

**Minutes of the Potters Lake Protection and Rehabilitation Spring Meeting held
Saturday, May 16, 2026, at the East Troy Town Hall**

Presentation from the Town of East Troy Police Department on Boat Safety

Deputy Chief Rungy from the Town of East Troy Police Department discussed 2026 enforcement plans and safety initiatives. Potter Lake is slated to have some coverage this year. The department hopes to partner with the DNR for our lake. Deputy Chief Rungy noted that the most common issues in the past on Lake Beulah have been slow-no-wake violations, missing boating safety certificates, and unsafe shoreline operations. He noted that law enforcement must observe an infraction before stopping a boat. DNR wardens can stop vessels without a specific violation. The DNR stop includes a full safety check of life jackets, fire extinguishers, horns, battery covers, and the proper sizing of safety equipment.

Deputy Chief Rungy also stressed that serious violations should be reported immediately using 911. Less serious concerns should be reported using the non-emergency number and going through dispatch. Deputy Chief Rungy also mentioned that the complaints are more actionable when they include registration numbers and photos/videos, when possible. It was also noted that alcohol is permitted on boats, but operators cannot actively drink while operating and must remain under the legal BAC limit.

Lake Projects - Update on lake conditions and plan for 2026—Jeff Stelzer

Jeff mentioned that 2026 treatments for Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) were just completed this past week on the west side of Potter Lake and the boat launch bay area. Curly-leaf pondweed remains widespread but is generally managed through harvesting instead of herbicide treatment. Jeff's observations from this year are that milfoil remains significantly reduced compared to earlier years. The curly-leaf pondweed appeared less severe this year, and harvesting remains an important management tool.

A new Five-Year Aquatic Management Plan is due in 2027. A full lake vegetation survey will be completed late summer, with the final report expected in March. There will be an opportunity for riparian owners to review the plan and make comments before it is finalized. Jeff also discussed the proposed DNR Rule changes (NR107/109). These rules affect permits for aquatic herbicide treatment and harvesting. The main concern is that permit fees may increase by up to 400% due to permanent, recurring fee increases, the expanded DNR discretion to deny lake management activities, and increased regulatory complexity. Jeff again stressed the importance of reading the summary document and submitting comments to the DNR board later this year.

1. Call to Order

Chairperson Schulz called the meeting to order at 9:41 am

2. Roll Call

Present: Secretary Chuck DeWall, Chairperson Cathy Schulz, Treasurer Matt Wessels, and 27 riparian owners.

3. Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the January 24, 2026, Financial Audit Meeting and February 18, 2026, Special Meeting have been sent to riparian owners. Motioned by Chris Boziel and seconded by Liz Sanders to accept the minutes. Motion Passed

4. Treasurer's Report

Matt stated that the current 2026 receipts are on track. \$53,000 of the expected \$57,000 has been received. Major expenses to date included the final payment for the new harvester, fish stocking, and lake management services. The harvester is now completely paid off, and the fish stocking was approximately \$5000. The district has approximately \$100,000 in total assets. The CD investment has matured and has been moved into checking.

5. Committee Reports

- Fishing:
The committee reported the completion of fish stocking: 1245 yellow perch, 1664 black crappies. The DNR recommended these fish because predator fish (bass/northern) are abundant. The yellow perch in the lake has declined dramatically, while perch and crappie support a healthier balance in the fishery. The DNR also recommended keeping the legal-sized bass rather than catch-and-release, which helps reduce the overpopulation of predatory fish.
- Technology/Website:
The website currently sees approximately 300-450 monthly users. There are 67 subscribers who receive an email when the website's content is updated. The new email distribution service was implemented following Gmail delivery issues. The residents were asked to report if they are not receiving district notices.
- Welcome & Directory:
An email was sent on May 4 to all riparian owners, asking them to update their information ASAP. The Committee is soliciting advertising for the directory to offset printing costs. New this year, the committee is offering a restaurant listing for which restaurants can pay to be listed. The hope is that the directory will be available in August or late summer.
- Discussion of creating a Water Sampling Committee:
The district is seeking volunteers for a committee to monitor lake water quality. The planned testing includes water clarity (Secchi disk), temperature, oxygen levels, conductivity, and pH. The estimated volunteer time would be roughly 10 hours per year.

Old Business

6. Harvester and dam updates:
The new harvester has been completed and tested. The delivery is scheduled for Tuesday, May 19, 2026. Operators will be receiving the training soon.
7. Dam Operations and Flood Management:
Between April 14 and 17, the area received approximately 6 inches of rain. The lake level rose rapidly above the target elevation of 8.8. The dam was opened incrementally and monitored to prevent shoreline damage and flooding of yards and basements. This was the first major operational season and testing of the dam, as water levels never rose to 8.8 last year. The board emphasized that continuous monitoring will occur with extensive communication among board members. Dam management will continue to be refined.
8. Discussion of the distribution of newly revised lake rules, sign at the boat launch, and advisory map:
The main changes to the lake rules were to correct outdated information, clarify double-towing, revise wording, and update formatting. The rules are now printed on blue card stock, will be delivered to the riparian owners, posted online, and available at the boat launch. The advisory map was reviewed and discussed at length. A second map option, simply showing water depths, was presented. A vote was taken between the two maps, with all who voted choosing the simpler map. A motion was made by Steve Kutsch and seconded by Chris Boziel to use the simple depth map, but add the following verbiage at the bottom, "Please be mindful of water depths and enjoy the lake responsibly." Motion passed.

New Business

9. Discussion of floating bog removal:

Residents were advised that small bogs can be manually removed by pulling the material onto the shore using rakes and shovels. If they are not causing problems, they can be left alone. It is not advisable to use your boat or pontoon to push them into the reeds at either end of the lake, as they may break free. Only very large bogs should be reported to the Board. Residents were also advised to never walk on the floating bogs

10. Discussion of blue-green algae recommendations:

All Wisconsin lakes contain blue-green algae, which may float to the surface. It is more common during the warmer weather months, mid-June through September. What you should do is avoid swimming or allowing pets in the water when the blue-green algae is present. The blooms tend to dissipate on their own. If you have concerns, contact one of the board members. Additional information is available on the district website.

11. Discussion of the Walworth County Representative position:

Chris Boziel introduced himself. Chris is an airline pilot. He is also a licensed Coast Guard captain. He has led several committees and has experience in union leadership. Chris has a strong interest in lake safety, education, and the use of cooperative solutions in problem-solving. Once Chris's application and appointment have been approved by Walworth County, he will be seated on the PLPRD board.

12. Discussion of Fourth of July Celebration:

- Friday, July 3, 2026 - The theme is America's 250th Birthday.
- Boat Parade @ 7:00 PM (meet at the boat launch by 6:45). Thad Seymour is the designated lead boat for this year's parade.
- Lighting of the Lake @ dusk
 - Flares will be sold at the boat launch, on the weekends beginning on June 20th, and cost \$5 each.
 - Fireworks for July 3, 2026

Gary Froehlich gave an update. Donations continue to be accepted to cover the cost. There is a link to the fireworks flyer on the website. Matt Wessels stated we did receive the \$1,000 from the Town for fireworks, which was passed on to the Froehlichs.

Public Comments:

Linda Braier, W1029 Miramar Drive, asked about creating a walking path through the marsh to allow walking around the lake.

Announcements

- Town of East Troy Electronic Recycling Events
 - Saturday, May 2, 2026: 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
 - Saturday, October 3, 2026: 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- Walworth County Household Hazardous Waste Clean Sweep, Tires & Electronics Recycling Event
 - Friday, June 26, 2026: 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. (household hazardous waste only, no electronics)
 - Saturday, June 27, 2026 - 8:00 am to 12:00 pm (household hazardous waste, electronics/appliances, and tires)
 - Location: Walworth County Public Works, W4097 County Rd NN, Elkhorn, WI 53121

Adjourn

A motion was made by Steve Kutsch and seconded by Dale Marciniak to adjourn. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned—11:17 am

Respectfully submitted,
Chuck DeWall
Secretary

PLPRD 2025 Year End Plan Vs. Actual / 2026 Plan Vs. YTD 2026

POTTERS LAKE PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT

ACCOUNT/DESCRIPTION	2025 Plan Recast	2025 Year-End	Difference	2026 Plan Recast	2026 YTD
Receipts:					
Interest on Savings	\$450.00	\$1,865.71	314.6%	\$1,700.00	\$ 1,205.48
Special Events	\$1,700.00	\$1,655.00	-2.6%		
CBCW Grant	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	0.0%	\$4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
District Levy Tax	\$11,300.00	\$11,105.84	-1.7%	\$11,300.00	\$ 8,023.78
Special Tax	\$39,700.00	\$39,705.84	0.0%	\$39,700.00	\$ 38,453.64
Lottery Credit		\$194.16		\$195.00	\$ 171.96
Town Fireworks Donation		\$1,000.00			\$ 1,000.00
Transfer from Reserves	\$93,180.00	\$15,981.88	-82.8%	\$140,235.00	
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$150,330.00	\$75,508.43	-49.8%	\$197,130.00	\$52,854.86
Expenditures:					
Harvester	\$44,000.00	\$39,333.33		\$88,000.00	\$ 79,866.67
Banking	\$40.00	\$40.00	0.0%	\$40.00	
Computer and Web Expenses	\$3,200.00	\$2,285.00	-28.6%	\$1,800.00	\$ 300.00
Equipment, Tools and Vehicles	\$4,200.00	\$1,115.13	-73.4%	\$2,200.00	\$ 273.48
Insurance	\$6,500.00	\$5,378.00	-17.3%	\$6,700.00	\$ 5,360.00
Lake Committees		\$15.09		\$7,500.00	\$ 5,000.00
Lake Functions	\$1,200.00	\$1,232.00	2.7%	\$300.00	
Fireworks Pass Through		\$1,000.00			
Lawn Maintenance	\$1,900.00	\$765.00	-59.7%	\$1,300.00	
Maintenance (Bouys)	\$2,500.00	\$2,316.97	-7.3%	\$2,500.00	\$ 1,050.00
Lake Projects	\$55,000.00	\$5,266.00	-90.4%	\$55,000.00	\$ 3,909.00
Misc Expenses, Promotional	\$150.00	\$150.00	0.0%	\$150.00	\$ 9.98
Office, Advertising, Meetings	\$1,400.00	\$597.86	-57.3%	\$1,400.00	\$ 294.20
Dues and Subscriptions	\$500.00	\$425.00	-15.0%	\$500.00	
Payroll Expenses	\$25,000.00	\$12,393.23	-50.4%	\$25,000.00	\$ 558.84
Officer Compensation	\$2,250.00	\$2,250.00	0.0%	\$2,250.00	
Payroll Fees	\$940.00	\$540.65	-42.5%	\$940.00	
Professional / Legal Services	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	-100.0%	\$1,000.00	
Utilities	\$550.00	\$405.17	-26.3%	\$550.00	\$ 145.64
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$150,330.00	\$75,508.43	-49.8%	\$197,130.00	\$96,767.81

Accounts (as of May 15, 2026)

Citizens Bank - Money Market
 7 Month CD (due 16May2026)
 Prepaid Account (Lake & Pond Sol.)
 Checking Account

CURRENT BALANCE

\$1,000.89
 \$91,778.11
 \$6,085.00
 \$837.40
 \$99,701.40