



Island Mud Lake Property Owners Association

Meeting Minutes

2025 Annual Meeting

Date: July 19, 2025
Time: 6:00 P.M.
Meeting called to order by: Chuck Pettipiece
Board attendees: Patrice Bogart, Morgan Buetow-Staples, Linda Ferdelman, Jerry Finnerty, JoAn Miller, Pam Nordahl, Chuck Pettipiece, Tom Stremski, Kim Swatosch
Minutes by: Kim Swatosch; V2 published July 28, 2025

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS by Chuck Pettipiece

1. **Introduction of Board:** President, Chuck Pettipiece; Vice President, Morgan Buetow-Staples (promoted to VP from Director to replace Jim Luttrell); Treasurer, Jerry Finnerty; Secretary, Kim Swatosch; Directors – Linda Ferdelman, JoAn Miller (new director filling Morgan’s role and representing Mud Lake), Pam Nordahl and Tom Stremski
2. **Welcome to new owners:** Alan and Amy Offerman and Troy and Melanie Hanish
3. **Condolences** to those who have lost family members over the past year. Our thoughts are with you

GUEST SPEAKER: Lorelei Stone, Operations Manager of the Emily Food Shelf and Resource Center

This is the seventh year IMLPOA has supported the Emily Food Shelf. IMLPOA matches up to \$200 of members’ cash donations. In 2024 members donated \$293, with IMPLOA’s \$200 match, a total of \$493 was donated

4. The food shelf was **established in 1981** and has served its friends and neighbors since. In 2023, the food shelf transitioned to a “Super Shelf” where neighbors shop like in a grocery store
 - a. The Food Shelf is **open Tuesdays from Noon – 2 PM**
 - i. The **Second Tuesday** of the month there is an **evening distribution from 4 – 6 PM**
 - b. The **Resource Center** is open **Tuesdays from 2 – 4 PM** and **Thursdays from Noon – 3 PM**
 - c. Food **donations** are **accepted during open hours**
 - d. **Cash donations** are done via emilyfoodshelf.com or by mailing checks to PO Box 93, Emily, MN 56447
 - i. Use the comment section online to designate \$s for the Resource Center
5. The Emily Food Shelf **relies on Federal Grant Funds** and must provide food support to people regardless of where they live. Beyond Emily, people served are from Brainerd, Longville, Crosby, Cross Lake, Deerwood...
 - a. In the first half of 2025, the Food Shelf **supported >150 families per month** and provided an estimated 31,000 pounds of food
 - i. 40 new households are accessing the Food Shelf and it will serve more people than in the past
 - ii. The majority of people served are 18 to 64 years old
 - b. The food bank gets food donations; however, a **significant amount of food is purchased** from food vendors and grocery stores
 - i. Items considered “non-essential” are often not donated and need to be purchased. These include common items like sugar, flour, cooking oil, butter, mayonnaise, salt and pepper, etc.
 - ii. Another ongoing need area is personal care items – toilet paper, paper towels, soap, shampoo, hand soap, etc.
 - c. Other food sources include:
 - i. A food access coalition with Central Lakes College in Brainerd and our local Dollar General
 - ii. Grocery stores (Cub, Costco and Target) donate food to the coalition to provide area food shelves access to fresh vegetables, fruit and assorted meals
6. In March, the Emily Food Shelf partnered with Bridges of Hope to obtain a grant and open a Resource Center
 - a. A **Resource Specialist onsite** to help people with short-term challenges and connect with other agencies for support. The biggest need seen so far is homelessness

OLD / NEW BUSINESS

7. [2024 Annual Meeting Minutes](#) (posted on [IMLPOA website](#)) – motion made and seconded to suspend reading and approve
8. **Treasurer's Report**
 - a. We **project ending 2025 with ~\$9,500** in our US Bank account. Since 2017 our financial balance has ranged from \$6,600 to \$9,100
 - i. The 2025 starting balance was \$9,172
 - ii. Membership **dues** are estimated to **contribute >\$2K**
 - iii. Our 9-month **CD** matured on July 3rd and **earned ~\$251**. Another CD will be obtained between July and September depending on rates
 - iv. Annual **expenses run ~\$2-3K** (picnic food and prizes, calendar production, ice cream social, fishing contest lures, newsletter printing, mailings, food shelf donation...)
 - v. **Dues don't cover expenses. Donations help offset expenses. Thank you to those who donate!**
 - We have received \$1,051 in donations; including a generous \$500 donation from a member that wishes to remain anonymous
 - Tom Stremski donated seven - \$25 gift cards as prizes for the fishing contest
 - Local merchants typically contribute extra \$s when we purchase gift cards from them. Please continue supporting places like Ace Hardware, Sweets N Such, Emily Meats and Reeds Market
 - b. ~112 membership renewal letters mailed on 5/21/25. As of 7/19/25, **101 members** have paid dues! In 2024, there were 98 paid memberships. Based on previous history, it is anticipated that a few more people will renew their memberships
 - c. Starting in 2025, non-property owners can pay dues and become associate members. We have **four associate members** (\$80). Associate members are typically family or friends of property owners that want to support the lakes community
9. **President's Report on Island and Mud lakes activities** by Chuck Pettipiece
 - a. **IMLPOA Gear Online Store** launched July 9th and **closes July 27, 2025**
 - i. Choose from t-shirts, sweatshirts, hats and more offered in many colors and sizes
 - ii. Orders will be ready about 2 weeks after the online store closes
 - iii. There is a donation option of \$5 minimum to support IMLPOA expenses and activities
 - b. **Complimentary 2025-2026 IMLPOA Calendars** were distributed by board members to all Island and Mud properties. There are extra ones that can be purchased for \$5 each. See Jerry if you'd like one. The Fall Newsletter will share information to contribute photos for next year's calendar
 - c. **Fourth of July Boat Parade** had ~20 participants with some festive decorations. We welcome more people to join the fun of this annual event. A special thanks to Jerry Finnerty for "end of parade" favors
 - d. **Annual fishing contest** was coordinated by Morgan Buetow-Staples and Jerry Finnerty
 - i. We had the best turnout in years with 55 adults and 27 juniors participating
 - ii. A commemorative lure was given to participants and was a big hit – especially with the kiddos!
 - iii. A 30-inch northern was the largest fish caught. The biggest bass was 18 inches and a 14-inch crappie was caught. Walleyes were elusive this year. A big thank you to Tom Stremski for donating \$25 gift certificates for the winners!
 - iv. The winners were:
 - Adult Northern – Justin Stremski (30 inches)
 - Junior Northern – Liam M. (28.5 inches)
 - Adult Bass – Rachel Schelling (18 inches)
 - Junior Bass – Henry B. (15 inches)
 - Junior Panfish – Emma S. (14 inches)
 - e. **Reminder: Ice Cream Day at the Lake is August 9, 2024.** Look for a pontoon with large flag anchored at sand bar. Come and get a FREE ice cream treat to conclude our summer 2025 events

- f. **End of the Road Concert is September 6, 2025**, from 3 to 5 PM and hosted by Donna Hastings and Jonathan Geiger (36205 Whitewater Rd). It features music students from the University of North Dakota long with their two piano and cello professors. Snacks and beverages will be served
- g. **Buetow-Staples Hunters Booyah and Winter Fishing Contest** – Morgan is sponsoring these events to help build connections on the lake. The **Booyah is 11/8/25** and the fishing contest date will be shared later

10. IMLPOA and Lake Living Information

- a. **Non-profit Status** – IMLPOA has been registered as a non-profit corporation in Minnesota since 1986 and is approved by the IRS as a 501-c-3 non-profit organization. Membership dues are tax deductible. Non-profit status also enables us to seek/receive funding to address future issues that arise, like AIS
- b. **Visit www.islandmudlake.com** – **Looking for information about lake living and our broader community? Check out our [website](#).** You'll find everything from IMLPOA newsletters and board meeting minutes to weather, roads, and fishing reports. Plus, the FAQs and Lake Living pages share interactive lake/trail maps, important phone numbers, permit, wildlife, and lake management information. Special thanks to our webmaster, Theresa Reardon Offerman, for building and maintaining this robust site!
- c. **IMLPOA Pontoon Trailer** – Using our trailer just on our lakes **helps limit invasive species from entering the lakes**. The trailer is used >40 times each year. There is some **limited feedback** that the **trailer does not work well for larger pontoons**. During the annual meeting additional feedback was requested from attendees about any difficulties or concerns regarding the trailer, and whether it's suitable for their pontoons. **No additional concerns were expressed by meeting attendees** about the adequacy of the trailer. As the trailer ages the maintenance is increasing – time and \$\$. The **board agreed to explore purchasing a new trailer**. Tom Stremski and Kaj Doering will start the research
- d. **Invasive Species** – Controlling the spread of AIS to our lakes is a priority of the Association
 - i. We receive regular reports from Crow Wing County on findings of AIS in surrounding lakes. New infestations of Starry Stonewort are of major concern
 - ii. AIS SIGN" at landing is part of the effort to educate residents and access users of proper methods to control AIS. It is a very visible display posted at our public access
 - iii. So far, AIS hasn't impacted Island and Mud Lakes. Please do your part to help control AIS to all our lakes!
- e. **Walleye Reporting** – We continue to receive reports of successful walleye catches. We forward these on to the DNR to encourage them to continue the stocking program for our lakes – every three years we receive 150 pounds of fry, fingerlings. Here are some interesting notes:
 - i. Since 2022 when our tracking started, 80 walleye catches have been reported
 - ii. Largest size is 26"
 - iii. Overall average size is 15.6"
 - iv. The average size of fish kept is 18.6"
 - v. The average size of fish released is 14.4"; over 72% of all caught have been released
- f. **Loon Nesting Success** – We are excited to have two loon chicks on the lakes this year. Due to weather and natural predators, it has been about four years since chicks have survived on the lake
- g. **Watercraft Wake and Speed Zones Reminder** – **Personal watercrafts/jet skis** must travel at **slow no-wake speed (5 mph or less) within 150 feet of shore**, non-motorized boats, docks, swimmers, or an anchored object. **Boats** are to stay **at least 200 feet from shore** or other structures to reduce the likelihood their wakes will cause damage. Chasing or harassing wildlife is prohibited. Be extremely cautious of our loons—especially any loon chicks! The best rule to remember is to be courteous to your neighbors and other boaters, and follow all safety regulations
- h. **Little Library at the "Y"** has been upgraded and replaced! Thank you to Chuck for building the new library and to Jerry for helping to install it. **Please take, share, and enjoy books!**
- i. **Property owners/member listings/map** – Board decided to forego publishing a lake map for privacy reasons. People have other public options for finding this information. The Board does have access to a membership roster

11. Membership Dues Survey and 2026 Dues

- a. The board voted to adjust **membership dues to \$40 per year starting in 2026**. The rationale is:
 - i. Dues do not cover expenses; without donations there will be a deficit
 - ii. Survey results show over 90% of responders feel dues are low for the value IMLPOA offers
 - iii. 52% of responders support adjusting membership dues to between \$30 - \$50
 - iv. 25% of responders support increasing dues to \$50 or more+
 - v. Dues have not changed in ~20 years while expenses have increased
 - vi. Other area lake associations' dues are higher, or if similar they have activity fees
- b. It is acknowledged that some people may not understand the association value, and/or choose to drop their existing membership. Two responders stated a dues increase would impact their decision to remain members
- c. Communication on IMLPOA activities will be done to help share what our dues support – i.e., custom engraved name lake sign, free pontoon trailer usage (reduces risk of invasive species), newsletter and lake happenings/information, custom calendar, channel cleanup and erosion control, water quality monitoring working with the MPCA and DNR and IMLPOA sponsored activities (no fees) including the annual picnic and prizes, fishing contest, ice cream social, boat parade...
 - i. Communications include promotion at Annual picnic, dues letter, newsletter article, verbiage in calendar, word of mouth...

12. Annual Picnic Prize Winners

- a. Guessing games
 - i. Fido game – \$25 to Emily Meats Karen Gallegher
 - ii. Rock bass game – \$25 to Sweets N Such Michele Myslicki
- b. Geocache drawing – IMLPOA hat Greg Lang
- c. Door prize drawings
 - i. \$25 donated by Emily Meats Dennis Schumacher
 - ii. \$25 donated by Ace Hardware Jay Elstad
 - iii. \$50 for Emily Meats Rick Pederson
 - iv. \$50 for Ace Hardware Donna Hastings
 - v. \$75 for Emily Meats Fred Nordahl
 - vi. \$75 for Ace Hardware Mike Horak

13. Adjournment – A motion made and seconded for Chuck to adjourn the meeting