

Sage Lake Association Meeting Minutes
June 27, 2026
Hill Township Hall

Board members present: Betsy Miner-Swartz, President; Sharon Green, Vice President; Ty McGinnis, Treasurer; Mark Campbell, Trustee; Ken Ehlen, Trustee; Nancy Howald, Trustee.

Board members absent: Kathleen Creager, Secretary.

Meeting called to order by association president Betsy Miner-Swartz at 10:00; Mike Pichla from PLM and 39 community members in attendance in addition to the board, for a total of 46 people present.

Pledge of Allegiance

Secretary's Report – Minutes from May 23, 2026, were sent to members by email and posted on the website. Anne Carter moved to accept the meeting minutes. Seconded by Debbie Stewart. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Ty McGinnis

- The total balance of all funds as of the end of June 26, 2026, was \$124,527.60. Neighborhood watch fund currently has a \$300 negative balance due to recent equipment purchases. After paying for this year's fireworks, the fireworks fund balance covers approximately 95% toward 2027 fireworks. Mary Ellen's Fun Day balance around \$500. Money will be moved from the general fund to the scholarship fund to cover this year's scholarships.
- Also a reminder that Mark Sinkoff purchased cinch sacks, being sold in the store for a suggested \$10 donation, with all proceeds to the scholarship fund.
- Mark Sinkoff moved to accept the treasurer's report. Seconded by Roberta Rasmussen. Motion carried.

Membership – Treasurer Ty McGinnis

- Membership is at 242.
- Ended last year with 265; goal for this year is 300
- Some new strategies are working, including \$10 store credit and mailing spring newsletter to all property owners.

Reports:

Firecracker 5K – Betsy Miner-Swartz

- Record sponsorships with just under \$11,000 pledged - Michelle and Steven Bassi (presenting - \$2,500)
- Registrations on par and headed for 500
- More than 50 volunteers
- Tracking to generate more than \$15,000, which would cover fireworks – up from \$10,000 generated last year.

Fireworks and boat parade: Betsy Miner-Swartz

- Fireworks scheduled for 10:15 p.m. on July 4
- 6 entries so far for the boat parade. Theme is 250th birthday of our nation. We're asking for no politics.

Community garage sales: Betsy Miner-Swartz

- Garage sales will be August 1 – there is a google form to sign up to be put on the map.

Fishing – Chris Hoelscher

- News: DNR will stock walleye every other year for 10 years; this is funded by the state
- June 23 – 41,448 walleye were stocked, average length 1.69 inches. The expectation is that 10% of these will survive
- Other good walleye news is that fish surveys show natural walleye reproduction is occurring in Sage Lake, and the growth rate is above the state average.
- Pan fish – in a lull pattern, 3-year cycles where they peak and then level off. Walleye help with growth of panfish.
- Rough fish tournament – 700 pounds of fish removed. Some fishermen report seeing fewer predator fish.

Mary Ellen's Fun Day – Sharon Green

- Quick reminder Fun Day is scheduled for Saturday July 11 from 10 am to 1 pm.
- Key fun thing: Cash for the raffle.
- We could use a few more volunteers.

Loon Ranger – Nancy Howald

- Campbell Road loon family – one loon died. With the help of Avery Sinkoff, it was found and Betsy drove it to MSU for a necropsy – no results yet
- Another nest near Chad's island – so be aware and please stay away as much as possible

New Business

- Thank you to the community from Roberta Rasmussen for all their help during the flooding
- Boater Safety – no news yet from the Sheriff's office, so probably it will not happen this year, but we are trying

Trustee Mark Campbell introduced our special guest, PLM rep Mike Pichla for the "State of the Lake"

- It is Mike's 12th year with PLM

- #1 priority is invasive species management
 - Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) – in 2020 Sage Lake had approximately **100** acres, now down to fewer than 10 acres, **which he considers a success story**.
 - Starry Stonewort (SSW) – is a type of algae and is tougher to control. Treatment is chemically burning the top of it with algaecides. It is spread when pieces are cut by boat propellers.
 - Curly leaf pondweed, not as bad as the other two,
 - 1st survey, very few weeds due to flooding
 - 2nd survey, moderate weed growth
- Native plant control
 - Wild celery weed – can only treat once per year, up to 100 feet off shore.
- Water quality –
 - 3 sample times – spring, mid-summer (e coli testing), fall deep water sample looking for nutrient levels.
 - High phosphorus creates more weeds; Sage Lake does not have a phosphorus problem.
- Algae –
 - more algae growth due to flooding and heavy rain
 - as the lake heats up, more algae and weeds
 - algae can't be treated until July 15 due to state regulations
 - PLM focus will be algae going forward
- Swimmer's itch – for years, treating with copper sulfate helped with this, but the state no longer allows it.
- Fertilizer – if it makes your lawn green, it will make the lake green. Try to limit use, especially when rain is predicted.

Announcements and Reminders (5 min)

- Next meeting date – July 25

Adjournment at 10:56

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Green and Kathleen Creager