

Big Turkey Lake Improvement Association Officers/Directors Meeting  
October 25, 2025 ~ 9:00am  
Stroh Fire Department

1. Introductions & Membership

We need representation from Old Wildwood and Wildwood 1. Will be advertised on Facebook page along with the need for a new Treasurer to train with Jeff Stevens for next year. A sheet was routed to update contact information which Alice Snyder, Secretary will email out to Directors and Officers along with the by-laws. If anyone has or can get access to the volunteer sign in sheets for helping with buoys, by-laws, fireworks, etc from the fall membership meeting, please forward them to the Secretary.

2. LARE Grant

Mark Tholen, Vice President attended an on-line meeting along with past board members Joe Mishak and Shelby Carmichael.

3. Buoys

Buoys will be taken out this or next weekend. New ones labeled "No Wake" need to be labelled "DANGER". We would like to remark them. Scott Harris, President will contact Rick Byanski to see if we can put reflective stickers with DANGER on them. Still have more buoys left on the skid.

A discussion occurred about fine tuning a map with DNR about where buoys can be placed. Oak Lodge needs No Wake. Dennison spot needs one as well. Storage now on Jeff Walborn's property on the barge which is fine. Where is the box with reflective strips on Lakewood Bay? Maybe with Nick Fletcher.

Maybe buy a pontoon for putting in/out? Using barges now. Pond Champs quote was obtained at one point. Jeff Walborn will contact them and also get quote from Zach so it can be voted on at next meeting. In 2026, bid it out with a map and numbers of buoys. Ensure bid includes that buoys need to be out by November 15th and in after March 15th.

#### 4. Wildlife Permitting

Working with Joe Mishak on oiling eggs permit and mute swan removal permit. Whoever oils needs to report to Joe. Could we pay to have someone do it? USDA removes them. Do we need to do another geese round-up? Could Boy Scouts do it as a project?

#### 5. Short Term CD

What does the lake need? Funds are available because of great fundraising efforts by members. Confirmed that grants through the Lagrange County Community Foundation are available. Maybe use it for Addition access area improvements? Talk with your fellow neighbors and bring ideas to the next meeting.

Until then, Treasurer Jeff Stevens introduced the use of a short term CD - 3 month 3.9% - 6 month 3.75% - 1 year 3.55%. No penalty for early withdrawal. No minimum. Motion was made by Amy Donley to invest at Farmers State Bank for \$40,000 for 1 year; \$25,000 for 6 months and \$10,000 for 3 months. Deb Clark seconded the motion. Motion passed. Jeff will follow up with Farmers State Bank to get set up.

There should be two signers on the account. Agreed that it would be the Treasurer and President. Jeff will also get that set up.

#### 6. Fish Stocking Fund

The original Fish Stocking Fund was derived from bottle returns. Should we stock one last time and close the account? Some complain that there

are not enough fish available because of weed kill and boat traffic. Reviewed 2023 DNR Fish Management Survey to see number of fish by category.

Motion by Fred Burkhalter to spend out the fund stocking large mouth bass and black crappie and then close the fund. Seconded by Amy Donley. Motion passed.

## 7. Ditch Taxes

Steuben County reassessing taxes along ditches. Private Donor and LARE grant did the last silt trap. Do we need to start a fund for clean out in 8 years? Conservancy is also looking at helping with dredging.

## 8. Sound System

Alice Snyder mentioned the need for a small sound system for meetings so everyone can hear. Could be used for other events as well. Motion made by April Perry to purchase a sound system for less than \$500. Seconded by Fred Burkhalter. Motion passed. Alice will look into getting one purchased before the spring meeting.

## 9. Lake Levels

Barry Smith, lake resident and environmental engineer, is interested in helping review the lake levels and the dam on the lake that is regulated by DNR. A survey will be needed. Will be an expensive thing to do. We need to look for the 2nd phase of original dredging done by EF new. Conservancy working on dredging at public access out to Penny's Point.

## 10. 50/50

There is interest again in doing a 50/50 raffle at both the Spring and Fall Meetings. Alice Snyder, Secretary will check into permitting for doing that.

Next meeting of the Officers and Directors will be on Saturday, March 14th 9:00am at the Stroh Fire Department.

Wally Walworth made motion to close the meeting at 10:50am and Fred Burkhalter seconded. Motion passed.

Recorded by,

Alice Snyder, Secretary