

AuSable Lake Property Owners Association (ALPOA) Meeting
Sunday, September 1, 2024
Meeting Minutes

- **Call to Order**

- Dan Kocis, ALPOA President, called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. and welcomed all in attendance. The meeting was conducted at the Kocis barn located at 3060 Sumac Trail.

- **Roll Call of Officers**

- ALPOA officers introduced themselves and their associated positions as Dan Kocis, President; Rick Oakley, Vice President; Lou Ianitelli, Treasurer; and Gary Kay, Secretary.

- **Approval of May Meeting Minutes**

- The minutes from the ALPOA May 26, 2024 meeting were distributed via email to all ALPOA members of record on August 15, 2024. Maureen Kay made a motion and a second was provided by David Kay to approve the minutes from the May 26, 2024 meeting. The motion was approved.

- **Treasurer's Report**

- Lou Ianitelli provided the Treasurer's Report. Our current fund balance totals \$4,948 and is allocated as follows:

○ Dues	\$720
○ Lake Health Study	850
○ Donations	421
○ Apparel	2,272
○ Petty Cash	50
○ Quad	<u>635</u>
	<u>\$4,948</u>

ALPOA's current membership now includes 80 households.

- **Committees Reports**

- **Lake Health**

- Peggy Kay introduced herself and the committee.
- Boat Wash Station
 - Peggy thanked Dan Kocis, Rick Oakley, and Lou Ianitelli for their work in establishing a new Boat Wash Station. Dan Kocis will be joining an upcoming meeting with other area lake association presidents to discuss ways to restrict the introduction of invasive aquatic plants from entering our lake through external marina-owned trailers.
- Loon Update
 - Peggy Kay shared an update on the two baby loons on AuSable Lake and one Little AuSable Lake. The loon platform on Little AuSable Lake will be replaced. Peggy expressed thanks to Diane and Ron Sams for funding the new platform. It has been suggested that a contest be held to name the lake's loons.

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- Lake Water Monitoring
 - Peggy Kay provided an overview of lake monitoring activities performed associated with lake clarity, chlorophyll testing, particulate matter, dissolved oxygen, and lake temperature.

Peggy also noted the harmful algae blooms and causes, including water temperature, water circulation, zebra mussels, excess nutrients, and failing septic systems. Members are encouraged to consider having their septic systems tested. Michigan is the only state in the nation that does not have a statewide septic inspection requirement.
- Invasive Species
 - Peggy Kay shared that the invasive species found in AuSable Lake include Curly Pond Weed, Starry Stonewort, and a hybrid Milfoil or possibly Eurasian Milfoil. We need to monitor all invasive species identified. The invasive species identified pose many risks, if not addressed including smothering native plants, creating a dense bed on the lake bottom that crowds out fish, impeding boating and water activities, and harming fish habitats. The cost to manage invasive weeds will increase the longer they are not controlled. We've noticed an increase in Curly Pond Weed from previous years.
- Non-invasive Nuisance Plants
 - Wild Celery has also been noticed this year and while not categorized as an invasive species, its long, curly stems can be disruptive. It can be beneficial to the lake as a fish habitat and food source until it becomes too big and creates problems.
- Invasive Species Management
 - Peggy Kay noted that during the May 26, 2024, ALPOA Member meeting, she shared that she would be requesting additional information for conducting a Lake Survey from Restorative Lake Sciences (RLS) and PLM Lake and Land Management Corp (PLM). A formal Lake Survey is expected to provide lake stakeholders with detailed information on the presence and density of both aquatic and invasive species and the most effective, desired spot-treating method for managing the invasive species. She noted that RLS provides as a deliverable a GPS Intercept Survey and a written report including mitigation strategy and short/long-term management recommendations and PLM provides as deliverables a Grid Point Surveys and a Chemical Treatment Plan for 2026. The estimated cost for RLS and PLM are \$5,000 and \$1,200, respectively.
 - Peggy Kay noted that she recommends engaging Restorative Lake Sciences to perform a survey of AuSable Lake for the following reasons:
 - They are a lake management service provider and do not provide treatment application services.
 - RLS has no financial stake in treatment recommendations or services

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- They will assist in the development of a whole lake management plan and provide expert oversight over treatment providers and plans.
- Long Lake, Houghton Lake, and others utilize RLS services.

Proceeding forward with RLS services will require additional donations and fundraising to supplement available funds. The discussion associated with securing necessary funding was deferred to New Business.

– **Social**

- Julie Oakley, Social Committee Chairperson, introduced the committee and members.
- Julie provided an update on activities planned and completed this summer, including:
 - 5/23 – Social Night at Faull Inn Pavilion – 40 participants kicked off the season meeting up with new and existing friends.
 - 6/8 Kids Fishing Derby and Wiener Roast – The event was a success with 15 kids participating. The event was generously supported by several ALPOA members (Jenning’s, Edgerton’s Oakley, Davia’s, and Matt Kirsammer) and several area merchants, including:
 - Hale Hardware
 - Ultimate Archery
 - Outdoors West Branch
 - CJ’s Bait and Tackle

Julie encouraged everyone to patronize our supporting sponsors as needs arise.

- 6/20 – Croquet Tournament and Coney Dogs – Dan and Patt Kocis graciously hosted a Croquet Tournament enjoyed by many.
- 7/5 – AuSable Lake Quad – The AuSable Lake Quad that included tests of stamina and strength reappeared this summer. Biking, running, walking, kayaking, and tests of strength were featured.
- 7/6 – Boat Parade – “Christmas in July” – Eight boats participated and even Santa made an appearance.”
- 8/10 – Movie Night on the Lake featuring JAWS – Approximately 40 people watched the movie from their boats (~20) and onshore (~20) despite some challenging weather.
- 8/29 – Annual Cocktail Party at the Point – Roughly 40 people attended this annual event graciously hosted by Patt and Dan Kocis at their home.

The remaining social events scheduled for 2024 include:

- 9/1 – Light up the Lake for Unity – Property owners around the lake are encouraged to show their lake spirit by lighting up their shoreline with candles, lights, flares, and tiki torches.
- 9/27 – Faull Out of Summer Social Event – This final planned event of the summer season will provide an opportunity to meet up with friends, old and new at the Faull Inn pavilion.

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2025 Social events scheduled include:

- 5/22 – Faull Inn Social Night
- 6/7 – Kids Fishing Derby
- July 19 – Cornhole Tournament
- 7/4 – AuSable Lake QUAD
- 7/5 – Boat parade, Theme: Favorite Animal
- 8/9 – Movie Night on the Lake, featuring Pirates of the Caribbean
- 8/28– 5th Annual Cocktail Party
- 8/31 – Light Up the Lake Unity Night
- 10/3 – Faull Out of Summer

– **Fishing**

- Rick Oakley, Fishing Committee member, introduced committee members noting the addition of two new members, Andy Burk and Craig Williams. Rick presented a summary of the Fishing Committee's 2024 accomplishments and plans.
 - Kid's Fishing Derby – Participating kids were provided the opportunity to meet new friends, experience the fun of fishing, and win some amazing prizes.
 - The Fishing Committee established a fishing survey and application to capture fishing activity data that will be shared with the State and used to support future fish stocking plans. Rick noted that most of the fish caught were released back into the lake.
 - The Committee is working to schedule an October tour of AuSable Lake with the Michigan DNR biologist, Matt Klungle, to review available fish survey data, ALPOA water sampling data where water enters and exits the lake, and gain support for projects and grants related to habitat, predation, and stocking.
- Merchandise Sales - Rick Oakley provided an update on AuSable Lake merchandise sales, including clothing reflecting a new logo all being used to raise funds that benefit the AuSable Lake community, including fishing.

• **New Business**

- Course of Action for Invasive Species
 - The Lake Health Committee recommended engaging Restorative Lake Sciences (RLS) to perform an Aquatic Vegetation Assessment Survey (AVAS).
 - Lou Ianitelli presented his thoughts on the advantages of proceeding forward with the less expensive PLM proposal. He recommended PLM services due to a reduced cost, similar survey work product, and their ability to complete the survey as early as the week of September 9th. Dan Kocis noted that moving forward with PLM does not preclude ALPOA from later engaging RLS for the same service.
 - Mark Kay advocated that ALPOA proceed forward with RLS as they do not provide treatment services and are not biased toward forms of treatment. Their deliverable will

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provide us with recommendations that serve as the foundation for both the short and long term.

- Brent Edgerton noted that additional information and analysis are needed to make an informed decision and that additional effort should be spent growing membership by talking with and educating our neighbors. Mike Pettis recommended caution and reflecting the best interest of all on the lake in decisions made.
 - Rick Oakley recommended that further action on the Lake Survey be tabled for now and that we look to the Lake Health Committee to complete its analysis and provide a group recommendation. Doing so will help foster unity in the Association.
- Fundraising – Several fundraising ideas were brought up and discussed for future consideration, including:
- Lakewide Garage Sale – Ernie Hinderliter suggested conducting an AuSable Lake-wide garage sale where all would be encouraged to bring items for sale to a centralized location.
 - 50/50 raffles – D’Ann Kolan shared that periodically conducting 50/50 raffles at meetings and social events is a fun way to raise funds.
 - Advertisements – Dan Kocis noted that Sage Lake has been highly successful in raising funds by advertising area business (e.g., member roster, ALPOA events).
- Meeting Participation
- Members present discussed who can participate in our meetings and voting. A motion was made by Rick Oakley and seconded by Gary Kay to allow non-members with constructive comments to speak following ALPOA members. Only current ALPOA members can vote. The motion passed.
- Adjournment
- Rick Oakley made the motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Katie Hinderliter, and approved by the membership.
- **Member Comments**
- A motion to conclude the meeting was made by Dan Kocis, seconded by Lou Ianitelli, and the motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.