

Donnell Lake Conservation Club – Meeting Minutes

Date: June 4, 2026

Recorder: Lori Allen, Secretary

Board Members Present: Gerri Sly, Doug Hertel (remote), Lori Allen, Sue Golden, Jeremy Wassner, Kevin Cartwright, Garrett Libertowski, Sherry Krask, Kim Barnbrook, Jason Bay

Board Members Absent: Gina Bergstrom, Sue Golden, Garrett Libertowski, Pat Frame, Debbie Chris

Community Members Present: *Lauren Hodges, Miriam Cartwright Pam Hertel, Jim Hertel, Jay Hertel, Rich Brown, Corey Sly*

I. Call to Order & Approval of Minutes

- Called to order regular meeting of DLCC on 6/4/26 at 9am.
 - May 2, 2026 Minutes approved.
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II. Open Issues

1. Upcoming Events

- a. Discussed events still needing a lead; highlighted events remain open for a leader:
 - o **June Movie Night – Friday, date TBA**
 - o Band Night – July 11th – Jeremy Wassner, Kevin Cartwright; Band is Rebel Pride
 - o **Corn and Sausage Roast – August 8th** - Dave Bergstrom – food management
 - o **August Movie Night – Friday, date TBA**
 - o **Football Tailgate – Sept 26th**
- b. Discussed events between now and next meeting:
 - o Boat Inspection Day June 6th, 11a-1p; reminders on FB page; Gerry Sly – Lead
 - o Welcome Back Margarita Party June 13th 7pm; Flyer posted to FB; Emie Choquette – Lead; Co leads - Lori, Gerri, Angie
 - o In person Boaters Safety June 20th 8a-12p; Gerri – Lead
 - 31 participants registered
 - Max is 50
 - o YMCA Swim Lessons June 29-July 3rd; Miriam Cartwright – Lead; Kim Barnbrook co-lead
 - 21 registered; Max is 40
 - Board approved \$1500 budget for up to 40 swimmer completion packages.
 - o 4th of July activities:
 - **Youth Fishing Tournament:** Stetson Atwood, Jeff Corey Leads
 - Catch-and-release fishing - 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. for children 12 and under.
 - Flier w/details to be posted on FB page. **(Gerri will reach out to Stetson for current flier and we can include in minutes)**
 - The DLCC is donating 100 custom, weather-resistant fish rulers for participants.
 - Invoice pending and expected to be less than \$600.
 - **Boat Parade:** Stetson Atwood- Lead
 - Theme is “Patriotic” to celebrate America’s 250th Birthday!

- Board approved a \$900 prize budget for 1st, 2nd, 3rd place categories – need to confirm prize amounts with Stetson
- **Vintage Boat Parade:** Kevin Cartwright- Lead
 - Kevin requests consideration to move from Saturday to either Friday or Sunday of the 4th of July weekend due to scheduling conflict with a large group of vintage boat owners
 - Date confirmed: July 3rd, 7pm(confirmed via email following meeting)
- **Fireworks:** The contract with RKM is booked; permit is filed.
- **July 4th Pancake Breakfast** – Cartwrights, Sue Golden, Barnbrooks
 - **Volunteers still needed** – Reach out to Sue

2. Strategic Planning Short/Long Term

a. Update

- o Lori reported that planning efforts discussed at previous meetings are being incorporated into upcoming events.
- o Lori requested that additional updates be deferred until the end of the current season. The first item to be revisited will be the Donnell Lake community feedback survey.

III. Member Communication and Engagement (new standing agenda item)

1. Communication channels and needs for events – this item was discussed when the board reviewed the upcoming events.
 - a. Additional ideas related to all events:
 - o Use a “thermometer” visual to show progress and encourage contributions.
 - o Tip jar signage at pancake breakfast should clearly state destination (fireworks).
 - o Place visuals at payment point, bar area, chalkboard; consider projector if feasible.
 - o Multi-channel communication: monthly emails, Facebook posts, in-venue signage.
 - o Event “champions” to solicit donations; volunteer Doug to lead at bar.
2. DLCC Merchandise – Doug provided update
 - a. New club merchandise (T-shirts, sweatshirts, caps, shorts) is in production and within budget.
 - b. Most items will be available by July 4, though some specialty items may arrive later.
 - c. The merchandise will be promoted with “lifestyle shots” on Facebook but will not be sold online.
3. Members Only Facebook Page
 - a. The board will announce the launch via direct messages to existing page members, a strategic email blast, co-announced on the DLCC FB page, and in the meeting minutes.
 - b. A meeting was scheduled for June 5, 2026, to finalize the launch.
 - c. A membership contact list is being updated by reconciling recent applications with legacy records to verify member contact information.
 - d. To support membership growth and better understand interest in the organization, the board discussed adding a recruitment-related question to the Facebook group application process.
4. Welcome Process for New Residents/Property Owners

- a. Not discussed this meeting, move to next meeting agenda.
- 5. Remote Meeting Access – Update -
 - a. Remote access for meetings is now set up with a new camera system that automatically focuses on the speaker. Larger speakers will be installed to improve audio for virtual attendees.

IV. Subcommittee Updates

- 1. **Conservation Plan/Fish Stocking** – Jeremy Wassner, Jason Bay, Jeff Corey, Jim Barnbrook
 - a. A DNR representative (Matt) will visit on June 6 to present the results of the 2024 fish study.
 - b. The DNR recommends improving fish habitat as a more effective long-term strategy than fish stocking.
 - c. The club's permit application for wooden fish habitat structures has entered the public notice phase, with approval anticipated within 30–45 days.
 - d. Habitat installation is expected to begin after the summer boating season and will require permission from affected riparian property owners.

IV. Financial Update

1. Update and Membership Status

- a. As of June 4, 2026, sponsorships have exceeded \$4,000.
 - i. 21 sponsors to day – 3 levels of sponsorship
- b. Fireworks fundraising is \$1,500 ahead of last year but remains \$5,000–\$6,000 short of the goal.
 - i. Jason requested posting visual fundraising thermometer on FB to display gap in funding.
 - ii. Idea: Create an online option to accept electronic donations night of fireworks to collect donations from family and friends who join members on the lake for the fireworks.
- c. Total fireworks expense is \$25,800, including:
 - i. \$25,000 for the RKM fireworks show
 - ii. \$500 for Rutherford land use
 - iii. \$300 for township fire services
- d. While reserve funds are available, the goal is to fully fund the event through donations.
- e. Memorial Pancake Breakfast Summary:
 - i. The Memorial Day pancake breakfast drew 327 adults and 38 children, netting approximately \$1,200 from sales. Bar sales broke even, and an additional \$1,200 from tips and the Plinko game was directed to the fireworks fund.

2. Membership Forms – Specifically volunteer tracking

- a. There are currently 177 paid household memberships, down from 234 at this time last year.
- b. Payment breakdown includes 125 via check/cash and 45 via PayPal, with approximately \$152 in processing fees incurred.
- c. The board is considering adding a small fireworks donation requirement for dues paid after Memorial Day.
- d. Board members will also personally contact unpaid members to encourage renewal.

3. Fundraising Ideas – brief discussion on proactive fundraising for next year

- a. Example this year: Plinko game at Memorial Day Pancake raised \$1000.00.

V. New Business

1. Clubhouse Updates

- a. Gerri asked board to keep in mind what we want to pursue this year
- b. Shade on Deck: Phase 3 clubhouse update; we should return to this discussion next meeting.
- c. Include questions in survey re: Clubhouse updates

VI. Public Comments- Non-Board Members

1. Pam Hertel asked the board to consider rescheduling the golf outing to a different July date rather than the night before the corn and sausage roast in August. Board shared reason due to organizer has conflict and August is the soonest to coordinate. .

2. Pam Hertel also raised a question about propane tanks being used as buoys on the lake. Pam was referred to prior meeting minutes as this was discussed; Board also suggested reminders to participants of boat inspection day.

VII. DLCC Board Comments

1. No new topics introduced by board members.

VIII. Board Adjournment – Next Meeting Thursday, July 9th at 7pm