

UTLD Commissioner Meeting Agenda *The purpose of the Upper Turtle Lake District is to preserve, protect, and enhance Upper Turtle Lake and its surroundings for today and future generations.*

Date: 9:00 AM September 12, 2025

Almena Village Hall, 131 Soo Ave. E Almena, WI 54805

Commissioners: Mark Wolff, Mike McCauley, Kim Swenson, Jim Gores, Ken Scheps

Guests: Carol Timmerman, Cheryl Clemens (Harmony Environmental, LLC)

Agenda

Call to Order and Roll Call: Meeting called to order at 9:01 am by Mike McCauley

Secretary's Report: Kim Swenson made a motion to approve the April 11, 2025 UTLD Commissioner's meeting minutes posted to the website on April 13, 2025. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Mike McCauley reported as of 8/31 the checking account balance was \$12,130.10; AIS Rapid Response Savings \$1,012.76; UTLD Rapid Response Certificate of Deposit \$30,654.58 for total UTLD Funds of \$42,784.68. Motion made to approve the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Decontamination Station Update: McCauley All equipment is still there. We will discontinue use when the County removes the dock at the landing. Jim Gores will Contact Nate Nelson about a removal date. Mike will contact Steve Olson and request that the dock stay until October 20th.

Mike suggested that we need more assistance with filling the sprayer next year. We will look at options for 2025.

2025 CBCW Update: Swenson reported for Julie Zellmer. Volunteer hours have 98 hours completed; Nancy Searle will be completing the final two hours in the next few days. The paid hours have been completed at 100.5 hours. Final reporting will be completed soon.

New Business:

Duties and Roles of Commissioners: Mike McCauley will take the role of Chair. Mark Wolff will take over Treasurer responsibilities and Kim Swenson will remain as Secretary.

Mike and Mark will transition Treasurer duties and add QuickBooks as the program used by the treasurer as it was a recommendation of the Audit Committee.

2026 Treatment/Permit/Contracts: The proposed budget allows for treatment of 35 acres. A motion was made to contract with Cheryl Clemens at Harmony Environmental. Motion was carried. Cheryl attended the meeting and was given the go ahead to review Matt Berg's bed mapping results (Maps will be posted to the website next week). Her recommendation is to treat northern beds and the ones in Thumb Bay on the southwest side of the lake. She will begin the process

of gathering information for the permit to treat. Cheryl cautioned that it's getting more difficult to obtain treatment permits. The permit application will be made in January or early February. If the permit is denied, we will need to look into other options.

Cheryl further recommended contracts with Matt Berg and Dale Dressel for 2026. The Board has been in contact with them and Mike will follow up to secure the contracts.

Cheryl encouraged the Board to write a grant for partial reimbursement of the plant survey, pre and post bed mapping. It would be a 2/3 state grant. A motion was made to have Harmony Environmental write the grant. Motion was carried.

Annual meeting recap: Would like to increase participation. The room at Spare Time served our need and was warmer than some years and people could be heard. We will set a date in December and contact Spare Time for the 2026 Annual Meeting.

There was a suggestion made at the meeting that the Board write a template letter to Legislators covering concerns over Wake Boat usage on Upper Turtle Lake. A letter was reviewed and will be posted on the website. Kim will post when and where it is posted with an explanation that constituents can adapt as they see fit on our Facebook page.

2026 Clean Boat, Clean Waters Grant: Kim Swenson made a motion to write an application for the 2026 Clean Boats, Clean Waters grant. Motion carried. Julie Zellmer and Nancy Searle will be writing and managing the grant.

Tree Giveaway 2026: The Board unanimously agreed that we would not have a tree give away this year. We will add it to the agenda for the 2026 Annual Meeting.

Newsletters/Notifications for 2026: At the Annual Meeting a motion was made to transition from mailing newsletters to posting them to the Website for constituents to read electronically. The motion carried. Upon discussion at this meeting it was decided that we would print and distribute the Spring 2026 newsletter and inform everyone of the change at that time. After that, newsletters will be posted and announcements will be made on social media when and where they can be found on www.upturtlelake.com. Notification of the annual meeting place, date, time, agenda and proposed budget will be done by mail, as required, in postcard format. These changes are cost-cutting measures for the District.

Kim Swenson will look into postcard printing and postage costs.

Social Media Update: At the Annual meeting it was suggested that the Board add Instagram to our digital presence. Kim will open an Instagram account for UTLD and link it to our Facebook account. When things are set up it will be announced on Facebook.

Communication Received:

Mark Koegel requested the Board consider a surface cleaning program to assist with weeds floating into bays and shorelines. It was decided that it would be a costly endeavor. It was decided that continued education about raking and removal of weed is best for the health of the lake. Mike will contact Mark directly.

Blue-Green Algae was reported over the Labor Day week-end. Carol Timmerman contacted the DNR and the Board posted a warning on the website and Facebook as directed by DNR. It has been determined that conclusively finding the source of the algae would require an extensive lake study to determine the nutrients in the lake. It was decided that, at this time, we would educate constituents about weed removal and continue with notification via social media and website when blue-green algae is spotted on the lake.

Calendar Items:

Commissioner Meetings: Friday, December 19, 2025 at Almena Village Hall

Spring Social Date: TBD

2026 Annual Meeting Date: TBD

Public Comment and Adjourn:

Carol Timmerman reminded the Board that:

- The Plant Management plan needs updating in 2026
- Rapid Response Plan is due in 2026

Meeting adjourned at 11:03