

DRAFT
Spring Lake - Lake Board Meeting Minutes
September 24, 2026
Barber Street School
102 W. Exchange St.
Spring Lake, MI

1. **Call to Order:** 4:03

2. **Roll Call:** 8 Present. A quorum was met.

Present: Josh Brugger, Joe Bush, Rick Soldo, Michelle Hazekamp, Carly Sholtz, Christopher Estes, Dave Billinghamurst, Stephanie Barrett.

3. **Additions to/Corrections to/Approval of Agenda:** Chris Estes moved to approve the agenda. Carly Scholtz supported.. **Motion Carries.**

4. **Review/Approval of Draft July 22, 2026 Meeting Minutes:** Stephanie Barrett moved to approve the meeting minutes from July. Joe Bush supported. **Motion Carries.**

5. **Financial Report: (Soldo/Bush)**

i) Rectify 2023 budget to current funds - Little activity since last report. Rick wants to add a budget proposal to the agenda at the last meeting of the year to discuss if we will take on extra projects with the extra funds remaining in the projected fund balance.

ii) Audit Discussion: Rick has reached out to various audit firms. The firms have questioned whether an audit is required. Rick will verify with State Lake Board rules. Ann Smith advised that; every 2-4 years the board is required to have an independent audit, and she has contact in Lansing that can verify. Stephanie Barrett will also talk with the Bear Lake Board attorney who specializes in lake boards.

iii) Contingency line item: The \$60,000 on the Administration & Contingency line item is more than what is actually being spent.

Motion to receive the financial report: Stephanie Barrett moved to approve the Financial Report. Chris Estes supported.. **Motion carries via unanimous voice vote.**

6. **Consultant Report: Paul Hauser**

iii) Mechanical Harvesting Permit Status: Spring Lake is considered a Section 10 water and is covered by the Army Corp. and EGLE. We have received the final draft of conditions required in the permit. The permit is expected to be issued within the next two weeks.

iv) Schedule for plant surveys: 56 1/2 acres of algae control has been completed.. Samples showed high algae levels in the August sampling. \$82,850 has been spent currently for weed and algae control. We are receiving several complaints regarding algae; Paul Hausler explained the cause is due to heavy rain events and nutrients washing into the lake from the water shed.

v) Water quality results: Water quality (seiche) readings are low. The cause is most likely water shed and heavy rain events.

7. **Technical Committee Update:**

a.) Update on Watershed Council Grant: Sarah stated they are averaging 3 to 4 days in the field. The shoreline surveys are being done with interns and they are looking at a variety of components such as development, sea walls, lawn run-off, septic, and the types of algae that are present. Currently they are under budget. The Management plan will start being drafted in the fall/winter. They have also discovered another funding source through The Great Lakes Fishery Trust for \$20,000 max. They have also been identifying woody material, substrate, etc, and prioritizing bayou's. The rest of the lake surveys will be performed next season.

b.) Update on previously funded items: See above (a.)

c.) E. coli monitoring update: E. coli is still occasionally being tested for..

d.) Bayou management: Rick Soldo - Next major focus is a management plan for the bayous, as they are considered hot spots. There have been lower water levels in those areas. Hope to manage with mechanical harvesting, treatments, etc. and to identify these hot spots earlier to better predict problems and engage with residents. A technical meeting will be scheduled before the next board meeting in November to strategize for the next steps.

e.) Algae growth discussion: see above.

8. Communication Committee:

vi) An infographic was added to the website and FB along with an informational video about harmful algal blooms.

vii) Addition of Committee Members: nothing formal needed.

9) **Invoices**: None.

i) 2027 Meeting Schedule: Will discuss at November's board meeting.

-Chris Estes moved to pre-approve Progressive to initiate harvesting if/when a permit is granted for up to \$15,000 and availability of a subcontractor, to begin no later than November 1st. Rick Soldo supported.

Motion carries via voice vote. 7 Yes/1 No.

10. **Board Member Comments**: Chairman Brugger asked where we were on the Grand Haven Community Foundation Grant. Jim Walters is working on it, but is absent tonight.

Dave Billingham - a gentleman called him who is selling his house and was told he had to pay the full assessment. Paul Hausler and Stephanie Barrett responded that it is an agreement between the seller/buyer.

11. **Public Comment**: Ann Smith. Sue Halter.

12. **Next Meeting**: November 24, 2026 @ 6:00pm. The meeting was adjourned at 5:29pm.