

Meeting Minutes
Hess Lake Improvement Board Regular Meeting
September 23, 2025
9:30 A.M.

Board Members Present: Bart Calvi, Grant Bryan, Mark Slocum, Kim David (Designee for Dale Twing)

Board Members Absent: Lori Tubbergen-Clark, Dale Twing

Also Present: Rick Buteyn, Mary Spicer, Katherin Farwell, Jill Drury

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Calvi.
2. Approval of Agenda
Motion by David, seconded by Slocum to approve the agenda. All ayes, motion carried.
3. Approval of August 5, 2025 Meeting Minutes
Motion by David, seconded by Slocum to approve the August 5, 2025 meeting minutes with the correction of the spelling of Crappie. All ayes, motion carried.
4. Public Comment- 2 minutes
None
5. Financial Report
Motion by Calvi, seconded by Bryan to approve the financial report as submitted and to delete Carp Solutions from future financial spreadsheets. All ayes, motion carried.
6. Old Business
 - a. Fish Stocking – The permit was obtained by Buteyn. Calvi stated that fish stocking will occur sometime in Fall 2025 with 2,255 five-to-seven-inch Perch and 2,255 four-to-six-inch Crappie being placed at two locations in the lake. Hess Lake Improvement Association will also fund some fish stocking. Calvi indicated there were no major complaints about fish or Bluegill activity. He noted that water clarity was better, possibly due to the drought and prior Carp removal efforts.
 - b. Shoreline Restoration and Septic - Buteyn distributed maps of Bryan and Calvi's waterfront properties for this pilot project which will break wave action and create protected habitat. Discussion was held on sourcing fallen trees that could be used for the project. Buteyn stated that the project will use Turtle Logs, which are partially above water for wildlife and wave mitigation. Potential contractors were discussed, Buteyn spoke with Rightway Marine and Bryan stated he would like to see JNR - Ryan Pendergast given an opportunity.

David stated that the Fremont Area Community Foundation grant applications are typically submitted in March and September. Buteyn stated that Elgin gave him information for other grants under \$10,000.

Septic - This board is not looking to give a septic incentive at this time and will focus on shoreline restoration only.

- c. Update on Wheeler Drain on Willow Road – David stated that we have a Soil Erosion Permit for a 30x40 foot pavilion. David noted that a site inspection was done, and soil erosion measures are in place. Mary Spicer stated she knows several people on the school board, and she would inquire what the property is being used for.

Calvi stated that there were prior proposals to use Consumers Energy grant funding for Wheeler Drain restoration. With Consumers selling their dams, the board wonders if the opportunity will still be there. Dam Updates to be added to future agendas under Old Business.

- d. Alum Treatment on Kimball Lake – Buteyn states there has been significant improvement in water clarity. Water clarity went from four feet to over fourteen feet. Farwell asked why an Alum treatment isn't being done on Hess Lake. Calvi stated there is no data to show the treatment will work in a shallow lake. Buteyn stated that Kimball Lake is approximately 140 acres with an approximate cost of \$500,000 to treat the lake.

BioChar – Discussion regarding the Brooks Lake BioChar project. Buteyn stated there are studies in progress. He would like to wait for the unbiased data before making any decision for BioChar treatment on Hess Lake.

7. New Business

- a. Set 2026 Meeting Dates – Motion by Calvi, seconded by Slocum to set the meeting dates for April 21, July 14, and September 15, at 9:30 a.m. All ayes, motion carried.

8. Progressive AE

Buteyn gave updates on plant control and aquatic management for Hess Lake. Buteyn noted that treatment and permit costs this year were considerably lower than the \$30,000 budget. The treatment area was 2.5 acres and primarily treated Milfoil. Slocum asked if there were changes plant life over the past three years. Buteyn stated there are no negative trends, the lake vegetation status remains steady. Buteyn noted that the lily pads are thriving, providing habitat but less nutrient cycling than preferred plants such as pondweed or broadleaf. Buteyn stated the upcoming shoreline restoration pilot projects will focus on establishing more diverse plant communities beyond just lily pads.

9. Correspondence/Bills

None

10. Public Comment (2 minutes)

None

11. Miscellaneous

Discussion was held about Arkansas Cubes (floating vegetation structures). Buteyn stated they help with plant growth in lakes with high Carp population. Buteyn

encourages the board to focus on the shoreline pilot project for now. Mary Spicer stated that Wheeler Drain is very dry.

12. Adjournment

Motion by Calvi, seconded by David, to adjourn the meeting at 10:57 a.m. All ayes, motion carried.

Dale E. Twing, Secretary