

**Spring Lake - Lake Board Meeting Minutes
November 25, 2025**

Barber Street School
102 W. Exchange St.
Spring Lake, MI

1. **Call to Order: 4:00pm**
2. **Roll Call:** 9 present: *Josh Brugger, Joe Bush, Rick Soldo, Michelle Hazekamp, Jim Walters, Carly Scholtz, John Nash, Dave Billinghamst, Roger Vanderstelt.* Absent: *Stephanie Barrett.*
3. **Additions to/corrections to/Approval of Agenda:** Carly Scholtz moved to approve the agenda. Joe Bush 2nd. **Motion carries.**
4. **Review/Approval of Draft September 24, 2025, Meeting Minutes:** Jim Walters moved to approve the meeting minutes from September. Rick Soldo 2nd. **Motion carries.**
5. **Financial Reports:** Rick Soldo - Accumulated \$40,000.00 in interest. Additional money has also been received from Spring Lake Township. A delayed billing statement for the bond came through unexpectedly.
~*Budget:* was established in 2023 for Alum and other treatments, but now we have additional priorities to work on integrating into the budget for 2026. Chairman Brugger asked Paul Hausler to add an agenda item for January's meeting regarding changes needed/wanted for a new budget. At last month's meeting, approval was granted to seek financial services for the board, Rick placed a public announcement for bids via newspaper. Rick suggested establishing a set approved spending amount for matters such as newspaper ads, etc. that does not require board approval ahead of time. Chairman Brugger moved to approve the treasurer to spend up to \$500.00 for Lake Board activities. Joe Bush 2nd. **Motion carries unanimously.**
John Nash moved to approve the financial report. Joe Bush 2nd. **Motion carries.**
6. **Consultant Report:** Progressive - Jared Laughlin: Jared is a Environmental Scientist with Progressive and will be the new Field Chief for aquatic plant surveys. We have received 4 bids for aquatic plant harvesting and narrowed it down to 2 companies. Jared recommended "Clearwater Plant Harvesting, LLC". Roger Vanderstelt moved to approve the bid from CPH. Carly Scholtz 2nd. **Motion carries.**
7. **Technical Committee Update Report:** Rick Soldo/Jim Walters - We set aside \$11,000.00 for the watershed management plan, however, it is not likely we will be approved per Sara Goldman with the Ottawa Conservation District because we are already a part of the Grand River Watershed Plan and can access resources through that. In the meantime we can apply for another grant: The Watershed Council Grant that rewards up to \$20,000.00. Applications are due Dec. 10th and there is no match required. Once approved we can start working on things prior to receiving funds. Sara and the Conservation District are currently doing pre-work for the grant (writing the plan and gathering required data). Approval will take place in the spring/summer of 2026.
8. **Update for WMP Update Grant Proposal:** Rick Soldo/Sara Bowman - Discussed in item #7.
9. **Communication:** Paul Hausler & Carly Scholtz - Refreshing the website; Paul spoke with Luke in IT about refreshing our website to make it more attractive and user friendly. They looked at the Bear Lake website and stated it provides a much better navigation layout. Luke says it will take 35-45 hours to change the website format, and estimates the cost to be about \$4,000.00.

John Nash moved to approve the \$4,000.00 for the website renovation. Jim Walters 2nd.
Discussion: several board members expressed the need to wait because the website was recently updated and we should see how effective the other communication avenues are before spending money on changing the website. It is still an option for the future and once a communications team is formed, they can determine whether we change the website or not.
Vote by roll call: **Motion fails 8-1**. No votes: Josh Brugger, Joe Bush Rick Soldo, Michelle Hazekamp, Jim Walters, Carly Scholtz, Dave Billinghamurst, Roger Vanderstelt. Yes vote: John Nash.

~Gordon Gallagher (Spring Lake Twp. Manager) stated their township 2026 goals is to work on communicating with residents to inform and educate on best practices. The township board felt it was best to encourage the lake board to continue informing and “over” communicate on lake issues. Dave Billinghamurst asked if punishment was enforced for violations? Gordon replied that informing and educating offenders has been more successful than enforcing punishments.

~Social Media: Carly Scholtz/Paul Hausler - The Facebook page is set up and active, however, Carly has not posted anything yet. She wanted to ask the board first for ideas. The board agreed to post a “Welcome to our FB page” and a couple other informational items for now.

10. **New Business:** The bond release letter needs to be signed by Chairman Brugger. There is no expenditure. Joe Bush moved to have Chairman Brugger sign the bond release. Rick Soldo 2nd.
Motion carries.

-Suggested SAD information request: It was requested of the board to consider creating a roster of lake property owners for public view. The roster would only release information such as number of lake property owners, amount/differences each property owner pays for the alum treatment, how many are back lots, half lots, etc. No personal data will be issued such as names, addresses, etc.

11. **Public Comment:** Ann Smith. Sue Halter. Gordon Gallagher.
12. **Meeting Dates & Times for 2026:** Meeting dates for 2026 will remain as the 4th Wednesday, every other month beginning in January. In order to accommodate the public, the board agreed to hold every other meeting at a later time; either 6:00pm or 6:30pm, beginning at the March 2026 meeting. **Next Meeting: January 28, 2026, at 4:00pm.**
13. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 5:25pm.