

WHITE LAKE CITIZENS LEAGUE (WLCL)

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Date: August 26, 2026

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: Highland Township Auditorium

Board Members Present

Larry D'Angelo, Sarah Horn, Karen Pinagel, Chuck Neville, Chris Wichers, Sean Whelan, Denise LaFlamme, Jennifer Genter, John Millington, Bob Parrett, Elizabeth Millington, Jamie Horn

Board Members Absent

Scott Trudell, Shelley Kirchner

Guests

Patti Rathwell, Paul Richards

1. Call to Order

President Karen Pinagel called the meeting to order at **6:37 p.m.**

2. Approval of July 20, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Motion: Chuck Neville moved to approve the July 20, 2026 Board Meeting minutes.

Second: Chris Wichers

Vote: Approved unanimously.

3. August 2026 Financial Report

Treasurer Chuck Neville presented the August 2026 Financial Report.

August cash receipts totaled **\$100**, and net cash disbursements totaled **\$116**. The current cash balance is approximately **\$80,695**.

Year-to-date receipts total **\$62,585**, approximately \$3,400 below the same period last year. Year-to-date disbursements total approximately **\$72,140**, about \$40,000 higher than last year, primarily due to increased fireworks expenses and other operating costs.

The current cash balance is approximately **\$10,000 below the December 31, 2025 balance**. The Board discussed the importance of additional fundraising and membership activity through year-end.

Motion: Bob Parrett moved to approve the August 2026 Financial Report.

Second: Jamie Horn

Vote: Approved unanimously.

4. Membership Update

WLCL currently has **405 memberships and 27 additional flags**. Membership dues total approximately **\$15,120**, with an additional **\$14,639 in membership-related donations**.

The League currently has six business members. The Board discussed additional outreach to prior and prospective business members, including promotion through email, Facebook, and possible community signage.

An updated list will be obtained from Lisa to identify prior members and donors for follow-up.

5. Weed Control

No significant weed concerns or recent resident complaints were reported.

John Millington will inspect lake conditions and determine whether the weed-control provider should be contacted for further evaluation.

6. Fundraisers

The Board agreed to hold a fundraising event on **Thursday, September 24**. Planned activities include WLCL apparel sales, a 50/50 raffle, and raffles or auctions of donated items.

The Board discussed repeating the successful bourbon basket raffle and making tickets available online, if feasible.

Motion: Larry D'Angelo moved to authorize **up to \$1,000** toward assembling a bourbon basket raffle, if needed.

Second: Jennifer Genter

Vote: Approved unanimously.

Motion: Larry D'Angelo moved to approve the September 24 fundraising event.

Second: Chuck Neville

Vote: Approved unanimously.

7. Apparel

WLCL will offer its winter apparel inventory for sale at the upcoming fundraiser and other events.

The Board agreed to **maintain current apparel pricing**.

8. Fishing Tournament

The fall fishing tournament is scheduled for **September 12 at the White Lake Inn docks**.

Registration will be held from **6:30 to 7:30 a.m.**, with weigh-in at **noon**.

Scott Trudell will continue promoting the event and contacting past participants. Trophies will be ordered, while coffee, donuts, and giveaway items are being provided or are already available.

9. Fireworks Survey

The Board conducted an extensive review of the proposed member survey regarding the future of the July 4 fireworks show and other potential League activities.

2027 Fireworks

The Board discussed the enhanced **July 4, 2026 fireworks show**, which was presented as a special anniversary celebration and cost approximately **50% more than the traditional show**. The Board clarified that the enhanced display included more fireworks and larger shells but was not materially longer in duration. References to a "longer show" will therefore be removed from the proposed survey.

Discussion focused on whether members should be asked if they support continuing a fireworks display comparable to the enhanced 2026 show, assuming sufficient funds are available, or returning to a more traditional format and using available additional funds for other purposes.

The Board emphasized that survey results will inform its decision, while the Board will retain responsibility for determining actual spending based on available resources.

The League already has a fireworks commitment in place for **2027** and expects to provide direction to the vendor by approximately **January 2027**.

Future Alternatives

The Board discussed potential future alternatives and supplemental events, including:

- Drone shows
- Labor Day fireworks
- Winter fireworks
- Hybrid drone and fireworks shows

Preliminary information regarding drone shows, including cost, staging requirements, site availability, public access, parking, utilities, and emergency access, was discussed.

Potential locations were identified for further investigation, but **no location or drone-show plan was approved.**

The consensus was that additional research is appropriate before presenting a drone show as a realistic near-term alternative. Because the 2027 fireworks commitment is already in place, the Board favored addressing the immediate 2027 fireworks question first and considering broader alternatives as part of future planning.

Other League Programs

The Board also discussed whether a survey should solicit member feedback regarding other League activities, including fundraising events, the pancake breakfast, boat parade, home tour, weed-control coordination, sheriff patrol coordination, and lake navigation and safety.

The Board recognized that certain services are coordinated by WLCL but may be funded through sources other than membership dues. Care should therefore be taken to ensure survey language does not imply that membership dues directly fund services such as weed control or sheriff patrols.

The Board discussed using newsletters or a periodic **"Did You Know?"** feature to better educate members regarding WLCL's responsibilities and activities.

There was general support for keeping the immediate survey concise and primarily focused on the 2027 fireworks decision, with broader community and lake-management questions reserved for future consideration.

Communications and Survey Administration

The proposed survey will also ask members how they currently receive, or prefer to receive, WLCL news and updates. The Board supported this question as a means of improving member communications.

The use of **QR codes** was also discussed as a way to make WLCL's communication channels more accessible.

The survey is expected to be created using **Google Forms** and distributed through the League's **Mailchimp email list**. Members will have approximately two weeks to respond. Reminder communications are expected during the response period.

The Board also discussed asking respondents whether they are current WLCL members. Nonmembers could then be directed to WLCL membership information and the League's website.

The survey drafter will incorporate the Board's feedback and prepare a **revised survey draft for further review**.

10. WLIB Resolutions

The Board discussed the township resolutions required for the **White Lake Improvement Board's goose egg and nest removal permit process**.

Resolutions from Highland Township and White Lake Township should be obtained before **January 2027** to allow timely submission to the DNR.

The Board also discussed obtaining letters of support from Lesser Farms and Seven Harbors.

Future efforts will seek to align the resolution and funding authorization process with the existing **five-year plan** to streamline administration.

11. Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

The annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner is scheduled for **Monday, October 12, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at the White Lake Inn**.

12. New Business

Patti Rathwell volunteered to coordinate **2027 membership flag distribution**. The Board expressed its appreciation.

The Board discussed distributing flags to block captains in increments of 10, where practical, and providing a spreadsheet showing membership totals by block captain.

The Board also discussed potentially reinstating **annual boat stickers or decals**. No decision was made.

13. Adjournment

Motion: Jennifer Genter moved to adjourn the meeting.

Second: Chuck Neville

Vote: Approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at approximately **7:46 p.m.**