

Mitchell Lake Association Annual Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, October 8, 2026

Scheduled Timing: 7pm-8:30 pm

Where: American Legion, Chanhassen

In Attendance: 32 community members in attendance, including board members Mark Haugen, Cheri Nehl, Brian Haugen, Erik Hansen, Cheryl Harjes, Zach Fetzer and guest speakers Shauna Capron (RPBCWD) and Lori Haak (City of EP)

The meeting marked MLA's 20th anniversary, reviewing lake stewardship, water quality work, and association business.

1. Welcome
 - a. MLA Board Member Zach Fetzer called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.
 - b. Zach reviewed the meeting agenda
 - c. Board members introduced
2. MLA Background
 - a. Reviewed the purpose of the association and accomplishments over the years
 - b. Reviewed 20 years of progress since MLA's formation in 2006 as Eden Prairie's first lake association, highlighting over 200 trees planted, over 3,000 fish stocked, and 20 lakeshore cleanups.
3. 2026 Year in Review
 - a. Aquatic Plant Management: Reported watershed district treatment of 12.94 acres of curly-leaf pondweed in May and 3.36 acres of Eurasian watermilfoil in August. Mechanical harvesting in July removed 63,000 pounds of vegetation across 15 private shorelines; MLA issued seven \$100 rebates.
 - b. Shoreline Restoration: Showcased the Timberlake Townhouse Shoreline Restoration project covering 300 feet with 2,400 plants added (grants and in-kind work covered 80% of project costs).
 - c. Volunteering: Announced Miller Park buckthorn-removal volunteering dates: October 10, October 24, and November 24, led by Jim Nehl.
 - d. Encouraged participation in Adopt-a-Drain challenge ("The Grate Drain Race"),
4. Member Survey Results
 - a. Members prioritized water quality and native/invasive plant management, particularly in North Bay.
 - b. Cost was noted as the primary reason for not purchasing shoreline harvesting (7 responses), followed by lack of need (6 responses).
5. Guest Speakers & Water Quality Update
 - a. Guest speakers Lori Haak (Eden Prairie Water Resources Coordinator) and Shauna Capron (RPBCWD Water Resources Technician) presented water quality trends and aquatic plant management.
 - b. Water Quality Trends: Data showed improving phosphorus levels over the last decade and water clarity meeting state standards in most of the past ten years. The annual water-quality grade combines phosphorus, chlorophyll-a, and clarity metrics, with distinct standards for shallow versus deep lakes.

- c. Why Aquatic Plants Thrive & Early Growth: Shallow depth, high light penetration, and nutrient-rich sediments allow aquatic plants to thrive in Mitchell Lake. Warmer spring temperatures and clear water early in the season trigger early plant growth before algae blooms develop.
 - d. Benefits & Challenges of Plants: Native vegetation stabilizes sediment, absorbs excess nutrients, and provides fish and wildlife habitat. Dense plant beds can hinder navigation, swimming, and recreational lake access.
 - e. Management Options: Detailed chemical treatment limits, mechanical harvesting options for native plants, and an exploratory DNR pilot to increase plant diversity. Note on pilot project: it focuses on replacing one native plant species with another rather than simply reducing overall vegetation, and outcomes may vary.
 - f. City Efforts (Eden Prairie): City initiatives include stormwater treatment, street sweeping, shoreline restoration assistance, and monitoring water quality standards.
 - g. Watershed District Efforts (RPBCWD): District actions focus on invasive plant treatments, watershed-wide nutrient reduction projects, and providing cost-share grant funding for local conservation efforts.
6. Business Meeting
- a. 2025 meeting minutes provided
 - b. Membership status: 68 current members (44 recurring) with \$50 annual dues.
 - c. Financial statement update - association operating around break-even on income statement in 2026.
 - d. Election: There are 2 open board positions as Breann Bundgaard and Cheryl Harjes have expiring terms and are not renewing; no one volunteered (members can still volunteer if they change their mind).
7. Mitchell Lake History
- a. Cheri Nehl gave a Mitchell Lake History presentation.
8. Photo Contest Results
- a. First year of member voting (56 participated in voting)
 - b. Photo Contest Winners (Scheels Gift Cards)
 - i. Elizabeth Maniphanh - 1st place \$50
 - ii. John Tyler - 2nd place \$25

Meeting Adjourned at 8:31 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Cheri Nehl, Secretary, MLA