



Crescent Lake Association Fall Member Meeting Minutes October 4, 2025 5:00pm

Call to order

The Fall Member Meeting of the Crescent Lake Association was called to order by President Donna Stone at 5:57pm after refreshments and dinner. It was held at the Crescent Town Hall. Donna welcomed new members to the Crescent Lake Association in attendance and asked them to introduce themselves.

Roll Call

All board members except Maria Rudesill were present. A total of 37 people attended the meeting.

Crescent Lake Fishery

Donna introduced the featured speaker for the education portion of our meeting. Nathan Lederman, DNR Fisheries Biologist, provided an update on DNR activities over the last year on Crescent Lake.

Nathan mentioned a partnership was formed over the last year to work together on a "Walleye Lake of Concern" project. The partnership includes: Crescent Lake Association, Crescent Lake District, Mole Lake Band of the Superior Chippewa, Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, DNR Treaty Unit and the DNR Fisheries Bureau.

Three surveys were conducted over the year to address areas where updated data was needed. A near shore substrate survey was conducted by the DNR and Great Lake Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission this past summer. The survey was to identify the type of substrate (lake bottom composition) and its location. This information would be used to evaluate the potential for spawning of different fish species. Results were documented during the survey on paper then transferred to a digitized map of the lake. Mapping of near shore substrate in this format is relatively new and data is only available on a few other lakes for comparison.

Another survey was done by the Mole Lake Band to gain a current estimate of the crayfish population in Crescent Lake. Crayfish traps with beef liver bait were set in ten locations around the lake at five-, ten- and fifteen-foot depths. Only one rusty crayfish and one native crayfish

were trapped. This confirms reports from residents on the lake that the crayfish population is minimal. A 1970 crayfish survey using the same number of traps over the same number of days provided results of fifteen rusty crayfish per night.

In the early Fall, an electrofishing survey was carried out to provide an estimate of the game fish population. Game fish are collected after being shocked and placed in a tank of water onboard the survey boat. The fish are then measured, counted and released back into the lake. The survey this year once again showed a low number of walleyes were naturally reproduced. Only one age 0 (reproduced this year) and two age 1 walleye were captured. The age 0 and age 1 walleye populations in the lake are well below the level for sustaining a walleye population. This has been the trend for several years. However, many of the larger fingerling walleye stocked in the lake in 2023 are still surviving.

The largemouth bass population continues to increase. The number captured in the survey is on the high end compared to other Oneida County lakes. The smallmouth bass population was found lower than largemouth bass and is likely on par with other Oneida County lakes. The daily catch limit for bass is planned to be changed next Spring to a no minimum length and a daily catch of five fish. This is to help with the walleye population as it is believed the bass are likely out-competing the walleye for food. Also, a change to the daily limit on walleye to one fish from 18 to 22 inches was approved this past Spring in Madison by the Conservation Congress. These regulations need to be approved by the state legislature and the governor before implementation next year.

The number of northern pike captured during the survey were higher than in previous years but close to average for Oneida County lakes. The number of muskies captured were also close to the average found in Oneida County lakes.

Nathan mentioned that adding protection to the crappie fishery to limit the harvest could have a negative impact on the walleye population, much as the relatively high largemouth population negatively impacts the walleye. Nathan mentioned the crappie fishery is known to have periods of growth and then decline. So, the current trend of fewer crappies now being caught over the past two years may reverse at some point.

Nathan replied in response to a question about a pay box at the boat landing by saying he would look into if placing a pay box is possible.

Nathan mentioned there may not be another public meeting for a while but communication will continue with all parties if additional surveys or changes to daily catch limits are proposed.

Crescent Lake is on the list for potential walleye and muskie stocking in 2026. There is a procedure that must be followed for determining the priority for individual lakes. Since there was some evidence of muskie natural reproduction this year, this could lower the priority for muskie stocking.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the Crescent Lake Association (CLA) Annual Member Meeting held on 7/19/2025 were emailed to all current CLA members for review. A correction to the minutes regarding the talk given by Dr. Dean Premo was requested regarding the impact of herbicide treatment in the lake. The sentences in the minutes in which a correction was requested are: "A native plant negatively affected by herbicide treatments in Crescent Lake is Northern Milfoil. It has largely disappeared from the lake due to its sensitivity to the herbicide". It was agreed to strike the second sentence as herbicide treatments may not be the only reason for disappearance of Northern Milfoil. This correction leaves first sentence as is: "A native plant negatively affected by herbicide treatments in Crescent Lake is Northern Milfoil". The spelling of Maria Rudesill's name in the minutes was also corrected. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Larry McKitrick and seconded by Jim Gehrke. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Sandy McKitrick provided copies of the 2025 budget report dated 10/3/2025. Sandy briefly reviewed the year-to-date income, disbursements, current checking, savings account and certificate of deposit balances. Sandy reported an informal audit of the books was conducted by Craig Grinde recently. No irregularities were found. The membership total for the year is 204 individuals. Dues payments were received from 132 of the 247 properties on the lake. There were no questions on the financials.

Volunteer Recognition

Donna thanked all the volunteers that participated in the CBCW boat landing inspections this year. Over 200 hours of volunteer time was recorded. This met the requirement to receive a grant from the state for the CBCW program and associated expenses on Crescent Lake. The names of the twenty-six volunteers were read by Donna.

Crescent Lake District Update

Tim Kilgore recapped the EWM control presentation that was made at the annual lake district meeting. The meeting was held on August 30, 2025. Tim mentioned that a permit was obtained this year to treat 30 acres with ProcellaCOR herbicide on the north end of the lake. The cost of the herbicide treatment was about \$48,000. The results where the treatment was applied were very effective. However, this year EWM was found on the south end of the lake. Tim mentioned that, compared to other lakes with EWM, that Crescent Lake is in relatively good shape. The lake district has about \$150,000 of funds carryover to next year.

Enhanced Wake Boat Ordinance

Mike Henry spoke briefly about the ordinance passed by the Crescent Town Board at its July meeting. The ordinance has now been sent to the DNR for approval. Mike spoke with John Richter, Last Wilderness Alliance, who mentioned they are continuing to lobby the legislature for a more restrictive law on enhanced wake surfing. The law requested would include a requirement to disinfect the ballast tanks on the boats.

Scholarship

Joan Karls talked about a proposal to offer a college scholarship to a Rhinelander High School senior. A committee of five lake association members proposed a \$1,000 scholarship be awarded to a Rhinelander High School graduating student planning to pursue a degree in Natural Resources, Environmental Science or Conservation Science. Volunteering or community service would also be considered in selection of the recipient. The scholarship would be sent directly to the college. A graduating student would be selected each year over a 3-year period. After 3 years, the board and association membership would reevaluate whether or not to continue offering the scholarship. The Scholarship Committee, made up of board members and association members, is to be responsible for determining the selection criteria. The Rhinelander Area Scholarship Foundation or the Crescent Lake Association would select a student based on the stated selection criteria. The association may defer to the foundation for selection since they very likely know the students applying for the scholarship.

Sandy McKitrick motioned to approve the proposal as stated by Joan. It was seconded by Kay Gehrke. Motion passed by a show of hands.

Merchandise

Donna talked about the outcome of the merchandise store trial this summer. The response was not enough for Vital Industries to keep the store open so it was closed and no orders were filled. Donna asked for a show of hands if anyone was interested in reopening the merchandise store for the Christmas holidays. Some interest was shown so Donna will check with Vital Industries to see if they could reopen the store.

Garage Sale

A lake-wide garage sale was held at the Crescent Town Hall on August 22-23. Five families participated in selling their items and actually filled most of the room. A decision will be made if it should be an annual event.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Donna Stone at 7:36pm.

Mark Mergenthaler

Secretary

Date of approval

APPROVED