

Lake Lawrence Lake Management District Steering Committee

15735 Topaz Dr. SE
Yelm, WA 98597



1. **6:30 PM Call to Order** – Co-Chair Barry Halverson called the LLLMD Meeting on February 19, 2026, to order at 6:30 PM. Steering Committee members were introduced.

SC Members Present: Barry Halverson (Co-Chair), Jim Biehl (Co-Chair), Janice Leitzke (Budget Chair), John Carpenter, Ken Stewart, Terry Stewart, Isaac Smith, and Steven Slater. A quorum was present, so the meeting continued.

SC Members Absent: Stephen Slater

Members Present: Kim Farnes, Frank Hudik, and Kathy Boyajian

Government Staff: None

2. **6:33 PM Approval of Agenda** – **MOTION: SC Member Steven Slater moved to approve the agenda. SC Member Janice Leitzke seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

3. **6:33 PM Approval of October 16, 2025, Meeting Minutes** –

MOTION: SC Member John Carpenter moved to approve the October 16, 2025, meeting minutes. SC Member Isaac Smith seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

4. **6:34 PM Public Communications** – No one wished to make any statements/testimony at the beginning of the meeting.

5. **6:35 PM Recurring/Continued Business:**

Budget – Janice Leitzke – Provided an update of the 2025 Final Budget Actuals - Financial Report and Financial Details, see attached. No additional Grant funds were received. More expected in coming weeks. 2026 Financial Report through mid-February 2026 and Financial Details were discussed. County approved 2026-2027 Bi-Annual Budget was reviewed. Discrepancies with 2025 and 2026 financials were identified – County working to correct long standing issues – particular problem areas were Grant Funds not received totaling over \$41k, Interfund reimbursement for 2025 \$6,200 not received, other smaller budget invoice items that have been a recurring issue.

Work Orders/Invoices were detailed:

- 1) 2 Dec 25 - Barry purchased stamps and mailed four letters certified mail for LMD Renewal – Cost \$55.62 – Still not reimbursed – EH working on it.
- 2) 20 Jan 26 - Notice of Public Hearing in Nisqually Valley News (2x) – Cost \$317.20.
- 3) 3 Dec 25 – Public Hearing notice to members – Cost \$874.54.
- 4) Meeting Notification Card Work Order Cancelled – information included with Public Hearing notice to members, so this mailing was not necessary.
- 5) 13 Feb 26 – Ballot letters sent to members – Cost \$1,072.82.
- 6) Work Order for Notice of LMD Establishment – Estimate \$320.00.
- 7) Work Order Notice of Public Hearing for Roll of Rates and Charges in Nisqually Valley News – Cost Est. \$320.
- 8) Work Order for Special Assessment Hearing Notice mailed to members – Cost Est. \$1,000.
- 9) Work Order for Treatment Notification Card mailed to shoreline members – Cost Est. \$500.
- 10) Work Order for Curly Pondweed Treatment – Cost Est. \$71,308+tax.
- 11) Work Order for YFI Treatment – Cost \$1,500.

MOTION: SC Member Janice Leitzke moved to approve items 1-5 that had already been invoiced or cancelled. Isaac Smith seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Janice Leitzke moved to approve items 6-11 that were still pending. Terry Stewart seconded. Motion passed unanimously. 6:46 PM Old Business

Lake Level/Temps – Frank Hudik provided updated information prior to the meeting that showed surface water temperature is around 40 degrees as of February 15, 2026. Water level rose quickly beginning in January with water pouring over the outflow 3 January 2026 and still flowing out. Currently at 2.67. Dam level is 2.4. Many thanks to Taylor Fossum for taking the readings and recording them while Frank was in Arizona.

Yellow Flag Iris (YFI) Floating Islands – Frank Hudik provided backup slides for the Floating Island issue.

There has been no movement on the floating mat issue with WDFW or Department of Natural Resources. A large ~60x8x5' floating mud island erupted from West Lake Lawrence on 3 Oct. Curt Cleaveland initially sat a large orange cone at the end of the island to provide some visibility to boaters. It sank a couple of weeks later. A smaller YFI Island was spotted in West Lake Lawrence on 23 December. Another one or the same one (hard to tell – about the same size) was spotted in East Lake Lawrence on 6 January. Whereabouts currently unknown.

Senate Bill S-3518.1 – No movement on this issue as the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Lands Division Manager collaborating with us on the issue has not responded to several email requests.

Cyanobacteria Management Plan (CMP) – Toxic Algae Plan –All testing completed – working on DRAFT plan. Public meeting on 11 December 2025 provided a lot of information (2-hour briefing). Presentation on the website. Meeting was taped and downloaded to YOUTUBE Channel – link: <https://youtu.be/a3kZfRZKur0> . Next meeting 16 April 2026 with final meeting 11 June 2026. Meeting notices were sent to all members on 2 December 2025. Updates/Changes posted to website. As noted during our budget update, some Grant Funding has been received, and more is expected in the coming weeks. WA State Department of Ecology has advised that once the study is completed and they receive it for review it will take them 1-2 months to complete the review and provide feedback.

With this plan we are attempting to control Toxic Algae Blooms and improve dissolved oxygen in the deeper depths of our lake. We are looking at many ways to do this:

- **Aluminum Sulfate (ALUM)** has been used extensively throughout the country and the world. It is a safe product that provides reliable results if applied correctly. It strips the algae from the water column and sequesters it on the bottom of the lake. This can result in increased submerged vegetation due to increased water clarity. That water clarity is short lived. Two lakes in our area that have recently used ALUM are Green Lake in Seattle and Black Lake outside of Olympia. Costs were \$800,000 for Green Lake in 2016 and \$1.4 million for Black Lake in 2021. They have not experienced toxic algae blooms since application, but they are preparing for additional applications. Conservative estimates show that repeat applications after 5-10 years may be necessary to control the new phosphorus that enters the lake from external sources. We will continue to monitor the use of ALUM. March 20, 2026, new Aquatic Plant and Algae Management (APAM) permit came out with new (additional testing requirements when applications of ALUM are made. These additional testing requirements increase costs to over \$17,000 per application. If you are doing a large scale application to totally reset phosphorus levels in the lake that might be okay (like Black Lake did), but when you do smaller applications that need to be repeated every year or two this cost can be exorbitant (20% or more of application costs). The updated APAM does not allow for this, and this is how most lakes use ALUM because it is too expensive to do one large application. This is how we would have to do it.
- **Eutrosorb G and SI is a Lanthanum based product**, which is currently being used on several lakes in our area to include Long Lake, Spanaway Lake, and Kitsap Lake. Costs range from \$160,000 to \$220,000 a year for treatment depending on size/depth of lake and volume of phosphorus in lake. Estimates from our current submerged weed contractor to control the phosphorus for our lake using this product run from \$108k using a 20-year plan to \$2.1million for a total reset (all at once) All alternatives are being investigated. The lakes that have used this product have had no toxic algae blooms since beginning its use. However, an initial dosing of about 20-25% of phosphorus in the lake needs to be done to preclude harmful algae blooms. Additional APAM testing requirements also pertain to this product bringing testing requirements to over \$17,000 per application. Again, for smaller applications this cost is exorbitant.

- **Zero Valent Iron (ZVI)** a Hepure Product currently approved for use by WA State, but currently only used at Steilacoom Lake in 2024 and 2025. We have talked with the President of the Lake Improvement District (Similar to an LMD) who says it is working but believe they will need to reapply each year with hopes to reduce the amount they need to apply. So far, there have been no toxic algae blooms. 2025 total costs were \$161k with three different applications. We are continuing to monitor and gather information on this product. There were no APAM testing requirements previously, however with the new APAM several tests are required that would require purchase of a Sone System for testing pH, Temperature, Dissolved Oxygen, and % of Saturation. This test equipment costs roughly \$12,000 and would be required for all other products as well. Two additional tests have also been added with the new APAM bringing testing costs to roughly \$5,000 per application.
- **OASE Lake Therapy Product.** This is a new product for Washington State and has yet not been used in the Pacific Northwest. It is a Calcium Chloride based product, which is currently not authorized for use in WA State and would require an experimental phosphorus sequestration product use plan approved by WA State Department of Ecology. We have identified a potential issue with this product (pH) based on our pH levels in our lake. We are currently working with the company that makes this product to determine if it is even feasible. The company believes pH levels are not a concern. Because it has not been approved for use in WA State testing requirements for this product are expected to be extensive. OASE has stated they would be willing to absorb costs for an experimental use plan and most of the costs for testing.
- **Oxygenation System** is currently being studied by Pierce County for use in Spanaway Lake. This system requires a fixed site to install generators, which require 24/7 power, and hoses run from the generator into the deepest parts of the lake. Multiple basins may require multiple sites. Power costs are estimated at \$25k a year per site. Frequent maintenance is required so a maintenance contract would be necessary. Initial costs for installation at one location are ~\$1.5million. Our lake would require at least two sites at a cost of ~\$2.5 million. Working with Wildaire HOA as a location for one system along shoreline of their HOA Park. The other location would need to be placed on private property on West Lake Lawrence – will be contacting owners in next couple of weeks to discuss. Shoreline footprint, permits, electrical lines, etc. being worked by various SC members. Much more to be discussed in March LMD meeting. Concerns discussed were Risk of Shock and Noise. Both have been resolved and are not an issue. Another concern addressed and yet to be resolved is how do you put this system on the floor of our lake (deep/loose sediment) without it sinking into the muck. Product Manufacturer does not believe this is a problem as they install feet/pads of varied sizes along cables to prevent sinking. However, more information is needed. The cost to install one system would be approximately \$1.5 million.
- Dredging was revisited as part of this study. Results: \$579 to \$790 Million – not a feasible solution.
- Full Reset Costs Discussed. Full Reset Means – Enough product applied in lake to sequester 7,250 lbs. of phosphorus in lake water column and sediment (the study showed this is the approximate amount we have in the lake).
 - The average cost for a full reset using ALUM, Lanthanum or Calcium Based products would be approximately \$1.594 million.
 - For Iron based product it would be approximately \$823k.
- Partial Reset (20%) of In Lake Phosphorus (20% is the amount the study shows would be necessary to prevent harmful algae blooms), but additional treatments every year or at least every two years would be necessary for the life of the lake to prevent future blooms.
 - The average cost for a partial reset using ALUM, Lanthanum or Calcium Based products would be approximately \$315k.
 - For Iron Based products it would be approximately \$190k.

LMD Renewal 2027 – Where are we and how do we get to the finish line. Our website provides a detailed review of our progress and future actions. The summary version is that we are currently at STEP 8 – Ballots Mailed to members. Ballots

due by 5 p.m. 11 March and then they are counted at 10:30 a.m., 12 March in Room 110, 3000 Pacific Ave SE, Olympia – Commissioners Conference Room. If anyone would like to be present for that count you can meet me there. County personnel do the count, but members of the LMD can be present to observe. Following the ballot count they will be tabulated and we will find out that day if the LMD passed. Requires 50.01% of “YES” votes. If it passes an Ordinance is prepared for the Commissioners to approve at their next Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) Meeting and at that same meeting the final Public Hearing on Rolls and Assessments is scheduled. Our outreach for this LMD Renewal has been extensive with many articles published in the Daily JOLT and Nisqually Valley News – see presentation where copies of those articles are provided.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) testified at the last Public Hearing on 20 January 2026 and submitted a letter to the BoCC stating they did not agree with the amount (\$22,456) of their assessment, that they had not been provided adequate reasons for this large assessment and that they also did not agree with the duration (35 years) of the LMD or the reason for the extended duration. The LMD Steering Committee (SC) responded to that letter laying out the many steps, to include emails and mailings, the LMD SC had taken to inform WDFW of meetings where all these issues were discussed in detail, none of which they chose to attend. A copy of this letter was cc'd to the BoCC and Environmental Health. We have received no additional comment/response from WDFW concerning our reply to their letter. At this point we do not believe WDFW will vote for the LMD renewal, but we hope they will not vote against it. Every member of the LMD needs to vote for the LMD renewal to ensure its success.

Our website Homepage has detailed information on the LMD Renewal process and shows where we are and what we need to do to complete the process.

Shallow Water Signs – Three 10'x3" galvanized posts were secured at no cost to the LMD. In May or June volunteers will go out and attempt to drive these posts into the lakebed on the shallow end of the lake. If successful we will then move forward with purchasing the “DANGER SHALLOW WATER” signs to install on those posts. If not successful we will bring it back to the SC for additional discussion and look at what we had discussed at our Annual Meeting in September, 2025 meeting shown here: “ At the annual meeting one of our members suggested obtaining a mesh/metal cage like they use in erosion control along highways, putting the signpost in a concrete block, setting the concrete block with post inside the cage and filling it with rocks at the location where the signs need to be posted. This would require several boats and strong volunteers. September of next year would be the best time to do this. Everyone will consider this idea, and a decision will be made at our February or March meeting. The material and signs were approved at the October 2024 meeting.”

8:02 PM New Business –

Public Boat Launch Signage – Photos of the Long Lake Public Boat Launch sign was presented to the SC for discussion. The sign was paid for by the Long Lake LMD and made by Signarama, Hawks Prairie. It is approximately 4'x8' – see presentation for picture of sign. Everything on the Long Lake sign pertains to Lake Lawrence except the picture of the lake and hazard/shallow water areas on the lake map. Issac Smith volunteered to research cost and developed a design for the sign and bring it back to the March LMD meeting for further discussion. WDFW has no problem with such a sign being installed at the Public Boat Launch, however it would require a Cultural Resource Review and permit application that the LMD would need to pay for. The offer was made to other HOA SC represented at the meeting to take this idea back to their respective HOA boards and ask if they (the HOAs) would like to post a similar sign at their respective community boat launches. Each HOA SC board member will do that and bring back their HOA's response at the next LMD meeting in March 2026.

2026 LMD Submerged Weed Treatment Plan – On 2 October we had a meeting with our contractor to discuss the 2026 treatment plan. We recommended that 3 additional acres be added to the treatment area, totaling 34 acres in 2026. The contractor recommended we start the treatment a couple of weeks earlier than last year and apply Sonar One, as we did in 2025 at four-week intervals. The estimated cost would be \$71,308, which is \$65 per acre greater than 2025.

Contractor stated that product costs were not yet available for 2026, but he had made his best guess at what they might

be. We will mail the notice of treatment in late March or early April depending on weather conditions over the winter months. Warmer weather will require earlier treatment/notification. Weather and lake survey considered, treatment will begin mid-April with subsequent treatments mid-May and mid-June timeframe. Focus is on Curly Pondweed. This will be our third year treating for Curly. After this year we may decide to stop applications for curly in the areas we have been treating to see if it comes back. This would provide us with an opportunity to treat other areas of the lake and get a good assessment of the success or lack of it for treating the Curly for the past three years.

2026 Yellow Flag Iris (YFI) Treatment Plan – Communications with Thurston County Noxious Weed Manager confirms their support for YFI treatment in 2026 with our contribution being \$1,500. We will send out permission letters to applicable members in the first week of January 2026. Permission Letters are due to Noxious weed by April 1. As noted above, treatment notification cards will be sent out in late March or early April. According to Noxious Weed YFI Treatment will be between 5 and 15 May 2026. To date we have received all permission letters but one – working on that.

2026 Fragrant Water Lily (FWL) Treatment Plan – Dependent on survey results in July 2026. Our contractor from 2025 recommended treating the water shield around the lake as it is expanding and could become a control problem. Survey committee will consider this and report back to full Steering Committee in July 2026.

2026 Meeting/Survey Schedule – The schedule for 2026 was reviewed.

LMD Meetings – All meetings are scheduled for Thursdays from 6:30-8:30 p.m. In Person meetings are at Lake Lawrence Lower Lodge. Virtual meetings are via “TEAMS” with link posted on website: Next meetings – 19 March (Virtual); 14 May (In Person); 16 July (Virtual); 15 October (In Person).

CMP Meetings – Thursdays from 6:30-8:30 p.m. In Person Meetings are at Lake Lawrence Lower Lodge. Virtual meetings are via “TEAMS” with link posted on website: Mtg #4 16 April (In Person); Mtg #5 11 June (Virtual). Discussion about having 16 April meeting Virtual instead of In Person – will discuss further with contractor and with SC at March LMD Meeting.

Lake Surveys – Tuesdays from 9-12 a.m. Meet at Barry’s house on canal: 14 April, 12 May, 9 June, 7 July, and 18 August.

Funding For Lake Lawrence (Grants & Other) – Discussed Grant funding opportunities and other funding ideas (Non-Profit 501c4, 501c3, and Go Fund Me Accounts) and their differences. What is possible and what is not. With the excessive cost of phosphorus sequestration, as shown above, the LMD SC is researching ways to raise capital for testing equipment and large dollar phosphorus sequestration costs. Anyone interested in helping set up and run a Non-Profit “Friends of Lake Lawrence” please contact Barry for more information. Without additional monetary assistance it will take years to accomplish our goal of sequestering the phosphorus to prevent harmful algae blooms. The one method (Oxygen Saturation Technology [OST]) would improve lake health, fish, and other aquatic organisms’ habitat. No other method would oxygenate the water column. They would only, over time, resolve the harmful algae blooms.

Annual Meeting – 6:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday, 24 September 2026. Thurston County Hydrologist, Kevin Hansen has agreed to provide a presentation to the LMD to talk about 1) Hydrology of Lake Lawrence and surrounding area; 2) Aquifers in and around the area and how they impact Lake Lawrence; 3) Soil Composition around Lake Lawrence and how that impacts septic system flow into lake; 4) Test results from local wells/public wells/water systems, what those tests show (phosphates, etc.) in the water that may impact water quality at the lake; 5) Recycle time for lake water. Anyone who has any other suggestions please bring them to the LMD meeting in March.

8:20 PM Good of the Order –

2026 County Park Cleanup calendar was sent out. Thanks to our 10 volunteers that clean up the County Park every week and prevent hundreds of pounds of trash from entering our lake.

HOA’s are scheduling their annual meetings. Would like HOA Boards to notify the LMD when those meetings are and provide an opportunity (20-30 minutes) for the LMD SC leadership to address their HOA members (which are also LMD members) to let them know what is going on in and around the lake that impacts them.

Over the winter we had several storms that brought down trees in the County Park. Shout out to Thurston County Parks personnel. When we contacted them about downed trees that fell across the trails they responded within a couple of weeks and cleared the debris.

Animals of Lake Lawrence. This past month one of our neighbors on the Canal and another on the southeast side of the lake notified the LMD of critters they had not seen before on their property. Kathy Boyajian, Lake Lawrence Canal Front Property Owner contacted WDFW to find out what they were. They were Nutria, classified by the State of Washington as a “Prohibited Level 3” species. They can be trapped by a licensed trapper or by individual property owners if they use a live trap. If caught they must be euthanized immediately – cannot be transferred off the property alive. The reason private homeowners must use live traps is to ensure the animal caught is a Nutria and not a Beaver, Muskrat, Squirrel, Otter, or some other unfortunate animal. Using carrots and/or sweet potato is the preferred bait for Nutria. The presentation slides on the website provide more information and details. Please note – this is a HOA (Community Parks/Land or Individual Property Owner Responsibility – not the LMDs. We will assist in getting the information out to ensure the right information/laws are known.

8:28 PM Adjourn – With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:28 pm.

Attachments:

1 – 2025 End of Year Financial Report, and Details of Financial Report; 2026 Financial Report and Details, 2026-2027 Bi-Annual Budget– See meeting presentation slides for additional information.

Prepared by Barry Halverson

Barry Halverson, Co-Chair