

AuSable Lake Property Owners Association (ALPOA) Meeting Minutes
Sunday, August 31, 2025

Call to Order

- Dan Kocis, ALPOA President, called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. and welcomed all in attendance. The meeting took place at the Kocis barn located at 3060 Sumac Trail.

Roll Call of Officers

- ALPOA officers introduced themselves- Dan Kocis- President, Rick Oakley-Vice President, Gary Kay- Secretary, and Viki Handlon- Treasurer.

Approval of May Meeting Minutes

- The minutes from the ALPOA May 25, 2025, meeting were posted on the ALPOA website (www.AuSableLakeMI.org). Gary Kay moved to approve the minutes from the May 25, 2025 meeting. Mark Kay seconded the motion, and it was approved without opposition.

Treasurer's Report

- Viki Handlon presented the Treasurer's report that notes fiscal year to date revenue is \$3,716.32 with expenses of \$6,595.96. Expenses include \$5,000 for the Lake Health study, funded by donations and merchandise sales. The current balance on hand is \$5,431.09.
- Mark Dickens, CPA, provided a review of the Treasurer's Report.
- Budget planning for May 2026 is underway and will incorporate committee requests.

Committee Reports

Lake Health Committee

- Peggy Kay, chairperson, noted committee members, and provided a Loon update including one new hatchling and a rescued loon placed on AuSable Lake.
- Peggy Kay introduced Dr. Jennifer Jones of Restorative Lake Sciences (RLS), the organization who conducted the AuSable Lake Aquatic Plant Study this summer.
- Dr. Jones presented highlights from the Lake Study that included:
 - Lake characteristics: 271 acres, max depth forty-nine feet, two deep basins, mesotrophic (moderate nutrient levels).
 - Twenty-seven native aquatic plant species were identified indicating high biodiversity which she estimated places AuSable Lake in the top 5% to 10% in the state.

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- Three invasive species were identified, including Eurasian milfoil, starry stonewort, curly-leaf pondweed, all found to be at manageable levels.
 - Starry stonewort was the most abundant in the lake basins, is a macro alga that can grow in a multitude of environments. She recommended that starry stonewort be addressed first based on coverage and growth.
 - Eurasian milfoil in AuSable Lake are mostly singular plants and not clustered.
 - Curly-leaf pondweed typically dies off by the middle to end of July, making little sense to treat at this time, but to watch currently.
- Recommendations include Diver-Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH) for invasives, continued vegetation surveys, and continued water quality monitoring. The recommendations included projected cost figures.
- Several members raised concerns raised over recent blue-green algae blooms, potentially linked to global carbon levels rather than local nutrients. Zebra mussels are present but are not a major issue. Unfortunately, there is no current way of eliminating zebra mussels.

Social Committee

- Julie Oakley, chairperson, introduced committee members and noted remaining 2025 social events organized, including:
 - Light Up the Lake Unity Night - September 1, 2025 – promoting our lake community using tiki torches, string lights, etc.
 - Fall out of Summer – Friday, October 3– Fall event at the Fall Inn outdoor pavilion.
- 2026 social events planned include:
 - Winter activity (ice fishing/ice skating, details TBD)
 - Fall Inn Social Night – Thursday May 2
 - Cornhole event – Friday June 19
 - Fishing Derby – Saturday June 20

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- Boat Parade – Saturday July 4. The Nation’s 250th anniversary will be commemorated with a "red, white, and blue" theme. There will be no requirement for judges or prior registration.
- Euchre Tournament – Thursday, July 23
- Boat-in Movie: “Grease” – Saturday, August 8
- AuSable Lake Quad – Saturday August 22
- Sixth Annual Cocktail Party at Point – Thursday September 3
- Light Up the Lake Unity Night – Sunday September 6
- Fall Out of Summer – Friday October 2
- Julie shared that the Social Committee welcomes event suggestions and ideas and may be contacted via email, the ALPOA website (www.AuSableLakeMI.org) or Facebook.

Fish Committee

- Rick Oakley spoke on behalf of the Fish Committee and noted committee members.
- Rick noted that the Fish Committee has several projects underway including,
 - DNR Collaboration –The State of Michigan Biologist responsible for AuSable Lake toured the lake for two hours. The State biologist has submitted a proposal for pike size limit to a maximum of five pike, none over twenty-four inches to reduce small pike population.
 - Rock Reef Project - Proposed to enhance fish spawning (e.g., walleye, perch). Proceeding forward requires riparian approval for bottomland use.
 - Fish Sticks – The fish habitat may be enhanced by sinking trees and stumps along the North shore of AuSable Lake. Permission must be obtained from affected riparians.
 - Walleye Restocking – The Fish Committee is continuing discussions with the DNR. The DNR biologist is interested in conducting a fish survey in 2026 to assess walleye presence.
 - Fundraising – Funds for the association’s activities have been raised through several methods, such as the Quadathon, shirt sales, and the Fishing Derby. A fundraising committee has been proposed under the leadership of D’Ann Kolan.

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- Fish Survey - We continue to collect data from our fish survey. Data collected supports efforts to enhance the fish habitat.

New Business

- **Opportunities to increase ALPOA member and board participation.**
 - Dan Kocis led a discussion on barriers to joining the association and committee involvement. Suggestions included moving meetings from holiday weekends (e.g., Memorial Day, Labor Day) to avoid family conflicts, removing geographic conflicts by using Zoom, and reducing Association meetings to one annual meeting.
- **Increase Board representation by Adding Three At-Larger Directors**
 - Proposal was present to add up to three at-large board directors to broaden representation, including the various lake “neighborhoods” like, Sumac Trail, Alcott Drive, Big Buck Trail, AuSable Drive, canals, and Island Drive. The importance of representation from all lake areas was emphasized to improve communication (e.g., sharing lake study results).
 - The motion to amend the ALPOA Bylaws to include up to three at-large directors was made by Mike Pettis, seconded by Nancy Bates, and passed with no opposition. The approved motion is to revise Article 7 of the ALPOA Bylaws to read:

“Officers to consist of a President, one (1) Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer and up to three (3) “At Large” Directors.”

The challenge associated with communicating and coordinating a larger board was discussed.
 - The AuSable Lake Property Owners website (www.AuSableLakeMI.org) was highlighted as a key resource for the AuSable Lake community. Suggestions to promote the Association via QR codes and Facebook were raised. Opportunities to leverage neighborhood association leadership and email lists for better outreach also were discussed.

Motion to adjourn made and seconded. The meeting ended at 11:21 am.