Smallwood Lake Association

Minutes

September 5, 2026

Meeting called to order at 10 AM

Roll Call - All present

Minutes – Tim moved and Mark seconded to approve the minutes

Treasurer's Report (added here but done later in the meeting) There is $10960.62 in out account. We have spent $2700 this year.

Old Business

a. Weed Control - Stephanie reported on weed control from last year. Mike has been working to keep everyone informed and update the company
b. Trees and safety update - Stephanie thanked everyone who helped with tree removal.
c. DNR Fish Survey – Stephanie reported DNR did a fish survey but did not have the results.
d. Bylaw Review - The board continues to work on updating the by-laws. Sean will get an updated copy to Donna and she will get it posted.

New Business

a. Weed Contril and Cat Tail update – Stephanie thanked Joel for all the tree removed done on the Secord part of Smallwood. Aquatic week control is done for this year. Stephanie found a private boat launch for PLM to get on the lake. PLM can not spray on land and only treat aquatic plants. Grown on land is needed to prevent erosion. Stephanie and Mike make arrangement to have Cat tails treated at the end of the canals. The treatment will be September 21. It is a harsh chemical and they can only do certain areas. The Weed Control Account began with $140,503.87. So far we have spent $4,588.71. The current balance is $135,944.63. We pay in advance for the year so the Summer of 27 will be billed after the first of the year. We save money by paying in full in advance.
   Water update- Smallwood is on a stall. It will be inspected on Tuesday September 8 and if the report is good, the fill will proceed. Smallwood is currently at winter level.
   A discussion about Cat Tails followed. It is recommended that people cut the cat tails down this fall.
b. Smallwood Lake Merchandise. Stickers are still for sale for $3.00 and Kuzi's for $5.00. Arrangements were made with S&H Engraving in Gladwin to have shirts made. The Association paid for the designs. Justine said anyone can come in and have a shirt made. The cost will be basically the cost of the shirt. Members just need to tell Justine they want the Smallwood Lake Association file.
c. Interim Trustee- As a result of new by-law requirements, a member of the board was removed due to non-attendance which leaves two alternate trustee positions open.

Vince nominated Jennifer Convery and Don Balm (Don lives in the portion of Smallwood that is in Secord Township) to the positions. Stephanie seconded. The board approved.

d. Guests
    a. Joel Vernier (Secord Township Supervisor) reported that Oak ridge Trees Removal did a great deal of work. They did the Recreation Road area and the State land near where a boat ramp could be put in one day in the future. This cost Secord $30, 000 out of Secord Weed Fund.

       Joel also recorded on all the Fire and Resume equipment that Secord has. They has a Recure Boat and EMS response. There is a Drone that is used across the county to locate lost people etc. Ther is also an underwater Drone that can locate objects under water. All their equipment came as a result of grants.

       The Fire department has a millage coming up in November. Joel encouraged members who know people in Secord to vote to keep up the department.

    b. Pete Doan (Hay Township Supervisor) Pete thanked the board for their participation. He also reminded everyone of the importance of good water access in critical incidents. It is critical for all of us.
e. Welcome to the Lake Party - A committee was formed to plan the event. Jennifer is th chair. It is from 12 -2 on Sunday the 6th. IT is down McKinney next to the dam. Stephanie thanks Four lakes for letting us hold it there. There will be tables and chairs with a tent. Stephanie wants to talk about the positives that happened as a result of the loss of the lake. (Meeting new People) There will be a speaker and microphone.
f. Boat Launch - The board has been trying to work with both the Bar and Marina. Tim reported on the efforts. He reported the bar has repaired the launch, patched it. It is useable. There is a gate and they will be charging $5.00. Boat trailers can not be left in the parking lot. There has been no progress at the marina.

   State owned property – Don reported back in 2018 & 2019 the DNR Director of Parks Recreation from Gladwin County was in the process of developing a public launch access site on state owned land and the land was surveyed. Funding for the project was under consideration. But everything was derailed due to the 2020 flood and COVID. Concern about a sustainable boat launch had a member reach out to the board. As a result, a committee was created to look into boat launches. Don Balm is the chair. Don reported that the committee reached out to members to put their names on a petition to give to the DNR to support the launch. There is 20 acres of land at that area. On Tuesday the committee got a letter that stated that there is no development plan at this time. Don reiterated the importance of keeping communication open with the DNR and members going into the future as a sustainable launch where we are not dependent on private businesses is important.

   Discussion followed about the launch. Two concerns wither raised, would the DNR add a campground to the launch and the location of the launch so far from the open area of the lake were most activity takes place.

Open Forum

Communication seemed to be a major issue. Mike is adamant about open communication. The Facebook issue came up and issues have been solved. The board committed to place communicate on our agenda. Donna reminded everyone we have a webpage that we keep up with information.

Meeting adjourned at 11: