

Grace Lake Watershed Improvement Association

2026 Annual Meeting Minutes

Date: May 30, 2026

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

Location: Bethany Bible Camp

Board Members Present: Rick Black, John Botsford, John Fossum, Doug Goodman, Wes Kinneberg, Merrie Miller and Geoffrey Thaden

Board Members Absent: Doug Goodman

New Members: Nancy and Jerry Yahner

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	Additional Info
<p>Call to Meeting Rick Black</p>	<p>Rick called the Annual Grace Lake Watershed Improvement Association meeting to order . He introduced all present Board Members; absent was Doug Goodman. A quorum was present to proceed. He welcomed the attending members and reminded them to turn in their water nitrate test sampling as he will be delivering them right after the meeting. Results from water samples collected should be emailed to people on Monday (June 1st). It has previously been noted that heavily forested areas tend to not have high nitrate levels so it is unlikely any of today's samples will come back high.</p> <p>Rick also reminded the members that the minutes from the 2025 annual meeting are posted on the lake's website for review.</p>	
<p>Treasurer's Report John Fossum</p>	<p>John reported that last year at this time we had \$25,714.30 in our account. As of today, we have \$19,398. Revenue for the year was \$11,121 which primarily comes from member dues. We had \$5,600 in member dues from 112 members. We also received significant donations to the Northwest Minnesota Foundation Account. Regular donations were \$2,125 and Memorial donations were \$690. We received a contribution from Farden Township again for our public access monitoring of AIS in the amount of \$2,200. Our Investment Account earnings were \$506.20.</p> <p>Our primary expense is the public access monitoring where we spent \$11,251 last year. We also conducted an aquatic vegetation survey last year which was \$4,689. Smaller expenses such as postage and meeting supplies were \$425. We rent the Bible Camp for this meeting at a cost of \$100, maintain our camera at the public access for a cost of \$220, and our website costs us \$349.</p> <p>We also pay dues to two groups that manage lakes in Minnesota; Beltrami County Lakes and Rivers \$120, and the Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Statewide \$185. Our only Liability at this time is \$5,000 which will be for an additional aquatic vegetation survey, again to be conducted by Limnipro. This brings our net asset down to \$14,398. Of that amount, only \$3,885 is our current spendable money.</p> <p>Motion to accept Treasurer's report was made by John Botsford, an association member seconded. Motion passed.</p>	<p>Entire treasurer's report available upon request.</p>

<p>Board of Directors Election</p>	<p>Four Board positions are up for election at this meeting. Rick Black, Geoffrey Thaden, John Botsford and Wes Kinneberg. All four were elected to serve another two-year term ending in 2028.</p> <p>Anyone who is interested in serving on the board should contact a board member.</p>	
<p>Fishing Report Andy Wiering Fisheries Specialist, MN DNR, Division of Fish and Wildlife</p>	<p>Andy Wiering, from The MN DNR presented the results of their 2025 Fish Study. Highlights: Northern Pike are abundant and above average, Walleye abundance decreased from 2020 but fish are healthy with lengths averaging 18 inches, Bluegill continue to expand into deeper habitats, and Largemouth Bass are above historical averages. Curly-leaf pondweed was also confirmed in the fish survey data.</p>	<p>The fishing survey PowerPoint presentation will be available on the Grace Lake Website.</p>
<p>Lake Statistics Rick Black</p>	<p>*The lake is currently 6 inches lower right now compared to this time last year. The lake level is currently at 1,326.98 feet above sea level. This is 1.22 feet lower than the Optimal High Water Mark (OHWM) of 1328.2. Lowest lake elevation was October 15, 1992 at 1326.51.</p> <p>*Just this last week we dropped 1-1/2 inches due to the hot and dry temperatures.</p> <p>* Lake water temperature was gauged on May 27, 2026: 63 degrees, and Clarity: 25 ft. Being that the temperature is over 60 degrees, AIS can now activate. We are truly thankful for the public access volunteers that are doing a great job in monitoring vessels for AIS 7 days a week; 5 days paid by Association, 2 by Beltrami County through State funding.</p>	
<p>Curley Leaf Pondweed Geoffrey Thaden</p>	<p>Geoff Thaden gave a detailed presentation to update the members on the discovery of Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP) in the lake from 2025. He explained how the infestation was identified, described the plant and its characteristics, and summarized the Board's actions to date, including testing efforts and grant applications. He also outlined the Board's plans for next steps.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He provided guidance to members on what to watch for and how to handle CLP properly if it is found. • He also asked attendees to consider making additional contributions to help cover the costs of further testing and possible treatment. 	<p>All detailed CLP information and Geoffrey's presentation will be available on the Grace Lake website</p>
<p>New Business Rick Black</p>	<p>Rick provided the following updates/reminders to the members:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The water-quality lab we partner with for ongoing Secchi, phosphorus, and clarity monitoring of Grace Lake can be accessed through RMB Environmental Laboratories, Inc website at www.rmbel.com 2. Reminder: use non-phosphorus fertilizer. Phosphorus runoff from lawns fuels algae blooms. When fertilizing this year, please choose a phosphorus-free mix. Your lake thanks you. 3. High fire danger in Hubbard & Beltrami counties. Both counties are under a High Fire Danger warning. Risk is 	<p>All of this information will be available on the Grace Lake Website, as well the Lake's Facebook page.</p>

	<p>compounded by downed trees and brush from last summer's historic storm event (June 20–21, 2025). All lake visitors should exercise extra caution with campfires and fireworks, especially around the 4th of July. Check current conditions at MN DNR Fire Danger →</p> <p>4. Pet Waste Reminder - Please clean up after your pet. Pet waste can eventually seep back into the lake and affect water quality. Doing your part helps keep our lake and community clean for everyone.</p> <p>5. Low water making the boat ramp difficult. Water levels on Grace Lake are very low, making it difficult to launch and load boats at the public access. The board spoke with Dave Schotzko at the MN DNR, who reports that rocks were recently added to the landing, but most area lakes are experiencing the same low-water conditions. Power loading — using the motor to push the boat onto the trailer instead of winching — is creating blow holes that worsen the situation. The DNR has posted two signs at the landing warning of low water and the hazards of power loading. Please idle in and winch your boat. Further education efforts are being discussed with the DNR.</p>	
Adjournment	Motion was made by Rick Black to adjourn meeting, seconded by John Fossum. Meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.	

Minutes submitted by Merrie Miller, Secretary