

UPPER HAY LAKES ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

June 4, 2026

VFW, Pequot Lakes, MN

Welcome by UHLA Board president Brad Schultz

Presentation:

"Tales from a Minnesota Meteorologist" – by Dennis Feltgen, retired meteorologist and UHLA Board member

Dennis took us on a trip through his nearly 30 years as a broadcast meteorologist, highlighting his years at Twin Cities' stations KSTP-TV5 and KARE-TV11 from 1978-1989, and 20 years as a U.S. government meteorologist and communications officer with NOAA and its National Hurricane Center.

Changing technology, big budgets and large staff were hallmarks of his Minnesota broadcast years as television weather broadcasts evolved from the Plexiglas studio weather map to three-dimensional electronic graphics, doppler radar and live satellite broadcasts.

BUSINESS MEETING

President's Welcome and call to order

Members of the Board present: Brad Schultz, Neil Beaverson, Maddie Nelson, Dennis Feltgen, Brad Kaus, Whitey Larson, Greg Thomas, Claire Steen, Jack Woodruff

UHLA Members present: 30

Reading/Approval of Minutes of the 2025 Annual Meeting.

The reading of the Minutes of the 2025 Annual Meeting was waived. However, a member noted an error in Section 9, subset four, where Prior Lake was written instead of Pequot Lakes. Brad S. said it would be corrected. A motion was made and seconded to accept the amended Minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

There is \$53K in savings, checking and CDs. The money is held as a rainy-day fund for unexpected items, including invasive species in the lake, which could quickly deplete the account.

There are 53 members paid so far, compared to the usual 90. An effort is needed to reach out to those non-paid members.

A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made and seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Election of Board Members

The positions held by Neil Beaverson, Maddie Nelson and Greg Thomas are up for renewal. Maddie and Greg are not renewing, leaving two vacancies. Nine members are needed on the Board. There are four or five meetings per year, each about 90 minutes time commitment. Suzy Hurin, who has done amazing work on the UHLA website, declined an invitation to become a Board Member. No volunteers were noted at the meeting.

A motion to reelect Neil for another three-year term on the board was made and seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Maddie was thanked for her hard work as board secretary and for overseeing the UHLA Newsletter. Brad S. will take over the Newsletter. Dennis Feltgen will serve as Board Secretary.

Upcoming Events

Boat Parade - The annual boat parade will take place on July 3rd. Boats will gather at the public dock at 2:45 pm with the parade beginning at 3 pm.

A proposal to add ice creams bars at the landing after the parade was put to a member vote. However, a show of hands indicated very little interest and the proposal was dropped.

August Event – A members' get-together was held last August at Snarky Loon, but the facility cannot guarantee its events won't overlap with our event this year. Other location proposals were discussed: (1) Veterans Park with Shiners available for food and drink; (2) Shiners would host the event in its upper room, which can hold 40 people.

After discussion, Shiners was preferred over Snarky Loon. A motion was made and seconded to have the event at Shiners. The motion passed unanimously. The event is now scheduled for August 6th from 5pm-7pm

Boat races - Neil proposed an idea to get kids more involved on the lake by having kayaks, canoes and non-motorized watercraft races. A show of hands by members favored the idea. Joe, Neil and Claire will form a committee to study the idea. It was noted that the Board Association of Hay Lake Lodge will need to be approached for use of its landing because the public one is too busy.

Update on shoreline restoration

Claire Steen recently spoke with Kristi Rodell of MN Soil and Water, who had addressed the UHLA membership two years ago. Kristi notes that Upper Hay Lake is a very volatile lake because it is so vertical with much washup on the shoreline. If anyone is interested in shoreline restoration, Kristi will come out, take photos, etc., and can work on a

property if it does not have real steep bank or does not have a lot of wave action. They look at ice push vs. wave action in the decision process.

Kristi is working with Jacob Frie on a project on Whitefish Island where root wads are made from the aged fallen trees in the water by cutting them up and pushing them onto the shoreline. Another idea is to use engineered riprap which allows water to go up and down, allowing native vegetation on the engineered rock.

If you are interested in shoreline restoration and have a plan, submit the application by Oct 1st to be considered for reimbursement of the \$150 application fee. Contact Claire for further information. Note that the UHLA Website has link to a book for purchase (\$5) which details shoreline restoration.

Weeds at outlet to Hay Lake Creek

Neil Beaverson reported on research to remediate weeds. A discussion took place by the Board regarding the removal of weeds to clear a 300 foot by 6-foot pathway on Hay Creek from the bridge to Upper Hay Lake. The approximate cost is \$4000 per day for up to five days. In addition, it's a problem because the weeds are downloaded at the public landing, which is on the other side of the lake. The machine moves slow and hauling a full load to the other side of the lake is very time-consuming.

The DNR states that the water flow rate from the dam in Cross Lake to Hay Creek is adequate, so removing the weeds will not increase the flow rate. Also, the weeds will return in 2-3 years, requiring additional funds.

The Board had decided not to move forward with removing the weeds due to the poor cost/benefit factor, feeling the \$20,000 cost for a benefit that is largely aesthetics is not justified.

A lively discussion followed his report. A show of hands indicated that half of the members would use Hay Creek if it were opened. A motion was made and seconded to get more information from the contractor before making a final decision whether to move forward. The motion passed.

Stocking of Fish

Neil Beaverson reported that Mike Knapp (Crow Wing Fisheries) had recommended that we stay with stocking our lake with 184,000 walleye fry, which has a five percent survival rate. If not, the next step is to go with walleye fingerlings. These must be purchased through a private fishery, ranging in cost from 50 cents to three dollars, and must be permitted. Knapp noted that the fingerlings, per the DNR, do not have good success rate either and advised it'd likely be a waste of money. However, the bigger fish (5 and 6 inches, costing \$5 to \$7 each) do have a better chance of survival. There are a lot of lakes that stock bigger fish every other year. The Board had decided to

recommend spending \$2500 to purchase bigger fish as a positive effort to improve the lake in a meaningful way.

Another lively discussion followed. A motion was made and seconded to spend \$2500 on the bigger walleye. A hand count resulted in 20 yes votes and 14 no votes. The motion passed.

Bathroom at public landing.

The Board had considered a proposal to provide a port-a-potty unit at the public boat landing. However, the Board felt it was a lot of work and the unit must be a more costly handicap unit. The Board decided not to move forward with the proposal.

Public Landing Cleanup

The Board proposed to have volunteers go once a week with trash bags to clean up the public boat landing area. A sheet was passed around to sign up, providing very good results.

Concerns of Lake Residents

- The DNR lowered the limit for crappies on the whitefish chain to five. Would like it to include Upper Hay Lake. However, the DNR got a lot of pushbacks on the idea.
- It'd be nice of those homes on the lake with bright daylight lamps along the lakeshore to dim them to enjoy the night sky. The Vrbo was particularly noted. Brad S. will place a reminder article in the next Newsletter.
- Concern regarding the falling number of successful loon nests. We may not be preparing the nest properly.

Concluding Remarks

Brad S. thank the members for an honest, open and civil discussion regarding important topics. He encouraged members to hold of neighbors and have them join the association. It's only \$25 and we need everyone's participation to be successful.

The meeting was adjourned.