

Lake Keesus Management District

Commissioners Meeting Minutes - DRAFT

July 8, 2025

Opening

The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Lake Keesus Management District was called to order at 6:00 p.m. on July 8, 2025, by LKMD Chairman Dan Willems.

Confirmation of Postings

Commissioner Engelking confirmed that the Notice of the meeting and the Agenda were posted at Town Hall, North Lake Library, and Boat Launch on June 27, 2025, and an email was sent on June 27, 2025.

Present

Dan Willems/Chair; Pete Schumacher/Treasurer; Cara Engelking/Secretary

Jim Flemming

Treasury Report

- \$6,895.85 in Checking
- \$109,799.44 in the Money Market

Approval of Minutes

- Commissioner's Meeting Minutes for 4/15/25

Motion to approve as submitted by Pete Schumacher and seconded by Jim Flemming. Carried.

Enhanced Wake Committee Update & Recommendations

- Only commissioners will be voting tonight.
- On June 13th, LKMD received a letter from an attorney at Weld Riley, retained by a Lake Keesus resident. This letter will be posted on the website.
- LKMD is guided by two key documents: the Wisconsin Open Meeting Law Compliance Guide and People of the Lakes: A Guide for Wisconsin Lake Organizations (a DNR publication). These serve as the framework for how our meetings are conducted. Dan has also consulted with Eric Olson, Director and Lake Specialist at Extension Lakes, spoken with the Town of Merton and the chairman of the board, and discussed the matter with Linda Ziemer and Mark Davis, the co-chairs of the Enhanced Wake Committee. An attorney has reviewed our process and confirmed that everything has been handled properly.

- LKMD is guided by the Process Statement: The Board receives a petition requesting a change to the existing lake rule or law. This petition was received in September 2024. A special meeting was then held in October 2024, with a mailing sent out in advance to all lake residents. Following that, a committee was formed—chaired by Linda and Mark—to investigate the issue, gather information, collect resident feedback, and provide a recommendation. The last committee meeting took place in May 2025. From there, the committee’s recommendation will be presented to the Board, the commissioners deliberate and vote, and then the final decision is forwarded to the Town of Merton for their decision.
- Linda Ziemer & Michael Schulze Recommendation
 - The results of the survey have been summarized.
 - 74% of total Lake Keesus residents responded to the survey and highest vote of 49.7% requesting LKMD to prohibit wake-enhanced activity on Lake Keesus
 - LKMD should pass an ordinance prohibiting the use of ballast tanks, ballast bags, fins, or other means to cause a boat to operate in a bow-high manner and/or which increases or enhances a boat’s wake.
 - This is a nationwide issue. In Wisconsin, currently over 44 municipalities across the State have implemented such ordinances covering over 280 lakes across our State, and more are pending. This is NOT just a Lake Keesus issue!
 - The proposed ordinance we are seeking is provided, and we request passage effective immediately.
 - Mike stated that the guidelines have not been working and that the Keesus bays are too small for enhanced wake activities.
- Mark Davis Recommendation
 - Surfers acknowledge that there are Lake Keesus residents who do not like the waves and/or perceived impacts of wake surfing. As a result, wake surfers can be a part of the solution by:
 - Maintaining legal and respectful distances from other boaters and shorelines
 - Adhering to the voluntary guidelines whenever possible
 - Waiting for your turn if you see several other wake surfers on the lake
 - Keeping music volume at a respectful level, and lower if music includes profanity
 - Expand awareness and alignment with the voluntary surf guidelines initiated in 2024
 - Work to have signage and handouts at the launch, and for all surf residents to share with drop-ins
 - Politely and actively engage the surf community to follow the guidelines and self-policing other surfers when necessary

- The surf community is happy to bring increased education and awareness to interested lake residents on the topic of surfing, offering a balanced viewpoint to what has currently been offered
- Guidelines are found on the LKMD website.
- Mark presented minutes from previous Town of Merton meetings stating the town will wait until the state or DNR takes further action.
- Commissioners had a discussion and a vote
 - The Town of Merton has requested a clear recommendation from LKMD, supported by data.
 - The survey results are being interpreted differently depending on individual perspectives. Page 19 of the survey provides a strong outline of the results.
 - The commissioners discussed three possible options going forward:
 - Conduct one additional survey, this time based solely on the two recommendations provided by the co-chairs of the committee, and then bring those results to the Town.
 - Present the existing survey results—particularly the summary on page 19—directly to the Town.
 - Take no further action.
 - If we bring the survey results (page 19) to the Town, the Town would then make the next decision or provide feedback on the results. Ultimately, the decision rests with the Town of Merton. The only purpose of conducting another survey would be to gain additional clarity on the views of lake residents.
 - It was also noted that the Town has not faced significant conflicts over enhanced wake boats outside of North Lake, where they self-police and do not surf in their smaller bay.
 - A motion was made by Jim Flemming to take the highest voted survey page (page 19) to the town board and have them make the next call. All board members were in favor.
 - At the next Town meeting, the survey results (page 19) will be presented.

Weed Harvesting Update

- Judy Reinders reported that she spoke with Aquarius, who shared that the conveyor on the weed harvester is nearly finished. They are also reaching out to potential buyers for our used equipment, and the new harvester is expected to be completed in the fall.
- Jeff Vanderkin noted that 25 harvester loads, equal to 12.5 truckloads of weeds, were collected this season. The harvester recorded 64.3 running hours and 106.5 operating hours, with a new operator joining the team this year. Weed identification training was

also completed. Equipment updates included replacing the hydraulic cutter motor and installing a new canopy.

Adjournment

Jim Flemming moved, and Pete Schumacher seconded the adjournment at 6:36 p.m. Carried.

Minutes submitted by: Cara Engelking, LKMD Secretary

Approved by: [Name]