



Crescent Lake Association Annual Member Meeting Minutes July 19, 2025 11:00am

Call to order

The Annual Member Meeting of the Crescent Lake Association was called to order by President Donna Stone at 11:45am after lunch. It was held at the Crescent Lake Bible Camp dining hall due to wet conditions outside at the picnic area.

Donna welcomed new members to the Crescent Lake Association in attendance and asked them to introduce themselves.

Roll Call

All board members were present. A total of 62 people attended the meeting.

Aquatic Plant Mapping

Terry Goldbach introduced the featured speaker for the education portion of our meeting. Dr. Dean Premo, White Water Associates, Inc. presented "Aquatic Plant Mapping".

White Water Associates has partnered with the Crescent Lake Association and Crescent Lake District to provide data and plant mapping associated with Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) control on Crescent Lake since 2021. White Water Associates has been in business since 1985. It has an analytical laboratory to provide water quality testing and recently has been involved with testing of wastewater for diseases such as Covid and RSV. The other portion of the business is the ecological consulting service such as that provided to Crescent Lake. White Water does not apply herbicides to lakes but provides support to monitor the target species being controlled. Their principal effort on Crescent Lake is to monitor EWM and other native aquatic plants in the lake to determine the effectiveness of treatments on EWM and if there are any effects on the native plants in the lake.

Aquatic plants (weeds) are essential to a healthy lake ecosystem. They provide food and habitat for many organisms that exist in the lake. The plants release oxygen necessary for life in the lake; help dissipate wave action created by boat traffic; and reduce erosion on the lakeshore. Healthy native plants help with control of invasive plant species by taking up space in the lake. Dean mentioned that in some lakes, such as Crescent Lake, EWM can overtake

native plants and have detrimental effects. However, he mentioned there are other lakes where it exists but it does not become invasive to native plant life.

Two types of aquatic plant surveys are performed on Crescent Lake: A meander survey is a study in which data is taken at various points around the lake having the type of habitat where EWM may exist or where it does exist as found during previous surveys. The meander survey for EWM can be done in the Spring because EWM usually remains robust over the winter and can be easily identified before native plants grow. The meander survey data is sent to the herbicide applicator, Aquatic Plant Management, to determine where and how much herbicide needs to be applied in the lake. The other type of survey is the point-intercept survey. It is a grid of predefined points approximately 30 meters apart. There are 1,552 grid points surveyed on Crescent Lake. At each grid point a rake is thrown overboard to collect a plant sample to be identified and recorded. The point-intercept survey is done in July or August when plant growth is near its peak. The point-intercept survey data is useful for comparison to previous point-intercept surveys to determine if the aquatic plant life is changing.

The surveys, 2006 to the present, have shown aquatic plants are becoming more widespread and denser in Crescent Lake. Plant life may be increasing due to die-off of Rusty Crawfish which consumed them. Other possible causes are phosphorus from runoff, warmer water temperatures, and increased boat traffic stirring up nutrients on the lake bottom. Musky cabbage, a larger leaf plant, is an example of a plant increasing in occurrence. A native plant negatively affected by herbicide treatments in Crescent Lake is Northern Milfoil.

Occasionally native plants, such as the Southern Naiad, can become abundant and somewhat invasive. It is a grassy looking plant with stems that can grow up to 2 feet in length. Southern Naiad plant was originally found in Crescent Lake during the 2019 survey. At that time, it was found in less than 1% of the points checked. In 2024 the same plant was found at 47% of the points checked. Since it is a native plant, a permit cannot be obtained for its control. However, Dean mentioned that in other lakes where it was found, its growth rate eventually slowed and its occurrence went back down over time.

The algae population on Crescent Lake is well under control because of its healthy plant life. Native aquatic plants are consuming nutrients in the lake and preventing excessive algae growth. Thus clarity of the lake remains good.

Crescent Lake District – EWM Control

Terry Goldbach reported that ProcellaCOR herbicide was applied on the north end of the lake this Spring. Initial results are very good with the EWM now gone from where the herbicide was applied. Terry mentioned it is unlikely a treatment will be necessary next year unless there is an unexpected rebound.

More details of the results and future EWM control plans will be presented at the annual meeting of the Crescent Lake District on August 30 at 9:00am at the Crescent Town Hall.

Terry reported that the Mole Lake Fisheries will be conducting a crayfish survey on Crescent Lake the week of August 11th to check the population of crayfish in the lake.

Enhanced Wake Boating

Mike Henry provided an update on the enhanced wake boating issue. After the May 2025 member meeting a petition was circulated to property owners on Crescent Lake to petition for an ordinance preventing enhanced wake boating on the lake. It was signed by approximately 180 property owners and presented to the Crescent Town Board. Mike reported that at the June Town Board meeting it became evident the Town Board Chairman and Supervisors appeared reluctant to pass an ordinance preventing enhanced wake boating. At the July Town Board meeting, an ordinance was passed restricting enhanced wake boating to no closer than 300 feet from shore and in a water depth of at least 15-20 feet. It will need to be submitted to and approved by the DNR to take effect. This ordinance will likely have minimal effect on wake enhanced boating on the lake.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the Crescent Lake Association (CLA) Spring Member Meeting held on 5/17/2025 were emailed to all current CLA members for review. There were no corrections or additions. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Tim Kilgore and seconded by Wendy Goldbach. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Sandy McKitrick provided copies of the 2025 budget report dated 7/14/2025. Sandy briefly reviewed the year-to-date income, disbursements, current checking, savings account and certificate of deposit balances. There were no questions.

July 4th Activities Recap

Fireworks: Mark started out by thanking Jack Geisel for his assistance during the fireworks planning, setup and show. Jack was at the controls during the show firing the shells and setting the pace of the firing. The show lasted about 25 minutes.

The day of the fireworks was very warm and humid with calm winds at the site. Mark thanked the crew that showed up to help load and wire 227 shells and 22 cake boxes of multiple shells.

Only one set of 5-inch shells did not fire properly and a cake box didn't completely fire off due to an internal manufacturing defect. The wiring crew did a great job again this year.

Mark also thanked the crews that showed up to pick up the mortars from storage at Jelinek's Well Drilling; secured the mortars to the ground; and cleaned up the site the day after the show.

Boat Parade: 12 boats participated in the parade this year. The Stone family captured the "Best Overall" boat category this year. The Tesch family received the "Most Patriotic" boat prize and the Markwardt family took the prize for the "Most Creative" boat. The Weiler, Currie and Feemster families received awards for "Best Spectators". All participants received a gas card and a prize. Donna thanked the Mack family for doing the judging again this year.

Donna mentioned that next year the boat parade will be held on July 3rd to avoid interference with the Rhinelander parade.

Garage Sale

A lake-wide garage sale will be held at the Crescent Town Hall on August 22-23. Joan Karls asked individuals interested in selling items at the garage sale to contact her.

Merchandise

Donna distributed information on Crescent Lake merchandise for sale from Vital Industries from their online store setup for the Crescent Lake Association. The QR code on the handout can be scanned to access the store and a link will be setup on the Crescent Lake Association website.

Board Member Election

Kay Gehrke, chair of the nominations committee, introduced the nominating committee members: Janell Solinsky, Chris Bendickson and Mike Henry (board liaison). She stated there are three seats on the Board of Directors that are up for election this year. The seats are held by Donna Stone, Sandy McKitrick and Wendy Goldbach. Donna and Sandy have indicated to the nominations committee they would like to be considered for another term on the board. Wendy is retiring from the board after serving four years. On behalf of the board, Donna extended her appreciation to Wendy for her service. Gary Voss was nominated to fill the position vacated by Wendy. Donna and Sandy gave a brief description of their duties on the board. Gary provided a summary of his professional experience and his volunteering for the Crescent Lake Association.

Earlier in the month of July, Kay requested those that may be interested in being considered for the open board position to contact her before the Annual Member Meeting. No one contacted Kay to be considered. Kay asked for a motion to close the nominations and accept the nominees as presented. The motion to close the nominations and accept the nominees was made by Sue Binder and seconded by Jim Gehrke. Passed by voice vote.

Friend of the Lake Award

Jim Gehrke filled in for Cindy Hermel, last year's recipient of the "Friend of the Lake Award" who was unable to attend the meeting. Jim stated that in 2007 the CLA started presenting the "Friend of the Lake Award". The award was established to give a special "thank you" to an individual who has made significant contributions to the lake and the lake association over a period of several years. Each year, the prior award recipients are asked to nominate an individual who is worthy of receiving the award. This year's recipient has been a member of the CLA for many years and served as president of the board. This year's award recipient is Dennis Southworth. Dennis received a trophy and his name will be placed on the "Friend of the Lake" plaque at the Town Hall. Congratulations Dennis and thank you for your service to Crescent Lake.

Adjournment

Before adjourning Donna thanked Maria Rudesill and the Bible Camp staff for hosting the meeting today. The meeting was adjourned by Donna Stone at 1:30pm.

Mark Mergenthaler

Secretary

October 4, 2025

Date of approval