

Morton Township Tri-Lakes Association

Board Meeting

Recorded –May 10, 2025

Call to Order at 10:02 am

Roll Call – Present: Myle Turpen (President), Randy Walsdorf (Vice President), Dave Lewis, Joan Parks, Julia Harris, Rob Bandfield, Martha Boetcher, Laura Angera, Karen Slenk, Jim Parker, Sandy Brogan

Zoom attendees: None

Excused: Bruce Miller, Jim Samuels, Mike Burnard (Treasurer)

Guest: Carol Sohn

Approval of Minutes – Motion by Joan Parks, second by Randy Walsdorf to approve 4.12.2025 Board Meeting Minutes with the following corrections: 1) change date to 4.12.2025; change location of loon ANI in Round Lake to southeast corner; omit “conflict with” from meetings under Watershed Quality. Motion carried.

Officers’ Reports- Treasurer’s report*: In Mike’s absence, Sandy reported total income of \$960.00 (memberships, Ad revenue and donation), and expenses of \$6,431.65 (Web hosting, Cheddar-up fees, postage, repairs to buoys, IRS Dispute resolution & certified mail).

Full report available to view in Money Minder Pro

Motion by Julia Harris, second by Karen Slenk to accept the treasurer’s report as presented; motion carried.

Director Reports

Fish & Wildlife Management –No report.

Lake Improvement Report – Secchi disk readings will start this week; chlorophyll A samples will be taken next week.

Loon Report – Blue Lake loons are nesting in the outlet channel (one white and one brown egg); Lake Mecosta loons are nesting on Fickes Island.

Dam – All boards remain down since 4.5.2025. According to the Drain Commissioner, there will be a modest assessment on the winter tax bill for dam upkeep.

Public Landing/Friends of the Lake – No new information on dates for the MSU boat wash(es). Myle noted that one of the tools at the boat wash is missing and will be replaced. Myle suggested reposting the Friends of the Lake information on Facebook and website.

Membership - 275 current members; 118 memberships expire 7.31.2025 (12 without email addresses). Mike has sent reminders to all of those with expiring memberships. Mike recently emailed a list of all expiring memberships to Board members so each Board member can reach out to friends and neighbors. Mike has worked with Alex to allow multiple years to be purchased through Cheddar-up without having to use auto-renew.

Standing Committees

Communication

Newsletter (Julia Harris): The ad hoc committee chaired by Julia Harris met April 27, 2025, and recommended that the Board approve changing to all digital format in 2026. According to representatives of other lake associations per conversations at the recent MLSA conference, many have already changed format. Motion by Martha Boetcher, second by Julia Harris, amended by Myle Turpen, to change the newsletter format to digital in 2026. Motion approved. Notice of change will be included in all 2025 newsletters. Karen will need new software moving forward. The auto-renew feature has not yet been removed from the on-line membership payment.

Facebook (Karen Slenk): Dave & Les Lewis have been posting golf sponsors. It was recommended that golf sponsors be re-posted on Facebook.

Website (Karen Slenk): Karen mentioned that we received notice for Go-Daddy renewal; either Karen or Mike should check with Alex to be certain that this is paid.

Recreation

Golf Fundraiser (Myle Turpen): Roster is full for the June 4, 2025 event with 32 golf teams. Board members were reminded that they should provide either a sponsorship or raffle prize for the event. The price for food decreased to \$39 per person!

Youth Fishing (Dave Lewis): Scheduled for 6.28.2025 with 6.29.2025 as rain date. Participants can register on Cheddar-Up.

Boat Parade (Joan Parks): Scheduled for 7.5.2025 at 4:00 PM on Lake Mecosta. Myle has Craig's trophy; Joan will order plaques from Graphic Specialties.

Watershed Quality

(Martha Boetcher) Regular committee meeting held 5.1.2025, including Martha Boetcher, Laura Angera, Rob Bandfield and Julia Harris. The committee recommended purchase of native plants, at a cost of \$195 for 3 different varieties, for distribution to Tri-Lakes Association members and other interested property owners using a coupon system.

Coffee break: Julia Kirkwood is scheduled for Thursday, July 17, 2025 at 10:30 AM at the Morton Township Library. The committee would like to advertise this program on TLA Facebook and website, and posting fliers. The committee also recommends providing refreshments at the program.

Motion by Myle Turpen, second by Julia Harris to approve up to \$436 for plants and plant coupons, and fliers and refreshments for Lake Coffee Break with Julia Kirkwood. Motion carried.

Score the Shore: Survey of Lake Mecosta to be scheduled in 2025; notice included in first newsletter.

Shoreland Steward Program: The committee recommends that Board members rate their own shoreline using the tools provided at MIshorelandstewards.org.

MLSA Conference: Martha Boetcher and Laura Angera reported on presentations from the recent Annual MLSA Conference. Myle Suggested that the Watershed Quality Committee use MLSA topics to steer their focus.

Unfinished Business

IRS – IRS fine has been paid and letter to request an abatement has been re-submitted.

Board Positions – There are 2 open positions – one on Round Lake and one “float.”

Secretary – The position of secretary needs to be filled.

New Business –

Freshwater Future: Martha Boetcher noted that TLA can receive an hour of “coaching” from Freshwater Future as part of our membership. She suggested that we ask them to assist with the application process for 501(C)3 tax status. Discussion of the need to avoid any contact with IRS until the current issue is resolved.

Meeting Time: Several Board members have asked to start meeting earlier, e.g., 9:00 AM. Laura checked with the Township – someone would need to be responsible to pick up a key each day prior to the meeting, and we would need their WiFi password to use Zoom. Discussion tabled.

Public Comment – None

Next Board Meeting- Next meeting June 14, 2025 - 10:00 am at the Morton Township Library

Adjournment – Motion by Randy Walsdorf, second by Sandy Brogan to adjourn at 11:30am; motion carried.

Respectfully submitted
Sandy Brogan