

2026 Big McDonald Lake Improvement District Annual Meeting

Meeting Minutes

June 6, 2026 at 9:00 AM

Senior Center, Dent, MN 56528 (back of United Methodist Church, 301 Main St.)

Call to Order and Opening Business

Ron called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. There were 41 members in attendance. The members then recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Cyndy presented the Treasurer's Report for 2025–2026 and shared a net balance of \$44,028.09. Keith Brokke moved to accept the report, Lois Bergseth seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

The 2025 Annual Meeting minutes were presented for approval. Keith Brokke moved to approve the minutes, Lois Bergseth seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Old Business

Under old business, directory updates were noted. Cory and Barb Olson shared the results of the Big McDonald Lake water quality sampling, including Secchi Disc readings and samples collected for RMB Lab analysis. They reported that ice-on occurred on December 4, 2025, and ice-off occurred on April 20, 2026. Testing included water temperature and clarity. In May, the water temperature was 54 degrees, and the Secchi Disc reading reached 27 feet and hit the bottom. They also noted that they are seeing significantly fewer snails.

The group also discussed discontinuing monthly sampling of Ditch 25, which would reduce the 2026–2027 budget by \$3,000. The monitoring included three sample sites and analysis of Chlorophyll A, Total Suspended Solids, Dissolved Oxygen, pH, Total Phosphorus, Organic Phosphorus, and E. coli bacteria through RMB Lab. During discussion, members considered whether continued sampling would be beneficial. It was noted that the lake already has samples from three locations dating back to 1996, which should help identify any long-term changes. Forest tent caterpillar spraying was also discussed. Of the entire group in attendance, only one person reported seeing a single tent caterpillar measuring approximately one inch in length. Regarding fish stocking, it was noted that the LID paid for stocking last fall and the fish looked good. The Minnesota DNR will stock fish again in 2026, and BMLID is scheduled to stock walleye fingerlings in fall 2027.

New Business

Under new business, the board discussed and approved the 2026–2027 budget. Members discussed reducing the taxes for 2026. Keith Brokke made a motion to reduce the tax receipts to \$2,500, and Rob Campbell seconded the motion. During discussion, members noted that there were no known upcoming expenses but wanted to ensure sufficient liquid assets were available. Cyndy reported that there is \$23,000 in the checking account. The motion passed unanimously.

2026 Big McDonald Lake Improvement District Annual Meeting

Board Nominations and Appointments

Cliff Hoper then made a motion to move \$15,000 from the general account into another certificate of deposit. Keith seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. The board then reviewed nominees for the BMLID Board of Directors. Current board members listed were Chad Gabrielson, Waylon Bertsch (Vice President), Dave Olig, Justin Carney, Jeff Dostal (President), Damon Janssen (Secretary), and Chuck Tomanek. Candace Dahl was noted as not being a board member and will be removed from the list. No one volunteered for new board member nominations at this time, although the board encouraged new participation and stated that it would like to add three or four members next year. Non-voting participants listed were Keith Brokke, Cyndy Wedryk (Treasurer), and Ron Zitzow (past president).

Events and Community Matters

The group also discussed the 2026 Boat Parade. Members suggested improving the organization of judging. The event will take place on July 4 at noon, with a weather alternative of 2:00 p.m. on the same day, and that alternative should be published in advance. Dave and Chuck will help with registration. The parade will follow a clockwise rotation, and Damon Janssen will serve as one of the judges. One suggestion was to use board members as judges. Lois Bergseth has the lake association checkbook, and the group agreed to keep the prize money the same at \$100, \$50, and \$25.

Members then discussed whether any ordinances should be implemented. The group emphasized the importance of sharing the lake and being respectful of neighbors both on and off the lake. Ideas raised included creating a 100-yard no-wake zone, linking regulations to the website and Facebook page, sending information out to lake residents, and adding signage at the public access. Damon suggested that any communication should come from the BMLID board. Additional concerns included jet skis operating too late, the need for respectful behavior among boaters, and skiers traveling too close to other boats and docks.

Future Meeting Date and Adjournment

The meeting date and location for 2027 were also discussed. Members agreed that the annual meeting should be held on the first Saturday of June each year. Waylon Bertsch made the motion, Cory Olson seconded it, and the motion passed unanimously. To adjourn, Keith made a motion and Cliff Hoper seconded it. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting ended at 10:14 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Damon Janssen, Secretary