

**Minutes of the Potters Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District Special Meeting held
Tuesday, April 28, 2026, at Town Hall, Town of East Troy, Wisconsin**

1-Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Cathy Schulz at 6:30 PM

2-Roll Call

Present Board members: Cathy Schulz, Chuck DeWall, MaryJo Jones, Matt Wessels, Thad Seymour (on the phone), plus 14 lake constituents.

Public Comments

Bob Rice (W884 Shorewood Dr.) expressed concerns about the recent high lake levels and asked whether there is a clear policy for when the dam should be opened. He also questioned the need for a sediment study.

Old Business

1-Discuss and take possible action on the 5-Year Plan:

The board revisited the idea of applying for a DNR grant (up to \$10,000), which would have delayed the new 5-year plan to start in 2028, which might be complicated by new NR107 requirements going into effect in 2027. Chairperson Schulz reviewed the cost for this permit: \$3500 for surveys and \$9000 to write the plan (approx. 50 hours), with the plan available by March 2027. A motion was made by Secretary DeWall and seconded by Walworth County representative Jones to forego the grant. Motion passed.

2-Discuss and take possible action on the sediment survey:

Chairperson Schulz reviewed the proposed sediment survey near the boat launch. The proposal is for \$1,500 for a 50-point grid to measure water depth and soft sediment in the boat launch area. This would be for baseline information only; there is no immediate dredging plan. There were additional discussions regarding the fact that there is no current operational problem (boats/harvester can still access; harvester needs ~3 ft). Dredging would be expensive and complex, and sediment would likely reaccumulate. There might be some interest in establishing a baseline dataset for long-term tracking, especially if a drought returns. Given other large purchases in 2025, the board preferred to wait. A motion was made by DeWall, seconded by Wessels, to table the sediment survey for now. Motion passed.

3-Plan for the distribution of lake rules:

Chairperson Schulz stated the Lake Rules sign was created and installed at the boat launch. A special thank-you to Bill Roeber for his work on this. The new boating rules are on the website. The new rules will be on BLUE card stock and replace the old yellow version. The group discussed mailing the rules, but it was determined that it was too expensive and impractical. The decision was made to use door hanger bags and a group to distribute them door-to-door. A motion was made by Wessels and seconded by DeWall to use 9"x 15" bags from Amazon for that purpose. Motion passed.

New Business

1-Potter Lake Dam Operations:

Chairperson Schulz reviewed dam operations and the current slow-no-wake restrictions. Heavy rainfall events totaling 5.94" over 4 days raised the lake level to 9.36 (the highest recorded). The dam was opened gradually to 12" to avoid downstream flooding concerns, especially at the culverts and Hwy. L area. It was also noted that the dam required daily (sometimes more frequent) attention to clear debris. The current plan is to leave the dam open until the lake levels return to 8.8. Then remove the slow-no-wake signage when appropriate.

2-Beaver population:

Chairperson Schulz reviewed the existing problem of the Beaver Lodge at the boat launch bay. The current beaver control contractor said the lodge and complexity/depth exceeded his capacity. A different trapper was hired, and the cost was expected to be around \$1500-for trapping. The lodge removal requires DNR permitting after the trapping requirements are met. PLPRD is proceeding administratively, so no vote was required

3-Potters Lake Depth Advisory:

The board discussed creating and publishing an advisory depth map to educate boaters about where deep water exists on the lake. The key message was that this is advisory and not enforceable. It was noted that only a limited area of the lake is deeper than 20 ft (highlighted on the map). There were distribution ideas: boat launch, website, welcome packets, and possibly linked via the QR code on the rules sign. A motion was made by Seymour and seconded by Wessels to implement the advisory map. Motion passed.

4-Walworth County Representative Position:

Chairperson Schulz announced the retirement of MaryJo Jones, the Walworth County Representative, effective May 1, 2026. MaryJo has served on the PLPRD Board for over 10 years as Treasurer and Walworth County Representative, and we thank her for her service. The Board discussed the need to fill the position, as PLPRD requires 3 members present for a quorum. Also, a 4-person board could result in a tie vote. The Board also reviewed some of the requirements for the position. A potentially interested person was present and will receive an application/information.

5-Set agenda for May 16th meeting:

The Board discussed the agenda for the annual spring meeting and drafted an agenda that included:

- Approval of minutes
- Update and presentation from Jeff Stelzer
- Presentation from East Troy Police Department
- Treasurer Report
- Committee Reports: Fishing/Stocking, Directory & Welcome, Technology & Website
- Other pertinent Items

Announcements

The DNR is again considering changes to NR 107 (lake management permitting rules). The Board reviewed and planned to submit a formal letter that was drafted by Town of East Troy Representative Thad Seymour opposing the changes. The board also reviewed a shorter resident email template to encourage riparian owners to submit comments (a tight deadline was noted; comments are due April 30, as discussed). The plan is to send communications to the lake email list and post materials on the website.

Adjourn

Motioned by Matt Wessels, seconded by Chuck DeWall, to adjourn. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:52 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Chuck DeWall
Secretary