

Grace Lake Watershed Improvement Association

2025 Annual Meeting Minutes

Date: May 31, 2025

Time: Meeting called to order at 10 a.m.

Location: Bethany Bible Camp

Board Members Present: Rick Black, Sue Black, John Botsford, John Fossum, Doug Goodman, Wes Kinneberg, Ed Marthaler

New Members: Pete and Pam Olson **Guests:** Dr. Daniel McEwen, Limnopro; Brandon Spain-Brist, Hubbard Co SWCD

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	Additional Info
Treasurer's Report John Fossum	<p>\$25,714.30 today's balance. 90% of expenses go to Public Access AIS Monitoring. Total cost for monitoring in 2024 was \$11,450.88. Farden Township again donated \$2,200 to help with that expense. Leaving the Association's cost for monitoring in 2024 was \$9,250.88. Endowment fund non-spendable balance is \$10,376.29 and a spendable balance of \$15,338.01. Balance up due to donations, memorials and the successful Cabin Crawl Fundraiser which raised \$6,455.00 minus expenses of \$155.83. For more report details see attached. Motion to accept Treasurer's report by John Blessing. Steve Goodwin seconded. Motion passed.</p>	<p>Entire treasurer's report available upon request.</p> <p>A big thank you to all donators and to Mike and Mary Ann Delisle, Jon Sande and Faith Manty, and Ed and Marcia Marthaler for hosting the successful Cabin Crawl.</p>
Keith Mooney Award Rick Black	<p>Farden Township was presented the Keith Mooney Award for their exceptional contributions to the Association every year beginning in 2014. Tim Humphrey, township chairperson, accepted the award for the township. This award was established in 2009 to honor individuals who, like Keith Mooney, have made an impact in the preservation of Grace Lake.</p>	<p>Five other individuals have been recognized with this award: Lea Senger, Carolyn Hegland, Rick Black, Dick Sampson and Robert Brouse.</p>
Well Water Testing for Nitrates Brandon Spain-Brist, Hubbard County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)	<p>Hubbard County SWCD receives funding to provide the nitrate testing free. Results from water samples collected today should be emailed to people on Monday. Brandon noted that heavily forested areas tend to not have high nitrate levels so he doesn't anticipate any of today's samples to come back high. Brandon provided a handout with a list of conservation programs and cost-share opportunities available to residents. The SWCD has funding available to help residents with plans to manage land on two acre properties. Contract them for a site visit.</p>	<p>First Friday of month free well water testing for nitrates at Hubbard County SWCD office in Park Rapids.</p> <p>Brandon Spain-Brist Email: brandon@hubbardswcd.org 218-252-6963</p>
Board of Directors Election	<p>Three director positions up for election at this meeting. John Fossum, Doug Goodman and Merrie Miller were elected to a two-year term ending in 2027.</p> <p>Doug Goodman and Antonio Arce will assume the role of IT Specialists for the Association.</p> <p>Ed Marthaler resigned from the board at the meeting with one year left of his term. In accordance with the Association's bylaws, the board will appoint a replacement to fill Ed's position at their next board meeting. Those interested in serving on the board should contact a board member.</p>	

<p>Aquatic Vegetation Management Dr. Daniel McEwen with Limnopro Aquatic Science</p>	<p>Dan’s presentation provided attendees an overview of plant growth causes, possible treatments and state regulations. For more detailed information shared in the presentation consult a board member.</p> <p>General Recommendation: Create an AIS Early Detection Rapid Response Plan</p> <p>Proactive ideas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Point of Intercept Survey 2. Public Access Scuba Dove 3. Educate residents to identify AIS species <p>Consensus of those in attendance was the need for a plant management plan that may cost more than is currently available in our funds. Various fundraising options were suggested by members to cover the cost of the plan.</p> <p>Motion by Vince Toma to have the board come up with and implement a plan to address the nuisance plant issue, second by Steve Goodwin. Motion passed.</p>	<p>Limnopro.com</p> <p>Powerpoint on website</p>
<p>Practical Water Wisdom Series by Itasca Waters Ed Marthaler</p>	<p>Ed shared information about the non-profit organization Itasca Waters that offers a series of free webinars that address Minnesota water issues. Webinars offered first Thursday of each month. No fee but need to register.</p>	<p>www.itascawaters.org/water-wisdom-2025</p>
<p>Cabin Crawl Ed Marthaler</p>	<p>Successful and fun in 2024. Looking for another group to host the next one.</p>	
<p>Protecting Our Lake Connie McDanel</p>	<p>Connie gave a brief summary of an informational handout with ideas and suggestions for residents to implement to help protect the quality of Grace Lake.</p> <p>Connie is willing to take shoreline lake weeds for compost. The weeds can be dropped off at her farm or text her to have them picked up. 218-209-7299.</p>	<p>Handout available on the website.</p>
<p>Lake Statistics Rick Black</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lake water temperature May 31, 2025: 66 degrees, Clarity: 25 ft 2. 2.865 inches of rain from April 28 – May 19. 3. Lake elevation May 22, 2025: 1326.98 feet above sea level This is 1.22 feet lower than the Optimal High Water Mark (OHWM) of 1328.2 and 2.46 feet lower than highest water level of 1329.44 on June 30, 2019. 4. Lowest lake elevation October 15, 1992 at 1326.51 5. Inspectors at landing start June 6, 2025, 7 days a week; 5 days paid by Association, 2 by Beltrami County through State funding 	
<p>Other Business</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Banded mystery snails – an invasive with no known way to reduce or eradicate. 2. FYI: Association established in 1953 	
<p>Adjournment</p>	<p>Motion by John Blessing to adjourn meeting at 11:52 a.m.</p>	