

Monthly Wisconsin Lake Org Chats

Monthly chats, tentative topics include...

- Organizational Capacity (Jan. 2025)
- Communicating Effectively Using Email (Feb. 2025)
- Annual Meetings (March 2025)
- Budgets & Priorities (April 2025)
- Finances (May 2025)
- Committees (June 2025)
- Lake District Boundaries
- Insurance
- Membership
- Grants
- Countywide Orgs
- Lakes with Dams

Goal: Introduce important & timely topics to the lake organization community in Wisconsin in a fun and engaging way while pointing the way to additional resources.



Episode 6: Using Committees Appropriately and Effectively

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Purpose of Committees, Structure, and Roles

- Involve more individuals contributing to a District or Association
- Spread out the responsibilities of running the organization
- Assist the Board of Directors with tasks and functions
- Build broader organizational knowledge across the membership
- Provide a stepping stone for people who want to be more involved but don't want to be on the board of directors/board of commissioners



Benefits and Challenges

- Some may like it, some may not...
- Benefits outweigh any negatives: getting more things done on a limited budget or in a limited amount of time
- Negatives: (a) can be a lot to keep track of! (b) turf issues (c) you need a base of volunteers ready to fill committee roles



Communicating and Reporting

- Committees report to the governing body.
- But some may have independent authorities.
- For lake districts, committees need to follow the same open meetings and open records laws as the district board itself, much like county board committees.



Examples

- Finance and budget
- Audit committee
- Human resources
- Regulatory compliance
- Social committee
- Land acquisition
- Cost-share
- Aquatic plant management
- Hiring
- And, whatever else is needed or helpful!

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Overseeing all other committees and reporting to the board is the Executive Committee. This committee is comprised of the officers of the board (President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer) as well as up to two at large directors.

MONITORING COMMITTEE

The Monitoring Committee is responsible for monitoring water quality, water levels, Clean Boats Clean Waters, loon watch, etc. and providing data to as needed to the other committees.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

The Operations Committee is primarily responsible for membership and event coordination.

Membership – documenting and increasing membership, billing and receiving annual dues payments, maintaining constant contact email information, tracking member renewal dates, sending welcome packets, sending thank you notes, and assisting general membership communications.

Event Coordination – assisting with the preparation for the Annual Meeting, Ice Cream Social, clothing sales and other LLPA events by coordination of board member's help with the events



Best Practices

- Start small
- List committees on website and in newsletters
- Post meeting notices
- Aim for inclusive meeting locations
- Identify a different person to lead each committee
- Report out at meetings
- Invite diverse perspectives



Coming next month...

Creating and Changing Boundaries for Lake Districts

Please let us know what you think of these monthly lake org video chats. We appreciate your feedback and thank you for your time.

[Monthly Lake Organization Video Chats](#)

