

Portage Crooked Lake Improvement Association Minutes

08/01/2026

The purpose of the PCLIA is to preserve and improve the condition and quality of our lakes and the surrounding area. We strive to create a spirit of cooperation with all property owners on the chain of lakes.

Attending: Kari Bunkers, Sue Weber, Dean Forchas, Christine Lasley, Julie and Scott Maghan, Mike Stuber, Jill Osborn, Diane and Chuck Lund, Kris Picken. Andy and Joy Larson.

Absent: Tim Kensok

Guest: Donna Sauter and Doug Picken

Call to Order Scott called the meeting to order at 8:30 am.

Donna Sauter introduced herself and addressed the frustrations over the Portage channel and inability to navigate through to enjoy the lakes. She advised the board of an upcoming 8/15/2026 meeting with property owners on Portage Lake. Andy provided an update of the current status of any possible dredging. Kris also recapped the history of our manual channel dig. Another plea for a volunteer landowner for use of their property will be included in the fall newsletter, which goes to all property owners on the lakes.

Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes for 5/02/2026 Kris moved, seconded by Chuck to accept the 5/2/2026 minutes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report Diane presented the Treasurer's report with a balance as of 6/30/2026 of \$121,269.54, with \$69,313.59 in the checking account. Dean moved, seconded by Sue to approve the treasurer's report Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Lake Legacy Stewardship: The biggest issue has been getting the signs to be placed at properties. We currently have 18 property owners who have completed the quiz and are awaiting the physical assessment. Assessments will happen when the signs are received.

Lake Legacy Initiative Youth Initiative: (Dean)

Outcome of survey: Dean reported that the #1 requested activity by youth is fishing, so plans for next year is to address fishing education. Discussed having Jukish boys invited to perform again next year at Family Fun Event and setting an exact start time for their demonstration for those who want to see it but don't come to the family fun event.

Boater Permit Reimbursement Program: (Tim/Dean) We discussed the possibility of reimbursement of the fee for individuals taking the online safe boating class from our Education fund. The board asked the committee to discuss parameters and bring a recommendation back to the board.

Healthy Lakes

- Milfoil: Hanks has huge patches of EWM and there are patches on main Crooked Lake (near Mark Weber cabin) George Jukish has reported no sitings of milfoil on Portage. Kris reported we received a \$14,700 grant from Crow Wing County. Scott will arrange the PLM visit and send an email out to anyone on the board who would like to visit PLM and learn more about the organization/equipment, etc.

Family Fun Event Review (Dean/Andy/Joy)

- Fun Run/Triathlon Scott (Andy/Joy) Joy stated she has arranged for Dazzling Dave, Yo-Yo master to perform at next year's Family Fun Event.
- Jukish Water Show (Dean) We discussed proper compensation to the Jukish boys for their demonstration. Andy moved, seconded by Sue to give them \$500 to cover their expenses and as a thank you. Motion carried. Dean will follow up and make the invitation for next year.

Annual Meeting:

- Silent Auction: (Sue) Sue reported that Culligan donated bottle water which we can use at an upcoming event and R and J Broadcasting has donated airtime on their radio station. Andy volunteered to be interviewed at a future date when we want to publicize an event or the Lake Association.

Shoreline Newsletter: (Julie) Julie reported the cost of to mail/print our latest newsletter was \$8.50 each. Doug reported we have 46 members who request printed copies and of those 46, 39 donate more than the requested \$12. Chuck asked if since so much of newsletter is educational could we access Education fund monies to cover the printing of the newsletter. Scott will talk to Tom K. regarding his input on that question. We decided to ask a \$20 donation for those wishing to receive printed newsletters. Julie will research whether we can get a better price for our printing/mailing.

New Owner Recruitment: (Kristine/Kari) They visiting committee reported they are caught up with all new residents. They requested 10 extra newsletters to have on hand to distribute next year.

Membership: (Doug/Scott) Doug reported we have 213 members, up from 207 from last year. He also reported that 2/3 of property owners are members.

Lake	2025	2026	Percent	Total Prop	% of Prop
Portage	44	44	0%	70	63%
Sugar	37	38	3%	50	76%
Crooked Narrows	31	37	19%	55	67%
Crooked Mid	43	43	0%	63	68%
Crooked Lower	19	20	5%	34	59%
Hanks	33	31	-6%	44	70%
	207	213	3%	316	67%

Paid in 2025 but not in 2026 13

Water Quality Assessment – (Scott) Scott acknowledged that although our water quality is fairly good, we are definitely seeing an increase in green algae in the lake. He is going to do more research and will write an educational article about what property owners can do to help water quality

Community Grants – (Mike)

- No update

Teleconference for Meetings – (Chuck)

- Chuck had researched the cost for a device which would help project voices/sound for when directors are joining the board meetings remotely (for instance, when traveling). The cost would be approximately \$400. Bay Lake Township has an Owl and Scott will follow-up with the township clerk to see if it is available for our use.

New Business

Website Administration – (Scott)

Doug has expressed an interest to step down from website management. The board discussed whether we would utilize a volunteer or a vendor to maintain the website. Doug will research vendors and explore costs involved. Andy and Jill also mentioned possible vendors to consider.

Doug also reported the a new directory will be published in 2027.

Adjourn

Chuck moved seconded by Christine to adjourn the meeting at 10:00

Association Meeting Dates 2026 – All at 8:30 AM @ Bay Lake Town Hall

- Sept 26