

EMILY LAKES AND RIVER ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTIONS
August 9, 2025

The 2025 annual meeting was held at Emily City Hall. During the 30 minutes preceding the meeting, members registered with the ELRA Secretary and socialized with other ELRA board members.

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Board President, Russ Boverhuis at 9:01 am.

Board members present – Russ Boverhuis, Tori Ell, Randy Manlick, Jean McLeod, Mark Seifert, and Ray Wagman.

Board members absent – Doug Humphrey

Paid members present – 16 properties were represented.

Russ presented a “public service announcement” on behalf of the Ruth Lake Improvement District inviting guests to their annual meeting next Saturday (August 16) at Emily City Hall where the Executive Director, Jeff Forester, of the MN Lakes and Rivers Advocates will speak on outcomes of the last MN legislative session regarding issues affecting our lakes and lake associations.

GUEST SPEAKER

Maddi Nistler, *National Loon Center, Crosslake, MN.*

Maddi presented a very informative and educational talk on the biology, distribution, nesting behaviors, and habits of common loons, and details about the National Loon Center and the plans for its new building that is tentatively scheduled to open Memorial Day weekend 2027. They offer a variety of educational programs currently, including excursions aboard their 31-foot pontoon to observe loon populations on the Chain-of-Lakes, water quality testing, photography workshops, partnerships with area schools, and public education on loon conservation practices in MN.

REPORTS TO MEMBERSHIP

Secretary’s Report: Mark Seifert presented the Secretary’s report from the August 10, 2024 meeting. No member requested changes or corrections. A motion was made (Ray Wagman) and seconded (Michael Trautschold) to approve the Secretary’s report. Motion was carried.

Treasurer Audit Committee Report: The Audit Committee members, Tori Ell and Ray Wagman, presented their findings from the audit of the Treasurer’s reports. No discrepancies or irregularities were found with the financial records and all funds were properly handled.

Treasurer’s Report: Randy Manlick presented the Treasurer’s report through August 9, 2025. There is \$6,601.42 in our checking account and \$2,386.72 in the savings account. A motion was made (Jason Herfel) and seconded (Jean McLeod) to approve the Treasurer’s report as presented. Motion was carried.

AIS Report – Lake Survey Summary: Russ Boverhuis reported on AIS activities. We recently received our survey report on Eurasian Watermilfoil infestation, which contained much better news than what we received last year. There are three areas on Lake Emily (along the west and south shorelines; 7.2 acres total, compared to 22 acres last year) to be treated. Mary had no treatable areas. Two plants were identified in Mary and in the Little Pine River and Freshwater Scientific removed them by hand during the survey. The chemical used last year was very effective in knocking down most of this species. Based on grants received, City of Emily funds, and budgeted Association funds, we should be able to cover treatment costs. Russ Boverhuis and Ray Wagman recently collected water samples

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for veliger testing for zebra mussels. Once the results are available, they will be communicated to the membership. We have not had any viable zebra mussels in our lakes to date. Russ encouraged property owners to carefully check their docks, lifts, and watercraft when they are taken off the lake in the fall for zebra mussels or anything else that looks suspicious. Let us or the DNR know. Russ reported that a Purple Loosestrife plant was spotted this summer near shore on the south shore of Emily. When discovered, they should be pulled.

Fish Stocking Report: Because of last year's expenses related to milfoil treatment we did not stock walleye fingerlings (6-8 inch fish) in Mary. This year we have \$3,100 earmarked for use (\$2,100 Association budget, \$400 membership donations in 2024, and \$600 membership donations in 2025). This will likely take place in late September/early October when water temperatures drop. The DNR releases walleye fry into Lake Emily yearly. Last year they put in about 164,000 fry and 1,465 yearlings (585 lbs; 8-12 inch fish).

Outreach Report: Russ reported on our efforts to publicize the Association and its activities more, beyond our monthly newsletters. These have included printing informational brochures and welcome packets for new lake property owners, enhancing our Facebook and Instagram social media presence, promoting our 4th of July boat parade, and participating in the community with a booth at Spring Fling and at Emily Day. It is hoped that this increased exposure will boost membership.

OLD BUSINESS

- 2024 Annual Meeting Action Items
 - Buoys. We added a No Wake buoy in the "Pughole" near the entrance to Lake Mary and now there are five located between the two lakes. Three of them are in tough shape and will need to be replaced in the next few years.
 - Loon nesting platforms. We learned that permitting needs to be worked through the DNR and the Sheriffs offices and platforms must be placed immediately after ice-out. Ray Wagman is leading efforts to construct these platforms and be ready for next Spring.
 - Wake boats and their impact on lake ecology. Currently, there are no state laws regulating operation of wake boats, however, recommendations have been made by the MN Lakes and Rivers Advocates (MLAR) based on available research. Such boats should operate at least 500 feet from shore or other boaters and in 20+ feet of water. They have partnered with a company that designs wake-zone maps specific for each lake. We obtained a color-coded map for Emily and Mary showing areas that meet these criteria and published this in a newsletter and on our website.
 - EWM chemicals. The chemical used to treat our EWM (Procellacor) is considered a reduced-risk pesticide. That is, it doesn't affect other aquatic plants and is specifically designed to impact EWM. It has a short half-life in the water.
 - Wild rice. Infestations outside of one's immediate dock area and boat lanes require DNR guidance for permitting and removal.

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NEW BUSINESS

2026 ELRA Budget: The 2026 ELRA budget was handed out at sign-in and presented by Randy Manlick. Randy discussed the revenues and expenditures in 2025, which provided a framework for anticipated revenues and expenditures in 2026. Randy noted that our budgeting has been based on a yearly membership of 95. This year we increased our membership to 101; however, that puts us at just under 40% of property owners as members of our Association. The proposed budget for 2026 was based on anticipated revenues from 100 members. Anticipated expenses will be greater than revenues by about \$1,455. We would need to add an additional 20 members to break even. Historically, we have submitted and received grants to underwrite AIS survey and treatment costs to stay in the black. We made efforts this year to attract additional members from users of the Emily Resort and the RV Campground but were unsuccessful. We will continue to seek opportunities to increase membership. A motion was made (Jason Herfel) and seconded (Tori Ell) to approve the budget as presented. Motion was carried.

Q & A SESSION: Prior to the meeting, the ELRA monthly newsletter offered members the opportunity to email a question which would be addressed at the annual meeting. One question was returned via email that asked about “what determines lake levels?” and was directed toward challenges experienced while entering or leaving the narrow, shallow channel into/out of Emily and Mary. This typically occurs later in the summer when water levels go down a bit. Boaters should raise their propellers as they negotiate passage into and out of the lakes into the Little Pine River. Dredging at these sites could be a solution, however, it would be a costly venture. The lake levels are at about the same level as they were last year despite the amount of recent rain we’ve had. We started out in the spring where we ended last November.

Questions from the audience included:

1. Concerns over a swim dock/raft on Mary near the lake opening into the channel. This seems to be a mobile raft that is pulled in at day’s end and not a permanent structure.
2. Where we plan to place the loon nesting platforms. We will be working with the National Loon Center and DNR to identify the best locations for placement of the platforms.
3. Water clarity. We collect water samples monthly to have measured for clarity (a service provided through our membership with WAPOA). The last few years, both Emily and Mary have been very clean starting out the summer. Because of its shallowness, clarity in Emily drops off due to its higher nitrogen content and algae growth. For July, visibility using a Secchi disc was at 6 feet for Mary and 1.5-2 ft for Emily. The principal agents causing the drop off in water clarity in Emily include septic systems, lawn fertilizers, and increased vegetative mass in the lake.

ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS

Russ Boverhuis brought the election process forward for two positions this election cycle. Mark Seifert is running for re-election as Secretary. Jean McLeod is cycling off the Board. Russ Boverhuis opened the floor for nominations. Mary Thesing volunteered to serve. A motion was made (Jason Herfel) to close nominations (seconded by Greg Arko), which carried. A motion was made (Mark Drewitz) and

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seconded (Peter Sperl) that the candidates be elected by acclamation. Motion carried. Mark and Mary were elected by acclamation.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Seifert