



AGENDA FOR LAKE COMMITTEE

A Lake Committee meeting will be held on **Thursday, September 21, 2023 at 5:00 PM**
in the **Council Chambers at City Hall, 819 Superior Avenue, Tomah, WI.**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/2708608080?pwd=ZTZ0cmllVEFEb1dzVDNwdi91UHFYQT09>

Meeting ID: 270 860 8080

Passcode: 206751

Dial by your location

1 312 626 6799

1. **Call to Order / Roll Call**
2. **Approve Minutes**
3. **Hal Burnham Tribute**
4. **Adaptive Management**
5. **Climate Change Task Force Update**
6. **Warden Update**
7. **UniverCity MuniPartners Update**
8. **Weed Management**
9. **Boat Dock Approvals**
10. **Lake Informational Sign Boards**
11. **Tree Removals**
12. **Kayak Launch - Winnebago**
13. **Fish Stocking**
14. **Stormwater Inlet Monitoring**
15. **2024 Budget Discussion**
16. **Long Range Plan for Lake Tomah**
17. **Agriculture Updates**
18. **Chairman Updates**
19. **Future Meeting Date - November 16, 2023**
20. **Adjourn**

NOTICE: It is possible that a quorum of members of other governmental bodies of the municipality may be in attendance at the above-stated meeting to gather information. No action will be taken by any governmental body at the above-stated meeting other than the governmental body specifically referred to above in this notice. Please note that, upon reasonable notice, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of disabled individuals through appropriate aids and services. For additional information or to request this service, contact Becki Weyer, City Clerk, at 819 Superior Avenue, Tomah, WI 54660.

Minutes FOR LAKE COMMITTEE

A Lake Committee was held on **Thursday, July 20, 2023 at 5:00 PM** in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 819 Superior Avenue, Tomah, WI.

1. Call to Order / Roll Call

The Lake Committee met in regular session on Thursday, July 20, 2023, the meeting was called to order by Chairman Kiefer at 5:00 PM. Roll call was taken with Commissioners, Lamont Kiefer, Kim Mello, JoAnne Klinker, Duane Chapman, Lee Lang, John Rush and Kevin Arkeketa present. Also present, Director Kirk Arity and Warden Matt Modjeski.

2. Approve Minutes

Motion made by Lang, second by Mello to approve minutes from previous meeting. All ayes. Motion passed.

3. Adaptive Management

No updates.

4. Climate Change Task Force Update

No updates.

5. Warden Update

Warden Modjeski was the Warden for Tomah 3 years prior. He is filling in while Warden Seybert is on a 3 month tour to Devil's Lake area.

6. Weed Management

Weeds are starting to appear in Lake Tomah. There is a meeting scheduled with Jodi Lepsch, DNR Water Quality Specialist, on 7/24/2023 at 10am. City of Tomah does not own a weed cutter. The City has a list of weed cutting companies and would need to get a permit from DNR prior to using a weed cutter in the lake. Complaints have come in about how thick the weeds are around the shore and the difficulty of fishing from the shore.

7. Winnebago Park Phase I

Phase 1 is coming to a conclusion. Need more rip wrap around the new fishing platform as kids have been throwing rocks into the lake. Discussion on adding signs stating do not throw rocks into the lake and maybe adding larger rocks that kids cannot pick up to the rip wrap.

8. Lake Informational Sign Boards

Sign boards have been installed at Jones boat landing and Winnebago Park. A spot has been decided for the sign board at Butts park.

9. Boat Dock Approvals/New Ordinance

There was a request to add a dock to Lake Walter. The city has an old dock that needs some repairs that could be used at Lake Walter.

Ordinance 30-80 Amendment – Was approved by Council in July

Boat Dock Permit: 1220 Lakeview – Motion made by Rusch, second by Chapman to approve boat dock permit for 1220 Lakeview Dr. All ayes. Motion carried.

10. Request for Tree Removal: 1208 Lakeview

There is an oak tree that the resident wants removed. The tree is healthy but within the city right away. Director Arity will assess the situation and make a decision.

11. Request for Fish Stocking

No update from DNR Fish Biologist, Kirk Olson.

12. Stormwater Inlet Monitoring

Meeting with Jodi Lepsch on 7/24/2023 at 10am to discuss.

13. Discussion on Long Range Plan of Lake Tomah

Kiefer will reach out to UniverCity Year to see if they would be interested in a partnership with the city to find a solution for the weed issues.

14. Agriculture Updates

Farmers need more rain. Crops look ok after the latest round of rain.

15. Chairman Updates

Flower plat is looking good. 3 more plats will follow. 1 per year.

16. Future Meeting Date - Sept. 21, 2023

17. Adjourn

Motion made by Chapman, second by Lang to adjourn at 6:26PM. All ayes.

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2. Approve Minutes

July and September meeting minutes to be approved in November.

3. Hal Burnham Tribute

Mello asked for a tribute for Hal Burnham as he has put many years into the Lake Committee. An idea would be a bench that has "In Memory of Hal Burnham" with the dates he served on Lake Committee. Kiefer stated that Hal's wife was interested in doing a tribute also. Mello and Kiefer to get with Hal's wife and work out what she would like as a tribute.

4. Adaptive Management

Director Arity and Kiefer took a trip to Mauston to speak with the manager for the weed harvester that Lake Decorah uses.

5. Climate Change Task Force Update

DNR Board was at area farms in Cashton to monitor the Coon Creek watershed. One area farm planted 1200 trees.

6. Warden Update

No update

7. UniverCity MuniPartners Update

Kiefer was in contact with UniverCity and the 3-year timing did not fit within the City's timeline. The City will not move forward with the partnership at this time. Estimated cost would be \$30,000 at \$10,000/year.

8. Weed Management

Mauston's weed harvester cost \$110,000. They are cutting roughly 50 of the 300 acres of Lake Decorah. Director Arity was comfortable with the size of the machine and how it will manage Lake Tomah. Mauston received a grant for 50% of the cost of the machine. The harvester pulls the weeds instead of cutting them. A partnership with Mauston is not feasible as Mauston has it in the water as much as possible.

9. Boat Dock Approvals

None

10. Lake Informational Sign Boards

Kiefer wants riprap signs to inform the public of the need for riprap around Lake Tomah. Park and Rec will put up signs close to the lake and there will be an informational sign in the sign boards.

11. Tree Removals

The City is just waiting for a break in current projects to remove a tree adjacent to the lake.

12. Kayak Launch – Winnebago

Warrens Yak Club requested a public kayak launch in Winnebago park. Tomah Area School District also has kayaks that would utilize the launch and the committee will contact them for input.

Motion by Lang second by Arkeketa to spend no more than \$10,000 on a kayak launch for Winnebago park. All ayes. Motion carried.

13. Fish Stocking

No response from DNR

14. Stormwater Inlet Monitoring

No response from DNR

15. 2024 Budget Discussion

Kayak for Winnebago park has max budget of \$10,000.

Dredging/Weed Harvester is \$110,000. Lake Committee is not set on these methods/machines. Will need to contact DNR if this route is taken for 2024.

Tomah FD would like a partnership with a new boat. They found a boat that will meet their needs for water rescues and would like to know if it also meets the needs for buoy placement/removal and water testing.

Motion made by Arkeketa second by Klinker to provide \$15,000 towards a new boat. Tomah FD will fundraise for the remaining balance. All Ayes. Motion carried.

16. Long Range Plan for Lake Tomah

Discussion on long range planning for Lake Tomah was discussed throughout the meeting.

17. Agriculture Updates

Program that DNR uses to track area farmers practices is called Snap Plus. Monroe County is in a D3 drought this year. It is classified as an extreme drought with major crop/pasture losses. Farmers are starting to chop corn crops.

18. Chairman Updates

Riprap replacement and weeds around Lake Tomah will be handled by Park & Recs Department.

19. Future Meeting Date - November 16, 2023

20. Adjourn

Motion by Chapman second by Lang to adjourn at 6:55PM. All ayes.