

Donnell Lake Conservation Club – Meeting Minutes

Date: August 6, 2026

Recorder: Lori Allen, Secretary

Board Members Present: Gerri Sly, Lori Allen, Jeremy Wassner, Kevin Cartwright, Sherry Krask, Kim Barnbrook, Jason Bay, Pat Frame, Debbie Chris, Doug Hertel, Gina Bergstrom, Sue Golden, Kevin Cartwright

Board Members Absent: Garrett Libertowski

Community Members Present: *Lauren Hodges, Miriam Cartwright, Dave Bergstrom, Mark Nelund, Jim Barnbrook, Jim Hertel, Pam Hertel, Dave Hardisty, Cory Sly, Chris Bokhart, Jim Allen*

I. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Donnell Lake Conservation Club Board was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. Approval of July Minutes

The July meeting minutes, previously distributed electronically, were approved.

III. Open Issues

A. Upcoming Events

- Movie Night is set for August 21, 2026.
- Football Tailgate – Still needs board member to lead -
- Corn and Sausage Roast: Final prep is complete for Saturday. Volunteers are assigned, games (giant checkers, cornhole) will be out, and tip boards close at 8:00 p.m. Per Kevin: A 12-foot banner will promote the Corn and Sausage Roast via pontoon tour.
- Live Auction: To boost excitement and bids, the group will hold a live auction at ~7:00 p.m., ideally before the main raffle, featuring three high-value items (e.g., \$250 Glenlivet, smoker, premium Blackhawks tickets). Items will be displayed separately with auction-time signage to avoid confusion with the silent auction.

B. Board Positions up for Renewal

- Open Positions: Two general board seats are available due to end of term and 1 resignation. Officer roles (president, vice president, secretary) are up for renewal; all incumbents are running unopposed.
- General Board Candidates: Candidates
 - Sue Clark: Bio provided and reviewed
 - Dave Louthan: Bio provided and reviewed

- Pat Frame – Current board member running for re-election.
- Voting: Takes place at Corn & Sausage Roast
 - Verified members receive ballots on arrival
 - Vote privately and ballots returned at the bar.
 - A membership list will verify eligibility;
 - Signage will note members-only voting and 1 vote per household.
- Roles & Attendance discussed: Each board member should chair/co-chair at least one major event annually. Current policy removes a member after three consecutive unexcused absences. With remote options now available, attendance rules will be reconsidered.
 - Comprehensive bylaw revisions are planned for winter to clarify expectations.

C. Clubhouse Updates/Maintenance – Kevin Cartwright

- Maintenance: Kevin replaced a broken window and HVAC filters, with one window remaining. Jason will complete a walkthrough to develop a maintenance plan and schedule.
- Mower: The community mower is at Cast Outdoor Equipment for repair and maintenance; a loaner is in use. As of late July, service was about three weeks out, with the mower second in line.
- Proposed Improvements: Board member suggested:
 - A new central HVAC system with ductwork
 - Shade over deck: idea proposed two 20-foot SunSetter retractable awnings
 - Board is reminded that the outdoor renovation concept is part of “phase three” in an already existing plan for clubhouse renovations.
 - The board will revisit in winter planning and may present large expenditures to membership for a vote.

IV. Member Communication and Engagement

A. Communication Needs and Updates: No discussion

B. DLCC Merchandise

- About \$1,600 in high-quality merchandise sold during the poker run;
- Full inventory now available (hats, youth apparel, adult T-shirts and sweatshirts)
- Focus is quality branding over profit; initial sales will guide sizing and style orders.

C. Social Media and Membership

- Members-only Facebook group has 127 verified members; Instagram has 47 followers.
- The member list needs reconciliation with paid dues.

D. Welcome Process for New Residents/Property Owners

- Board agrees to move this agenda item to the winter strategic planning session.

V. Subcommittee Updates

- A. Lake Conservation: Fishery Management/Stocking – Jeremy Wassner, Jason Bay, Jim Barnbrook**
- Fish Habitat: State permit approvals are delayed due to administrative backlog.
 - Priority is improving habitat over stocking to support species like perch needing woody structures for spawning.
 - Fish Stocking: Based on a DNR presentation, stocking is unnecessary now; habitat enhancement is preferred. A link to the fish study will be shared with members.
 - Weed Management: The board works with Progressive (analysis and auditing) and PLM (treatment) to ensure effective, necessary spraying.
 - A limited treatment for invasive Eurasian milfoil is scheduled for the week of August 10, 2026.
 - Weed Sub-Committee was formed:
 - Chris Bokhart, Dave Hardisty, Jason Bays, Jim Barnbrook, Mark Nelund, Stetson Atwood, and Jeremy Wassner.

VI. Financial Update

- A. Update on Membership Status & general financial update**
- Membership: 217 members; no recent new applications.
 - The Board reviewed the Club's year-over-year financial position and reported that finances remain strong. Most expenses are consistent with the prior year, with electricity costs running higher due to the clubhouse remaining open during the winter months. It was also noted that, at this same point last year, approximately \$7,000 had been spent on facility improvements.
 - Recap Poker Run and Sponsorships: Gerri
 - Poker Run: \$6,630 in sales; 3,192+ in expenses; \$3,437.89 profit
 - Sponsorships: \$4,400 in sponsorships; \$1306.76 in expenses; \$3,093.24 profit.
- B. July 4th Fireworks update**
- Jeremy updated board on negotiations with RKM.
 - The club committed \$25,000; RKM cited material shortages and issues, offered to reduce to \$21,750. The board countered at \$19,500 for accountability beyond materials and plans to issue that check.
 - Moving forward: Increase budget by \$3,000.00 for 2027.
 - Conduct on-site reviews to explore launch location
 - Secure a detailed fireworks list in advance.

- Strengthen partnership and process to improve quality and value.

VII. New Business

- Event Booklet being developed: Gina Bergstrom
 - Each Event Chair/Lead will document procedures, contacts (full names, locations, phone numbers), and lessons learned.
 - A master copy will be stored securely with a digital backup to support future volunteers.
 - Gina will email template to board members for completion.

VIII. Public Comments – No additional public comments were made beyond discussion related to the agenda items above.

IX. Board Comments – Board comments were incorporated into the discussion under New Business and Clubhouse Maintenance & Improvements.

X. Next Meeting

Thursday, September 10, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.