



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES

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**Meeting Date:** February 7, 2026

**Time:** 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

**Location:** Spirit Lake Museum, 6<sup>th</sup> & Jefferson & Zoom

**Attendance:** Paul Sturm, Dustin Thiers, Jerry Peterson, Dan Beha, Margie Wilke, Tim King, Rob Brewster, Tod Kiblen, Jane Clark

**By Zoom:** Ed Niblock, Justin Morrison, Kurt Peterson, Ron Largent

**Absent:** Galen Beem, Don Finney

**Advisors:** Linda Pendleton, Wyatt Brown, Carol Capra

**Call to Order: Paul Sturm 9:59 AM**

### Approval of Board of Directors Meeting Agenda

A motion to approve the Board Meeting Agenda was made by Jerry Peterson. Dan Beha seconded. There was no more discussion. Motion carried.

### Approve Board Meeting Minutes from October 25 and November 8, 2025

A motion to approve the October 25 and November 8 meeting minutes as written was made by Jerry Peterson. Dustin Thiers seconded. There was no more discussion. Motion carried.

### Treasures Report

Jerry Peterson provided a balance sheet and income statement for the treasurer's report. \$10,236.54 is in checking and \$32,643.23 is in savings for a total of \$42,879.77 in the bank. \$5,997.70 of dues income has been collected with \$2,138.76 of other income which is donations over and above the \$40 dues amount has also been collected. Total expenses of \$610.44 from PayPa fees and dues invoice mailing resulted in a net income of \$7,526.29.

At this time, 138 of 430 members have paid dues. One member invoice is sent to property owners with multiple lots. It was discussed to send out a text message reminder. Dan Beha and Justin Morrison will look into ApplePay and Venmo payment options.

A motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Dustin Thiers. Jane Clark seconded. There was no more discussion. Motion carried.

### Old Business:

#### 1. Strategic Plan - [https://friendsofspiritlake.com/images/sitepics/Strategic\\_Plan\\_v2\\_Sept2022.pdf](https://friendsofspiritlake.com/images/sitepics/Strategic_Plan_v2_Sept2022.pdf)

Goal One: Improve safe recreational opportunities for the community of Spirit Lake and the surrounding areas

Goal Two: Mitigate environmental impact on the waterway: improve water clarity and flow and prevent and manage potential flooding

Goal Three: Take steps to protect natural lake flora and fauna

SLPOA Vision Statement: Develop capacities within our community to provide a sustainable habitat, allowing all people who live, work and play within its environment an optimal Spirit Lake experience.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES

---

### 2. Committee Reports

#### a. **Communications** – website, Facebook, Instagram, text, email, newsletter

Jim Bolser with Peak Media and Doug Freeland put together a very informative milfoil video on YouTube. This video has been posted to Facebook and will be added to the website. Ed Niblock created an Instagram page for the SLPOA to target the younger audience - FriendsOfSpiritLake

There is no date set yet for the next newsletter but it will be likely be in April/May. Paul Sturm is looking for content. Ideas mentioned include a small article on lily pads, an update on the Small Waterways Coalition, an article on snowpack and lake level, and an article for permits for waterfront landowners. Dan Beha will reach out to Paul Buckland with Inland Empire Paper (IEP) to get an update on the conservation easement.

#### b. **Brickel Creek**

Jerry Peterson provided an update on a grant proposal from Chris Hardy for plantings along Brickel Creek. This proposal included plantings in the spring and fall. It was recommended to reapply for the grant to allow for equipment rental funds to aid in digging through the reed canary grass. The SLPOA will be looking for volunteers to help plant.

#### c. **Membership/Fundraising**

See update in Treasurers Report. Jerry Peterson discussed the potential establishment of a Watershed District to fund lake cleanup and conservation efforts, noting that while it would be beneficial, it would require significant legal and administrative work.

#### d. **Wake Boats/Erosion-Millpond Buoys/Sign**

Looking to add additional buoys in the narrows as well as signage and buoys in the millpond. The sheriffs office would need to write a letter of support, however this is unlikely to happen as it needs to be a safety concern and there is no data indicating there are safety issues.

It was recommend to change direction and move forward with an environmental concern related to the shallow depth and documented damage to the lake liner. It was discussed to consider a petition or a sample letter that millpond and lakefront property owners can sign or submit to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)/ Department of Lands expressing the needs for educational awareness for the environmental impact wakes have in the shallow water and lake liner.

Several Board members have attended a meeting with other lakes in the area looking to form a Small Waterways Coalition. The goal of this is to have a more collective voice with local lakes that have similar issues with wake boats and erosion. About 10 entities have expressed interest. A workshop is scheduled for April 10<sup>th</sup> for those that wish to attend. The SLPOA have asked for 15 seats and it is anticipated there will be breakout sessions. This coalition will have a financial commitment to sustain and set up.

#### e. **Holiday Gala – Spirit Lake Coalition**

A big thanks to Dan and Stephanie Beha for the donations and putting together the tree. The Sturms will provide the food and Dan Beha will provide the boat for the cruise this summer. The event raised over \$800 for the SLPOA. Those in attendance noted it was a fun event and well put on.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES

---

### f. Annual Meeting 2026

There have been issues in the past with securing an annual meeting date due to an insurance requirement (typically insurance not due until May) which is required to secure the date/location with the school. Look into paying the insurance early and/or moving the insurance renewal to an earlier date.

It was discussed to do a survey using survey monkey to get feedback on the format of this year's meeting. It was discussed to consider having booths with key topics for attendees to visit before or after the meeting. It was noted to invite the new Mayor.

The Annual Meeting is scheduled for August 8<sup>th</sup>.

### g. Lake Cleanup 2027

The lake cleanup was last conducted two years ago. Dustin Thiers noted that not much has been identified to necessitate a cleanup this year. It was suggested to send letters to property owners with dilapidated docks to offer ideas and solutions for removing the docks properly.

## New Business

### 1. New COSL Mayor

Invite the new Mayor to the Annual Meeting.

### 2. Brickel Creek & Lake Studies

- a. Agencies and Partners – UofI/IWRRI, IF&G, USF&W, IEPC, ICL
- b. Potential research
- c. Beaver Dam Analog (BDA) Project-Cost Estimates

Discussed having a LiDAR survey completed to map locations for the BDAs and to understand the impact of these structures on the surrounding area and the need for accurate data to design them effectively. LiDAR quotes were received from Galen Beem for two survey options ranging from approx.\$16k for 275 acres surveyed to \$17,625 for 325 acres surveyed. The survey and design will be the most expensive portion of the project. This project will be a targeted fundraising project similar to what was done for the outlet dam. The property owner, Ollie Hohman, is on board with the project. Jane Clark will forward contact information for a Gonzaga University professor. Dad Beha will reach out to Steven Ford to discuss the proposed overall project plan as Steven has expressed interest in the past.

- d. Millpond leakage

When the bridge was dammed up with sandbags in the fall, exposed areas of the liner in the millpond were discovered with areas identified as potential leaks to watch for in the spring.

### 3. Milfoil Video

See Communications Committee Report above.

### 4. Snow Pack – Impact on lake level

Next Meeting Date: April 18, 2026 at 10am at the Spirit Lake Museum and/or Zoom

## Adjourn Business Meeting

Dan Beha made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Margie Wilke seconded. The meeting ended at 12:00 PM.

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