reviewing potential grant opportunities.

Thank You!

We appreciate your continued interest and support!

If you have the desire to be part of the organizing committee and/or a potential board member, please see Dani or go to <https://llbdm.org/> and send us a message!