

**CROOKED LAKE AREA LAKES
PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
May 23, 2026**

The annual meeting of the Crooked Lake Area Lakes Protection and Rehabilitation District was held on Saturday, May 23, 2026, at the Crooked Lake Community Center in the Town of Riverview, WI. The following were in attendance:

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|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Commissioners: | Brian Webb, Chair | Also present: |
| | Pam Wierzba, Secretary | Dave Szepanski, Town of Riverview |
| | Bob Sipiorski, Treasurer | Curt Hoffman, Firewise |
| | Kelly Woelz | 25 Citizens |
| | Brian Brandt | |

Chair Webb called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. CST. He began the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. B. Webb presided, and P. Wierzba acted as the secretary.

After affirming that no directors present declared any conflicts of interest with any agenda topics, Brian Webb asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Hearing none, he proceeded with the meeting.

Approval of Minutes from Prior Meeting

P. Wierzba presented the motion, seconded by K. Woeltz and carried; the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

***RESOLVED**, that the minutes of the Crooked Lake Area Lakes Protection and Rehabilitation District meeting held on May 2, 2026 and presented to the Board of Commissioners at this meeting, be and hereby are, approved.*

Approval of Treasurer's Report

B. Sipiorski presented the treasurer's report. The total revenue to date is \$7,665. The current balance of CD's and savings is \$101,898. The projected 2026 year end total is \$86,965. The projected 2027 end end total is \$83,250. After further discussion, D. Szepanski presented the motion to approve the treasurer's report, seconded by P. Wierzba, unanimously approved.

Tax Assessment Resolution

K. Woelz presented the motion to keep the tax assessment at \$100 per parcel, seconded by D. Szepanski, unanimously approved.

Committee Reports

Education/Fish Study

B. Webb reported. A study found that the pan fish were not reaching a large enough size due to the large population of bullheads. The Crooked Lake Sportsmen Club assisted in harvesting a total of 2,500 bullheads.

Clean Boat/Clean Water

B. Webb reported that we have been part of this program for many years. It is important to remove all weeds and empty live wells to stop the spread of invasive species. Volunteers are stationed at boat launches to inspect boats and trailers. The goal is to reach or exceed 200 volunteer hours per year. A volunteer kit is available at the Crooked Lake Store. There is a statewide program called Snap Shot Day that is open to all to participate. It will be August 8th. UW-Stevens Point will present on invasive species and fish. The groups will collect findings at various locations and test and share information with the group.

Other Business

OCLAWA

B. Webb reported on our involvement with OCLAWA (Oconto County Lakes and Waterways Association). The mission of this organization is to protect the health of the surface waters throughout Oconto County. There are 37 lake districts in this organization. Lucky Thirteen Raffle tickets are available for purchase. The money raised goes back to lake districts in the form of grants. Crooked Lake received a grant in the amount of \$750 in 2025. Raffle tickets are available for sale from any board member.

Oconto County has hired a water specialist, Emily Schwartz, who will be assigned to the northern half of the county. She will assist in grant writing, education, and other activities to help better our lakes and waterways.

Onterra 2026 Activities

B. Webb reported. Onterra helps with grant writing, lake monitoring, strategies for invasive species treatment, lake testing, surveys, management plans, etc. They are instrumental in helping with the grant application for the three year plan to eradicate Eurasian Water Milfoil. In 2025, we received a grant from the DNR that covered 75% of the cost to treat EWM which was successful. Future treatment of weeds is not guaranteed. The DNR is concerned that the weeds will become resistant to treatment.

For 2026 through 2028, Onterra will assist in updating the Aquatic Plant Management Plan. Grant application will begin in Fall.

Firewise

Laura Hayes from WDNR, and Firewise USA, presented on the very high fire risk for the Crooked Lake area. The Crooked Lake Fire Department will be hosting the National Firewise Program this summer. She presented an award to Curt Hoffman for his hard work in the Firewise Program.

C. Hoffman reported on Firewise activities. A grant for \$6,000 was received this year for leaf and needle pick-up that began May 18th. This will be the only pick-up this year.

Weed Cutter

C. Hoffman reported. The weed cutter will be kept in the event it is needed in the future. As reported earlier, the DNR may not continue to allow treatment for invasive weeds so having the cutter as a backup is crucial. The expense to keep the weed cutter is approximately \$10 per parcel.

Oconto County Lake Study

B. Webb reported. The county performed studies on all Oconto County lakes that have public access. They received a grant to do this. The Crooked Lake system was completed in 2024-2025. This study looked at water clarity, water quality, water shed, pollutants, fisheries, shoreline, shoreline erosion, habitat, native and invasive plants, and recreation. For more information, go to the Oconto County web page. Click on Land Management. The lakes studied are listed.

Oconto County offers a cost share program to address hard surface runoff, watershed, and shoreline erosion. They will assist individual property owners to develop a plan to correct any issues. Commissioner K. Woelz shared her experience with this program at her property. For more information, contact Ken Dolota with Oconto County.

Oconto County also offers a Healthy Waters Cost Share Program available to Lake Districts and Associations. As part of the five year Plant Manage Plan development this fall, we will apply for grants from the DNR and Healthy Waters Cost Share Program to help cover costs.

New Business

A donation of \$3,000 was presented to Matt Connell for the Crooked Lake Community Center Renovation Fund.

D. Szepanski, Town of Riverview, reported that estimates for repairs to the Bass Lake boat launch are in progress. Dave left the meeting at 10.00am.

A citizen asked about the levels of zebra mussels. Monitoring will continue. A reminder to be sure to clean boats to stop the spread.

Commissioner Election

B. Sipiorski will be stepping down as Treasurer leaving a vacancy to be filled. On May 21, 2026, he was appointed by the Oconto County Board of Supervisors to serve on the Crooked Lake District Board. B. Webb asked if anyone would volunteer for the position. There were none at this time.

The meeting ended at 10:18 a.m. Raffle tickets were available for sale.

The Board re-convened at 10:35 a.m. B. Webb presented to the board that the following board members be elected for a one year term:

Resolved, that Brian Webb has hereby been elected to serve as Chair of the Crooked Lake Area Lakes Protection and Rehabilitation District Board for a term of one year. The resolution presented to the Board of Commissioners at this meeting, be and hereby are, approved.

Resolved, that Bob Sipiorski has hereby been elected to serve as Treasurer of the Crooked Lake Area Lakes Protection and Rehabilitation District Board for a term of one year. The resolution presented to the Board of Commissioners at this meeting, be and hereby are, approved.

Resolved, that Pam Wierzba has hereby been elected to serve as Secretary of the Crooked Lake Area Lakes Protection and Rehabilitation District Board for a term of one year. The resolution presented to the Board of Commissioners at this meeting, be and hereby are, approved.

Mr. Webb adjourned the meeting at 10:40 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for September 19, 2026, at 9 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Wierzba, Secretary