



Crescent Lake Association Spring Member Meeting Minutes May 17, 2025 9:00am

Call to order

The Spring Member Meeting of the Crescent Lake Association was called to order by President Donna Stone at 9:25am after brunch. It was held at the Crescent Lake Bible Camp dining hall.

Donna welcomed new members to the Crescent Lake Association in attendance and asked them to introduce themselves.

Roll Call

All board members were present. A total 59 people attended the meeting.

Upcoming Board Member Election

Kay Gehrke, Board Member Nominating Committee Chairman, talked about the upcoming board member election coming up at the July Annual Member Meeting. The positions currently held by Donna Stone, Sandy McKitrick and Wendy Goldbach are up for election. Kay introduced the other members of the nominating committee: Chris Bendickson and Janell Solinsky (not attending). Mike Henry is the board member liaison for the committee. Donna Stone and Sandy McKitrick have offered to be considered for another term on the board. Wendy Goldbach will be resigning from the board after serving four years. Kay asked for volunteers to be considered along with Donna and Sandy for board membership.

The Impact of Wake Surfing on our Lakes

Mike Henry introduced the featured speakers for the education portion of our meeting. John Richter, Director, Last Wilderness Alliance and Chairman, Plum Lake Association along with Mary Jung, Board of Directors, Last Wilderness Alliance, together presented "The Impact of Inadequate Wake Surfing Regulations on our Lakes".

The mission of the Last Wilderness Alliance is to advocate for the protection of our natural resources to support the long-term viability for Wisconsin's Northwoods and beyond. They are currently involved with helping Wisconsin towns, lake groups and concerned citizens with

protection of their lakes from the damaging impacts of enhanced wake boating through enactment of local ordinances. A total of 51 local ordinances have been passed in Wisconsin and 76 organizations in the state have joined up to help with this effort.

Wake-enhanced boating differs from other boating in that the boat is plowing a large volume of water creating an enhanced wake behind the boat. In addition, due to the bow-up condition, the propwash can extend down to the bottom of the lake. Water is added to on-board ballast tanks to create the bow-up condition when moving. The bow-up restricts visibility of the boat operator's view of other boaters in front of the boat. The enhanced-wakes can interfere with other boating activities, creating unsafe conditions for other boaters in the vicinity, especially small boats, kayaks and canoes. Also, the enhanced wakes can cause shore erosion. The propwash can disturb plant life and fish nesting beds on the lake bottom.

Wisconsin state law does not regulate the minimum depth for wake-enhanced boating. Studies have shown that the minimum recommended depth is between 20 feet and 30 feet for safe wake-enhanced surfing.

The transfer of water-born aquatic invasive species is also a risk when the ballast system is drained back into the lake. It is difficult and likely impossible to fully drain all the ballast water from the wake surfing boats. The resulting transfer of water from lake to lake is a risk. Quagga mussels are a new invasive species found in the Great Lakes and are a threat to spread to other lakes. They have the potential to have effects similar to zebra mussels.

Experience thus far has shown the wake-enhanced boating local ordinances are self-enforcing. No citations have been submitted. The fine is driven by state boating laws which is \$500 for the first violation and \$1,000 for the next violation. All the local ordinances thus far have been written identically to simplify coordination and understanding. Citations can be issued by a local township employee who transfers it to the county clerk for enforcement of the fine.

Local ordinances enacted thus far prohibit the activity of wake-enhanced boating on lakes, rather than prohibit the use of a wake boat. Also, the ordinances do not specify the minimum acreage of the lake, depth or other specific measurements of a lake for wake-enhanced boating. The ordinances do contain a list of the lakes that are covered.

A suggestion was made by Mike Henry and others for interested Crescent Lake residents to attend upcoming Crescent Town Board meetings which will take up discussion of a potential ordinance regarding wake-enhanced boating. A suggestion was made by an association member to start a petition to reinforce the public's support for a local ordinance.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the Crescent Lake Association (CLA) Fall Member Meeting on 9/14/2024 were emailed to all current CLA members for review. There were no corrections or additions. A

motion to approve the minutes was made by Mike Henry and seconded by Sue Binder. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Sandy McKittrick provided copies of the 2025 budget report dated 5/15/2025. Sandy briefly reviewed the year-to-date income, disbursements, current checking and savings account balances. There were no questions.

New Member Information / Scholarship Committee

Joan Karls spoke about the information packets that are available to new members.

Joan then spoke about a study underway for consideration of a scholarship for a Rhinelander area student to help attend a college. The Crescent Lake Association has funds available that could be used to help a local student in the community. Joan is looking for a few volunteers to help with this study.

Joan also asked if there was any interest in a lake-wide garage sale to be held possibly at the Crescent Town Hall.

Crescent Lake District

Tim Kilgore thanked those in attendance for their support of the Crescent Lake District. Tim mentioned the good news that the DNR approved application of herbicide this summer in Crescent Lake. Terry Goldbach shared additional details on the application plans. Treatment is planned for some time during the week of June 9th. The area to be treated is along the northern shoreline along Highway 8, past the boat landing and south toward Pleasure Point.

Tim Kigore introduced Kathleen Ellis-Stifter who was appointed as the new Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW) coordinator by the Crescent Lake District. She spoke about her background on the lake and the new online signup system developed by Ryan Peterson for boat landing volunteering. Kaylee Brown will also be working to help with contacting volunteers for signup. The new system is called Zoomshift. Volunteers will need to setup a new account on the website before signing up.

CBCW Training is planned at the boat landing during the week of June 9th by Stephanie Boismenu, Oneida County Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator.

Merchandise

Donna mentioned that she is working with Vital Industries in Rhinelander on providing merchandise for sale to Crescent Lake residents. More details will be forthcoming.

July 4th Activities

Donna stated the boat parade is planned for Friday, July 4 at 2:00pm. The fireworks will also be on July 4th. Initial setup will be the morning of July 3rd with loading of the fireworks the afternoon of July 4th. Cleanup will be on July 5th.

Walleye Lake of Concern Project

Mark provided an update on the Walleye Lake of Concern project underway with the DNR, Mole Lake Band and Crescent Lake residents. This project was undertaken at the DNR's request starting in June of last year. The purpose is to obtain a better understanding of the decline of walleye reproduction on Crescent Lake and to take actions to facilitate recovery of the walleye population. The Crescent Lake Association initiated a voluntary catch-and-release policy last Fall. A sign is posted on the kiosk at the boat landing. The DNR took a couple steps with revised regulations over the last year. It proposed to the Wisconsin Conservation Congress, which met in April, two new special regulations for Crescent Lake. One regulation reduces the daily bag limit to one walleye with an 18-inch minimum length and a 22-to-28-inch protected slot. The other change is to the daily bag limit for largemouth and smallmouth bass to five fish per day with no size restrictions. These new regulations would likely go into effect in May of next year. In the interim, the current special regulation for walleye was superseded by the current ceded territory regulation for walleye which better protects immature walleyes. The interim regulation is a three fish daily bag limit, 15-inch minimum and a 20–24-inch protected slot. This change went into effect on May 3, 2025.

The DNR will be conducting a nearshore substrate study this summer to understand the habitat used by walleye for spawning on Crescent Lake. The DNR asked for a couple volunteers to accompany them during the survey.

The DNR will be stocking large walleye fingerlings (5 to 7 inch) again this summer.

The Mole Lake Band harvested 26 walleyes and 6 muskies during this Spring's spearfishing sessions. Terry Goldbach did accompany the Mole Lake Band during this year's event. This is a lower number of fish harvested than in previous years and is another sign of cooperation of all parties involved.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Donna Stone at 11:40am.

Mark Mergenthaler

Secretary

Date of approval

DRAFT