

## West Lakes Association Annual Spring Meeting 2026

May 30, 2026, Meeting Started 10:00 a.m.

Introduction – Jean Thomas

Secretary's Report – Laura Veldman

- Motion to accept the August 2025 Meeting Minutes – Approved
- Make sure minutes are available on the website

Treasurer's Report – Rosie Riser - See Report from Rosie

- Janis questioned the peanut brittle sales numbers. Rosie reviewed and confirmed they are correct
- Motion to accept the treasurer's report was approved

Happy to see Michael Schaffer here and doing well

Thank you to volunteers

Forming group to play mahjong – add your name to the clipboard if interested

Peanut Brittle

- Thank you to Janis Sproat for her efforts. Need more help for this coming year
- Contact Janis or Jean if interested in placing a pre-order
- Sign up on clipboard if willing to help

Boat Parade

- Jane Silver – 27 years of doing it
- This year on July 4<sup>th</sup>, Saturday
- We'd like more boats to enter and people to watch

Sheriff and DNR Here for Updates

- The Sheriff shared information about speeding motorists along the lakes
  - o Speeding on County Roads - We need to police ourselves
  - o County highway engineer determines the speed limits – have to go to county commissioners to get it changed
  - o There are no noise ordinances – if it's late at night can call in a complaint. First be neighborly and ask them to be considerate
  - o Motor vehicles, golf carts and ATVs
  - o We follow state statute regarding the golf carts
  - o Can cross state highways but cannot drive on them

- Noble County doesn't have an ordinance for governing golf carts and ATVs
- DNR regulates the side-by-sides
  - Required to be registered
  - Under 18, required to wear a helmet on an ORV, not on a golf cart
  - OWI applies to driving these vehicles
  - Operators are required to have a driver's license if driving on the roads

#### Old Business

- Stop Logs Update
  - Stop Logs are in
  - Need more volunteers to manage them
- Floating Signs
  - New people took over the responsibility of putting in and taking out

#### New Business

- Update on the Conservancy District – Paul Veldman, Randy Mull, Colby Barkes - Attorney
  - Power Point presentation shared
  - NRC Hearing, July 15, 11-2, Noble County Public Library, Albion
  - Questions from the body
    - How many log jams have we had – pulled over 900 trees
    - Weed Control? – What chemicals? – We hire a professional company and any chemicals and application methods they use are approved by the DNR.
    - How is fishing/bedding affected? We are only spraying downriver. We hire a professional company and this is governed by the state. We have been told in the past that these chemicals are not harmful to the fish and we spray in the transition area to keep the water moving.
  - Water Level – stop logs -fluctuates quite a bit. People losing ground, how can we manage that? Can the shoreline be reconstructed? Dylan – work with the division of water to reclaim shore. For prevention – work with the same division to get permits to construct a seawall that would prevent erosion
  - Sediment – a whole lot comes in and makes our lakes shallower – we hope to address the sediment coming in and eventually work to get some out that's already here.

- Eminent Domain – what’s the possibility of eminent domain coming into the plan at a later date? We don’t have a budget to take this on, not realistic. Colby’s firm has been involved in hundreds of Conservancies – elected boards – opportunities to express concerns, thoughts. A long process that involves many steps and opportunities for property holders to challenge it. Bottom line – it’s not realistic, feasible, and not in the realm of our goals and projects.
- Randy Sexton addressed the question of 2-stage ditches and how that would proceed. Cooperatively working with the property owner. Create structure in the existing drains to retain sediment – these do not involve eminent domain. The county currently has easements along the drains.
- What are the next steps with the Conservancy formation? NRC hearing on July 15th, then a final hearing before the Noble County Circuit Court judge. Earliest we would see a funded board is 2028.
- It was clearly stated there is no intention, budget, or goal of developing parks, campgrounds, hiking trails, etc.
- The first group of people on the board will come from people who signed/supported the district
- Concern from downstream – right to be on his land? It’s trespassing. If there is a work of improvement on his property, such as a flood control device on his property, to service that we would have to have a right. Any kind of damage to his property – we would have to pay him for the damage/to restore the land. If we have an easement to access, we would have to pay the landowner.

50/50 – Jane Silver

Adjournment – 11:27 a.m.