



# Town of St. Germain Lakes Committee

Town Lakes Committee Voting Members			
Lake Organization	Member #1	Member #2	Alternate member
Big St. Germain Area Lakes District	Joe Koschnik	Don Baumann	Roy Seidl
	injundu@hotmail.com	donmariestgermain@yahoo.com	sitese51@yahoo.com
Little St. Germain Lake District	Jeannie Lord	Barb Steinhilber	June Vogel
	pineview7@gmail.com	barbjs2@frontier.com	lstgdistrict@gmail.com
Alma/Moon Lake District	Dave Zielinski	Tony Waisbrot	Len Larson
	davezee1@frontier.com	twaisbrot@frontier.com	moonklars@frontier.com
Lost Lake District	Jim Guckenberg	Eric Eade	Jim Ulett
	guckenbergj@gmail.com	eeade60@gmail.com	jim@ulett.net
Found Lake Property Owners Association	Bob Schell	Kay Schultz	Vacant
	rsshell@msn.com	gks.found@gmail.com	
Committee chairman: <b>Ted Ritter</b> ted.ritter@stg.town			

## Meeting minutes, 01/19/2023

1. **Call to order:** Meeting called to order by Ritter at 10:05AM
2. **Confirm meeting posting:** Agenda was posted on 01/12/2023 in accordance with Town Board procedures
3. **Verify a quorum in attendance:** Meeting was conducted by Ted Ritter in Room 4 of the St. Germain Community Center with a virtual attendance option. Committee members physically present in Room 4: June Vogel and Ted Ritter. Committee members attending virtually: Jeannie Lord, Barb Steinhilber, Jim Guckenberg, Eric Eade, Bob Schell and Kay Schultz.
4. **Public comments:** There were none.
5. **Discussion/action topics:**
  - a. **Approve minutes of December 15, 2022, meeting:** Motion Steinhilber, second Eade to approve with correction to item 5d to indicate the Lord and Schell will have a presentation ready for the February 2023 meeting. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

- b. Review WDNR response to Town resolution calling for filling of vacancy created by retirement of Warden Mike Sealander:** Ritter reported he had received a phone response from Warden Bryan Harrenstein of the Tomahawk DNR office on 01/03/2023 in response to the Town's resolution. Warden Harrenstein shared the following information:
- He appreciated the style and positive attitude of the resolution and hoped that it would help fill the vacancy.
  - From the past two annual warden academy classes since Warden Sealander's retirement, the DNR had intended to fill that vacancy with a specific new warden from each class. From the first group, the recruit failed to complete the training. From the second group, the recruit refused the assignment. The next opportunity to potentially assign a new recruit will be in October of 2023.
  - Wardens are allowed one opportunity each June or July to transfer internally. If a warden currently assigned to another post requests a transfer to Warden Sealander's vacant post during that period in 2023, the request will be considered and potentially approved.
  - Warden Sealander's vacancy is the only vacancy in Vilas County. However, both Iron and Forest Counties are presently without any wardens and scattered vacancies also exist in other regional counties. There will not be enough new recruits to fill all the vacant posts and other positions may be given higher priority from the 2023 class of recruits than the Vilas vacancy.
  - DNR Wardens from counties surrounding Iron and Forest Counties are being sent part-time to those counties to provide law enforcement services. This demand is further exacerbating the diminished presence of wardens in Vilas County.
  - Law enforcement as a career has lost appeal in recent years resulting in shortages not only within the WI DNR, but throughout WI County Sheriff's Offices and other municipal offices and across the U.S. All law enforcement agencies are competing for new recruits from the diminished number of recruits.
  - No certainty can be provided by the DNR when Warden Sealander's position will be filled.
  - Warden Harrenstein would be happy to appear before the Town Board to discuss this further upon being requested to do so.
- c. Review plan for providing watercraft rental businesses with a modified version of WI Boating Laws flier:** Tabled until the February meeting.
- d. Continue review/discussion of the "enhanced wake" issue:** Schell provided an update on activities within WI Lakes. Statewide guidance is coming, but not in time for the 2023 annual Lakes Partnership Convention in April. Ritter summarized a recent lengthy conversation he had with Catherin Higley of Vilas County Land & Water Conservation, including Ritter's thoughts on how the WI Public Trust Doctrine should be amended by the State Legislature to recognize that watercraft know to be capable of causing serious environmental damage could be subject to State, County and Municipal ordinances restricting their use. Doing so would pave the way for such laws that are currently not possible due to the overly restrictive interpretation of the Public Trust Doctrine.
- e. Approve lakes improvement spending requests:** There were none. Ritter confirmed the 2023 Town Lakes Committee budget includes the Town's annual \$5,000 to lake improvement projects.
- f. Committee concerns for future agendas:** Invite the Vilas County Recreation Warden to attend a Lakes Committee meeting to continue discussion of needed presence of law enforcement.

**6. Adjourn:** Meeting was adjourned by Ritter at 10:42AM.