

CRESCENT LAKE DISTRICT

Crescent Lake District

Annual Meeting of Electors / Owners – 09/05/26

The Crescent Lake District (CLD) Annual Meeting was called to order at 9:07 a.m. at the Crescent Town Hall. CLD Commissioners Tim Kilgore, Dave Schwanz, Jim Solinsky, Dennis Southworth, Suzanne Mooney, Robb Jensen, and Maria Rudesill were present. Also present were 35 attendees, 27 of which were electors/owners. This meeting was properly posted according to Chapter 33 and Open Meeting laws.

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Dennis Southworth, Dave Schwanz seconded, motion PASSED.

Motion to approve the minutes from the 2025 Annual Meeting was made by Dan Engstrand, Mike Krohn seconded, motion PASSED.

Chairman Tim opened with a quick review of the formation and purpose of the Crescent Lake District and the commitment of the Commissioners to be good stewards of the tax funding with a focus on protecting the lake and waters for the good of the community. After introducing the current Commissioners and welcoming new owners / attendees, Tim reiterated the goal of the CLD to continue working on the AIS issues within the lake. We are currently doing well on the battle with EWM but the reality is that it won't truly go away. We are only one season away from a bad season. We have a working relationship with the DNR, though it can be challenging. Due to the efforts of the Response Team, both before and after the CLD was formed, we are in good shape. Tim thanked the Crescent Lake Association for their educational efforts. He also explained that we did not get a volunteer or were able to hire a person to coordinate the Clean Boats / Clean Water grant this past summer. He encouraged lake owners to check out the website as there is a lot of information there regarding AIS and the progress made by the CLD. Finally, he thanked Terry Goldbach for his years of service to Crescent Lake, as Terry will be stepping down from the Response Team Coordinator position.

Terry thanked the group and shared that with his fellow response team, he has learned a lot over the last 20 years of service. Terry then went into his 2026 report. The DNR turned down our permit request for 2026, so we hired DASH boat services

instead, which didn't find a lot along the boat launch area. A meander survey was conducted by Whitewater Associates and the findings were consistent, with a some EWM found by the boat launch and south end of the lake. This amount was still not a lot and less than what was found last year. He recommends doing another survey in late May to watch for hot spots.

Terry then shared the plan for 2027, which, like in 2026, will use DASH boating and the spring survey to determine if there is enough to apply for a treatment permit. Terry showed maps that compare the previous years and explained that there is a cycle where the plants can return to a space treated 3-5 years prior. Terry then shared a bit about the increase in the native nyad plants as well as his thoughts on the impact of crayfish on the lake ecosystem.

Jim Solinsky presented the 2026 financials and moved into the 2027 proposed budget. He reminded the owners that the CLD is trying to predict what they will need for the 2027 summer without the results of the 2027 surveys. The goal of the CLD is to create a budget that reduces the "whipsaw effect" of lowering and raising taxes, but instead keeps adequate funds in place to respond in case the spring survey shows a heavy surge in EWM growth. He did a quick comparison of our lake versus Squash Lake to help people see the difference in both tax funding and EWM response. The 2027 proposed budget asking for a tax levy of \$35,000 at an estimated Mil Rate of .232 or \$23.20 per \$100,000 valuation. This is an increase of \$3.10 over 2026. Jim pointed out that this allows us to have a solid reserve for treatment, if approved, and a good step toward funding a larger lake-wide treatment, if necessary.

A question was asked regarding situations that could "blow up" the budget. Tim and Jim answered that it could be a lawsuit, explosion of EWM or a new species, or continued DNR denials for treatment. A request was also made to consider a smaller carryover for next year.

A motion to approve the 2027 budget as presented was made by Bob Thoms and seconded by Rick Sickler. The vote was 27 for, and zero against. The motion PASSED.

A motion was made by Jim Gehrke to nominate Dennis Southworth for another Commissioner term. It was seconded by Gary Spleha. Jim Solinsky was nominated by Robb Jensen with a second by Dave Schwanz. Both were re-elected by majority of the ballot vote.

Public comment followed:

Rick Sickler – Complimented the work being done by the District, said he appreciated it and to keep going.

Jim Gehrke – Encouraged the Commissioners to keep aware of incoming AIS / education.

Chris Bendickson – Asked owners to look for items at the boat landing.

Terry Goldbach – Suggested researching the benefits of replacing or adding fish cribs.

Tim Kilgore – Asked owners to consider talking to their families to start building the next generation of those caring for Crescent Lake.

The meeting adjourned at 10:34 a.m.

Submitted by Maria Rudesill, CLD Secretary
(09/17/26)

Approved by CLD Owners (TBD)