

MINUTES for LECC June 28, 2025 Board Meeting
10 am – Lake Edward Town Hall, Merrifield, MN

Board members present: Paul McCullough, Pres, Lynn Hansch, VP; Nancy Fischer, Sec.; Wendy McCullough, Treas.; Mike Chapman, David Christensen, and Ron Czerepak. Absent: Liz Hintze

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10 am by President Paul McCullough.

Minutes: The Minutes from August 24, 2024 Board and Membership Meeting were reviewed. A motion was made to accept the Minutes, seconded, and passed.

Speaker for June Meeting: Paul introduced Ron Duy from Central MN Aquatics who gave a presentation on Invasive Species, and reported that he has surveyed Lake Edward, reporting it is in very good condition.

Treasurer's report: The Treasurer's report was presented by Wendy McCullough. LECC checking balance as of 6/15/25 was \$42,432, with reserves of \$3,838 for CLP and \$13,025 for Fisheries. A motion was made to accept the Treasurer Report, seconded, and passed.

The LECC website is up and running, and over thirty members have used it to pay dues electronically.

Membership and Directory

1. Dues paying members – 55 in 2025 so far, 73 in 2024, (82 - 2023, 88 - 2022, 106 - 2021, 158 - 2020, 124 - 2019)
2. Email list is 262 – Nancy is currently maintaining the list and sending emails.
3. Nancy brought a draft of the 2025 LECC Directory, asking those present to verify their listing. The Directory will be printed and available by August.

Loon Report: Don Rother reported he has seen a total of 10 Adults on the lake this Spring, with 5 babies. He suggested everyone visit the National Loon Center on Crosslake, which has recently broken ground for a new building.

Water Quality and Lake Levels: Mike Chapman

Mike continues to measure lake levels and taking water samples. He reported a Clarity of 17.5 ft, which is very good. He provided information on the DNR website on lake data, which will be linked to LECC's website. The water level is high this year, due to the amount of rain we have received.

Invasive Species: Mike Chapman

Mike has taken the U of MN AIS Detector course, passing their certification. We have contracted with Ron Duy for testing for invasive species, and there is no need for any AIS treatment at this time.

Boat Ramp Inspector: CW County plans to staff Lake Edward boat landing, for 468 hours, if they have enough staff. Discussion was held regarding the new Boat Safety Certification requirements, effective 7/1/25.

Ditch 13 and Outlet – Lynn Hansch

The water in the ditch is 2 to 3 inches above the weir level and the flow is slower than normal. Jeff with Crow Wing County, suspects there are downed trees and storm debris from the tornado last week. Holmvig, the contractor, will be inspecting the entire ditch and removing the restrictions.

The lake level at the weir is approximately 4" over the weir, which is set at 3" below the OHW of 1206.8 ft. above sea level.

The beaver activity has been less than in recent years with just 4 caught by the trapper.

Fisheries & Stocking – Paul McCullough

In May, the DNR continued their annual stocking of 2 million walleye fry. Prior year fry stocking has yielded strong survival rates but there was a decrease in 2024 electrofishing results, from 32 in 2023 to 8 in 2024 in fish per hour Survey result and stocking conversations occur with the Brainerd office of the DNR each year.

Lake Edward has stocked Crappie in 2022 but the DNR has not allowed further stocking of any walleye or crappie, given the strong spring walleye fry stocking success. We will continue to monitor the survey results relative to our lake management plan and coordinate additional stocking when the DNR deems it necessary.

We have also connected with the Walleye Alliance Inc. out of Brainerd. They are an angler led organization in the Brainerd Lakes area that advocates for strong walleye fisheries and educates on AIS issues. The Alliance is partnering with the DNR by hiring students from CLC to conduct a creel survey of Lake Edward this summer.

A **creel survey** is a method used by fisheries biologists and managers to collect data on recreational fishing activities. The term "creel" refers to a basket used by anglers to hold their catch, and the survey is named after this because it focuses on what anglers are catching and keeping.

Creel surveys focus on Angler Interviews: the surveyor will talk to anglers at the public landing to gather information such as:

- Number and species of fish caught
- Number of fish kept vs. released
- Time spent fishing
- Gear and bait used – specifically the use of forward-facing sonar

The next gill net survey will occur in 2026 and will inform us on overall fishery health and specifically walleye population levels. The walleye information will be a key input into further stocking efforts.

A comment was made about the amount of garbage left on the ice this winter from the large groups of anglers.

Board Positions: Terms are for 2-year terms, and terms board members expire in August.

- Paul McCullough (Pres) August 2025 – *will renew*
- Lynn Hansch (VP) August 2026
- Wendy McCullough (Treas) August 2026
- Nancy Fischer (Sec) August 2025 – *will renew*
- Mike Chapman August 2026
- David Christensen August 2026
- Ron Czerepak August 2026
- Liz Hintze August 2025– *will renew*

Paul McCullough, President, Nancy Fischer, Secretary and Liz Hintze as Board member are willing to serve. A motion was made to re-elect these three Board members, seconded and carried.

Bylaws: The LECC Bylaws were last updated in 2004. A committee has been working on revisions, which will be presented at the August meeting.

Social: a. Boat parade: Thursday July 4 starting at 11 am from Cozy Bay Resort
b. Cookout/ Potluck, Saturday, July 26th at Merrifield Lions Park – 5-5 pm

Next Meeting: August 23rd @ 10 am at Lake Edward Town Hall (Coffee and Rolls at 9:30am)

No further business was discussed. Meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.

Submitted,

Nancy Fischer
Secretary