Unapproved Meeting Minutes

Date: August 17, 2026
Location: Pike Lake Fire Hall

Call to Order & Opening: President Mike Ida called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and welcomed all Board Members and community members in attendance. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Mike Ida. A quorum was confirmed in accordance with Association bylaws. It was noted that the meeting was being recorded via the OWL system.

Board Members Present: Mike Ida, Lisa Brandt, David Ebert, Thor Gunderson, Everett Sammis, Laura Witon, Jim Brandt, Jeff Witon, Mark Luoma, Steve Ave'Lallement, and Mike Duhr. **Absent:** Russ Schroeder. **Community Members Present:** 8.

A community member asked about the fish ladder. Mike explained the project has been on hold for several years due to a lack of funding. Additional questions were asked regarding declining fishing quality, musky stocking, and lake water levels. The Forest Service continues monitoring lake water levels, as water flow and lake levels remain key concerns for residents.

Secretary's Report: The June 26, 2026 meeting minutes were reviewed. **Motion to Approve:** 1st Mark Luoma, 2nd Jim Brandt. **Motion Approved.**

Treasurer's Report: Laura Witon reported $75.00 in membership renewals and $25.00 in donations during July. Current membership stands at 151 members. **Motion to Approve Treasurer's Report and Budget:** 1st Thor Gunderson, 2nd Everett Sammis. **Motion Approved.**

Fisheries Report: Dave Ebert addressed community member questions regarding fish stocking. The DNR stocks muskies on alternating years and does not allow supplemental stocking during off years, as it wants to evaluate natural reproduction. Walleye stocking is not permitted because natural reproduction remains adequate. Fish cribs are not recommended, but natural habitat improvements such as fish sticks and tree drops may be beneficial. Discussion followed regarding obtaining approval from property owners and the Forest Service to place trees in the lake. Dave noted that similar projects completed approximately 20 years ago improved fishing areas but required ongoing maintenance. Steve suggested that loggers could provide trees for placement. Jim asked about appropriate depths, and Dave responded that larger trees placed near shorelines would be most effective. Dave proposed forming a subcommittee to explore habitat opportunities. Mike I. asked Dave to lead the effort, and Dave agreed. Committee members include Jeff Witon, Mark Luoma, and Jim Brandt.

Water Quality Report: Mike I. explained the testing process, including monitoring water temperature and dissolved oxygen levels. Volunteers assist with testing, and all lakes in the chain were tested approximately two weeks ago. Results showed little change and continue to look good. Data has been submitted to the DNR for annual tracking.

Public Relations Report: Mike spoke on behalf of Derek and reported that the July newsletter had been distributed and reviewed by Board members.

Aquatic/Invasive Species Report: Steve reported that surveys were completed throughout the chain and conditions are similar to last year. Approximately 12 to 15 flowering invasive plants were identified. Areas of concern include the dam area, bays near the dam, McArthur Creek, and areas near Wild Goose Island. Most locations are on private property and require landowner permission before removal efforts can occur.

Old Business

Walleyes for Tomorrow: Mike I. reported that Kendall from the DNR denied the Association's request to participate in the Walleyes for Tomorrow frye program because natural walleye reproduction remains adequate under current DNR guidelines. Therefore, no frye permit will be issued. Mike shared this information with Al from Walleye's for Tomorrow. Steve stated that frye program would likely have limited impact but supports continuing discussions. Mike will remain in contact with Al, and Mike Duhr will attend the next Walleyes for Tomorrow meeting where the Pike Lake Chain will be discussed.

Trail Signage / Trail Brushing Update: Dave reported that the project remains under budget. Additional signs will be installed, along with trail brushing activities, will continue over the next few weeks.

Feedback from Noah on the I-LID Program: Noah has not responded. **Motion to Remove from the Agenda:** 1st Everett Sammis, 2nd Mike Duhr. **Motion Approved.**

Possible New Boat Landing Signage ("Help Us Care for Our Lakes"): Mike I. and Mark presented sample signs containing recommendations for panfish harvest limits. Survey results showed community support, and both the DNR and Forest Service approved the concept. Mike I. will send a rough draft of the sign to Steve Koznarek who will create the signs. **Motion to Proceed:** 1st Jim Brandt, 2nd Thor Gunderson. **Motion Approved.**

VRBO/Airbnb Outreach: Jeff compiled a list of Airbnb and VRBO properties to distribute Pike Lake Chain newsletters and brochures. Materials will also be distributed to local resorts. **Motion to Proceed:** 1st Jeff Witon, 2nd Jim Brandt. **Motion Approved.**

New Business

Life Jacket Stations and Fishing Line Recycling Tubes: Everett reported that all stations are in good condition. One infant life jacket was missing but has since been returned, and a replacement is available if needed. Mike D. reported that the fishing line recycling tubes have been emptied.

Welcome Wagon: Jeff has received an updated list and will begin contacting any new community members.

Vegetation Inspection on South End of Pike Lake: Mike I. and Mike D. inspected the area and found no invasive vegetation concerns.

Mailing Server Request: Derek requested funding for a new mailing server at a cost of **$129.60 per year**. The current free service limits outreach to active community members only. Upgrading to the new service plan would allow the Association to communicate with past community members and other contacts who are not currently active members, improving communication and outreach efforts. **Motion to Approve:** 1st Everett Sammis, 2nd Mark Luoma. **Motion Approved.**

Additional New Business: Fall Highway Cleanup is scheduled for October 17, 2026. Mike I. is also planning a community listening session sometime in October.

There will be no further meetings until next year unless circumstances require one. Mike will continue to update Board members regarding the VRBO/Airbnb outreach and signage projects.

Motion to Adjourn: 1st Thor Gunderson, 2nd Everett Sammis. **Motion Approved.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Brandt, Secretary