LAKE EDEN ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the 2026 Annual Meeting

Date: Saturday, July 11, 2026
Time: 9:30 a.m.
Location: Scout Camp, Lake Eden, Vermont
Presiding: Colleen Brennan, President

1. Call to Order and Attendees

President Colleen Brennan called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. at the Scout Camp.

Board Members Present:

- Colleen Brennan – President
- Steven Luce- Vice President
- Anna Pirie– Treasurer
- Alicia Zeoli- Secretary
- Steve Gale- Board Member/Director

Members Present: Emmons Pirie, Jackie Larsen, Arthur Curcillo, Dennis & Joan Liddy, Bill Mace, Henry & Jan Scipione, Perry Thomas, Kristin & Davis Wildman, Lisa Vaillancourt, Terri Williams, Angela Luce, Fred & Stephanie Ward, John Cannon, Chris Bishop, Hollie & Rusty Winzenread, im Macnee, Richard Griswold, Michelle Lussier, Donna & Michael Cyr, Justin O'Brien, Steve Ford, Laurel & Patrick Persico, Lorae McCall, Brandon Rainville, Jeff & Penni Rochette

2. In Memoriam

President Brennan opened the meeting by remembering LEA member Chris Steele, who recently passed away. A fundraiser held in his memory raised $1,800 for the Lake Eden Association.

3. Approval of Prior Minutes

The group reviewed the minutes from the 2025 annual meeting. A motion was made to approve the minutes as amended. The motion was seconded and approved by the group.

4. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Anna reviewed the treasurer's report with the membership. Highlights included:

- The Association has realized savings on its insurance policy.
- Overall financial position is strong.
- The website and domain renewal is due in October, at an estimated cost of approximately $300 covering a multi-year term.
- Approximately $33,000 spent to date on herbicide treatment/grant-related expenses will be reimbursed; funds were initially drawn from the invasive species fund.

5. Grant Expenses and Grant Summary

Board President Colleen Brennan presented an overview of grant-funded expenses and grant awards for the year.

Herbicide Treatment Grant Expenses (Administered by LEA)

Description	Amount
Herbicide notification copies, stamps, envelopes, mailing labels	$587.81
2025 Herbicide Treatment	$31,300.00
Cooler and mailing costs for water samples	$183.39
Lab charges for 6 post-treatment water samples	$1,200.00
Envelopes, labels, stamps, notification copies	$420.92
Herbicide signage	$133.75

Total to date (paid out): $33,825.87

2026 Grant Summary

Grant	Amount	Purpose / Administered By
VT DEC – Aquatic Nuisance Control (ANC) Grant	$17,014	Used for Greeter Program; administered by Town of Eden; requires 25% match (cash and ~140 volunteer hours)
LCBP – AIS Grant	$25,000	Used for surveys and DASH; administered by Town of Eden; requires volunteer match (~145 hours)
LCBP – Infrastructure (Bill) Grant	$93,400	Covers 2025–2026 season; used for herbicide treatment; administered by LEA; requires volunteer hour match, no cash match required

Colleen noted that this year's Greeter Grant award decreased due to more lakes launching Greeter programs; The state divides available funding among all Greeter programs. Grant funding requires a match of volunteer VIP hours. In 2025 we were not able to claim the full Greeter Grant Award as we did not meet the volunteer VIP hour match. The Association's largest available grant has been eliminated by the federal government. This is a significant loss. Note that hours spent on loon monitoring, the website, lay monitoring, and Board member administrative time do not count toward grant match requirements. In response to a member question, the Board indicated they would expect treatment costs to decrease significantly in years following an herbicide treatment.

6. Committee Reports

The following LEA committees were reviewed with the membership:

Hand Harvesters

Team Lead: Vin Brennan. Active members: Artie Curcillo, Steve Gale, Doug Johnson, Steve & Angela Luce, Justin O'Brien, and Jeff Wood.

2025 statistics:

- approximately 36 gallons of Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) harvested by hand – less than prior year.
- 128 volunteer hours logged, approximately 60 hours fewer than in 2024.

VIP (Vermont Invasive Patrollers) Program

Jeff Rochette is the new Team Lead for the VIP program.

- 17 VIPs participated in 2025, down from 23 the prior season; new team members are needed.
- 110 volunteer hours logged in 20205; 80 hours fewer than the prior season.
- Volunteers marked numerous EWM growth areas.

- No new invasive species have been identified to date.

Greeter Program

- Continues under the leadership of Monica Wood.
- 2025 Program cash expense: $20,244 ($16,524.84 grant funds plus $3,719.16 in Town appropriation funds).
- In 2025, 270 volunteer hours were logged (VIP, hand harvest, Greeter Manager, and Board liaison roles)
- 1,275 boats were inspected; EWM was found on one boat.
- The program employed 8 paid greeters.

Lake Wise Program

Three new properties received Lake Wise Awards this year: Lisa Vaillancourt & Terri Williams, Michelle & Anthony Lussier, and Lorae McCall. This makes 9 total. Our Goal is to reach 18 to obtain the state “Gold Award". It was noted that properties without existing shoreline development can also qualify for the award. The program offers a free property visit, suggestions for improving shoreline health, and technical assistance with erosion, runoff, and shoreline vegetation; volunteer labor is available for certain projects, with property owners covering only material costs.

Shoreline Restoration Grant (9/2023–5/2026):

- 10 lake property owners participated in shoreline restoration plantings.
- 5 educational events held and 27 educational social media posts published.
- Curricula delivered to K-12 schools.
- 10 property assessments conducted.

Colleen presented a Lake Eden shoreline map, illustrating current shoreline health classifications (living shoreline, protected, restored, and unprotected segments) around the lake. This map was created as part of the Shoreline Restoration Grant managed by Perry Thomas.

Lay Monitoring Program

John Cannon and Jeff Rochette continue the program and post results to Facebook. Data monitored includes water temperature, water clarity, phosphorus and chlorophyll-a levels (algae/cyanobacteria), caffeine, and dissolved oxygen. The VT Lake Score Card rates Lake Eden's watershed as "Moderately Disturbed" and water quality standards as "Stressed," specifically for nutrients, organic enrichment/dissolved oxygen, and phosphorus.

A concerning trend was noted: phosphorus levels continue to trend in the wrong direction. In response to a member question, the Board confirmed this trend is ongoing.

2025 EWM Mitigation Summary

Category	Amount
Herbicide cost	$33,825.87
DASH / benthic blankets	$11,481.25
Hand harvesting (volunteer)	$0.00
Surveys	$6,010.69
Miscellaneous (postage, printing, signage, coolers)	$771.20
Total cost	$50,776.14

- Total volunteer hours: 71+ (hours outside the grant contract were not counted).
- Gallons of EWM removed via DASH and hand harvesting: 468.
- 25.62 acres treated with ProcellaCOR-EC herbicide.

7. 2026 EWM Mitigation Plan

Board member Steve presented the 2026 mitigation plan and explained how it was adjusted after surveys did not locate any Eurasian Watermilfoil this year.

Item	Amount
Herbicide treatment-Cancelled	$ 0
Pre- and post-treatment surveys	$10,523
DASH	$4,000
VIP / hand harvest	$ 0
Total cost	$14,523

Grants received: $25,000 for non-herbicidal mitigation efforts and surveys, and $94,600 for herbicidal treatments and related costs (second and final year of that grant).

Steve Luce reviewed the Association's eradication approach; DASH, VIP monitoring, hand pulling, and herbicide treatment. A total of 9.75 gallons of ProcellaCOR were applied, last season, across the treated 25 acres, out of an estimated 42 million gallons of water in the lake – described as a comparatively very small volume, similar to "a drop in a swimming pool." A surveyor from Arrowwood Environmental located a single EWM plant post treatment in Sept 2025 in the herbicide treated areas. Surveyors & Volunteers observed significant and widespread growth in the southwest end of the lake which was not treated with herbicide. The DASH team subsequently addressed these areas but were not able to remove it all.

The original plan for 2026 called for a second treatment at the start of summer; however, the pre-treatment survey found no EWM anywhere in the lake, so that treatment was cancelled. As of the second week of July, no EWM has been identified by volunteer divers and VIPs. The Board had expected some regrowth in the southwest end of the lake. The treatment company anticipates that EWM will reappear outside the original treatment area, making continued VIP vigilance critical. Members are encouraged to report any suspected EWM l sightings. Several lakes in the Adirondacks are reportedly experiencing similar patterns.

8. Elections

Three Board of Directors seats were available for election. The following individuals were nominated:

- Colleen Brennan
- Lisa Burke
- Penni Rochette

A motion was made to approve the slate of three nominees. The motion was seconded, and the membership voted to approve all three nominees to the Board of Directors.

9. Old and New Business

Website

The previous website has been replaced with a new website created and managed by Lisa Vaillancourt.

Buoys

A member inquired about the possibility of the Association placing buoys on the lake. The Board explained that, for liability reasons, LEA cannot be associated with placing or maintaining buoys.

Boat Wakes and Erosion

A member raised a concern that large boat wakes contribute to shoreline erosion.

Loon Nest

A loon nest is active on the lake; the resident male has identification bands, though the female has not yet been banded. Steve Walsh will relocate related signage, but the Board does not want to publicly advertise the nest's exact location in order to protect it. Eric Hansen, biologist with the Vermont Loon Conservation Project, has reported that the Loon population has rebounded. Therefore, he recommends we not place the nesting platform next season in order to allow the loons to nest naturally.

Future Presentation Topics

Members were asked what presentation topics they would like to see at future meetings. Suggestions and discussion included:

- The impact of the high local goose population.
- A preference that the annual meeting remain focused on Association business, with any educational presentations held as a separate event.

10. Announcements

Next Annual Meeting

The 2027 Annual Meeting will be held on July 10, 2027, at the Scout Camp, beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Lake Eden Family Celebration

Member Perry Thomas has organized a family celebration event, as part of the Shoreline Restoration Grant project, to be held the day following this meeting from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Lake Eden Rec Area. The event will feature an ice cream truck, nature activities, and a band. Organizers are hoping for a strong turnout and welcome volunteers to help with the event.

11. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:40am.

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia Zeoli 8/1/26
Secretary, Lake Eden Association