

WLPA Minutes from Aug. 11, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 PM.

The meeting began with the Treasurer's report.

The meeting was well attended, and it was great to see many different people there.

The club was informed by Sue that the harvester is out of commission for the rest of 2025. The parts needed to fix it have 35+ day lead time and we do not have enough spare parts in supply.

It was concluded that the harvester broke down due to several factors, including potential driver error, faulty sprockets and the over-abundance of lily pads being tangled in the conveyor when harvesting riparian lanes.

It was also brought to the club's attention that WLPA seriously needs help in the future to make harvesting successful. We need volunteer drivers, which we will offer trainings next spring. We were also only able to hire one person this year due to lack of candidates who wanted the job, which left one driver who could only work mornings.

Dave Thomas and Bob Kieffer have worked endlessly this summer to fix the harvester with some other hiccups and to repair the dump truck. It is not sustainable for these two gentlemen to be the only people who know how to maintain and fix the harvester. If not for their efforts, the harvester would have been parked a lot more this summer. We need people who have mechanical gifts to step up and learn how to help in this area. Please let Sue or Dave T know if you can help and learn in the future.

The club had a robust discussion about riparian lanes and if they should be continued to be harvested, as this was when the harvester broke down. It is important for everyone to be reminded that a riparian lane is defined as a 30-foot-wide lane from the end of a dock to the boating lane. It doesn't include shoreline. Some areas can not be harvested 30 feet wide due to the thickness of the vegetation. (Areas with cattails, etc)

The club did decide to keep harvesting riparian lanes, but with deeper restrictions of the difficult areas. The water will need to be deep enough and clear, not muddy. More info on this will come out on next year's riparian sign up form.

The club was presented with some alternatives for fixing the harvester. The club's preference for repair is to order a stronger gauge conveyor with new sprockets and possibly doubling the number of sprockets. (this is being researched by Dave T). The sprockets are all going to be replaced as they are original equipment dating back to 1971. The WLPA

board will be meeting next week to discuss and approve the purchases as they will be at least \$7500.

Sue also mentioned that everyone who signed up had their riparian lanes cut once. Generally, most riparian lanes get cut more than once, except for the lanes that take more than hour to cut. While anyone who signed up and paid for riparian lanes and wants half the fee back (\$75), please email Sue at suerathsack@gmail.com. If you are okay with not getting a refund, we are very, very appreciative of your donation.

The topic of fundraising came up and this will be the topic of the next meeting which will be on Monday, September 22 at 4:30 pm.

We also will be planning a time to remove the buoys in later September. Please watch emails for when and where and we will be looking for volunteers.

Thank you.

Submitted by: Sue Rath sack