



FOREST TOWNSHIP MEETING MINUTES

Date and Time of Meeting: August 10, 2026 6:30 p.m.		
Present: Tim Holzkamm, Lynn Lindow, Barb Christiansen, Donna Waliczek, Karen Hefner Absent: Visitors: Rolf Christiansen, Steve Lindow, Paul Lundquist, John LaFond, Kurt Withnell, Lorretta Mattson, Ashley Simpson, Pat Sweeney, Carol Peterson, Al Hefner, Cindy Lynn, Lori Funfar, Todd Funfar, Justin Johnson, Jerry Schwitters		
Agenda Item	Discussion Points/Notes	Actions/Follow-up Needed
Pledge of Allegiance Visitor Signin		
Consent agenda: Minutes Treasurers Report Approval of Claims	Kurt W. shared that the July minutes did not include comments about the numbers on the survey and that some people did not complete because of this. Motion to amend the minutes to include this information,	Lynn moved to amend minutes Barb Second, motion carried
• Public Comment	See attachment (1)	
Clerk	Surveys (2) not received by Planning Commission as of 7/20/26 – any follow up needed Hubbard County Abstract & Closing requested assessment info for a real estate closing on behalf of Althoff/Wattenhofer, Messing, Vos & Menning for 34307 Basswood Lake Rd – Submitted – no outstanding special assessments No applications for candidacy received by July 28 th for supervisor or clerk positions. Barb Christianson & Karen Hefner submitted Affidavit of Candidacy and forms were delivered to Becker County.	These surveys will be given to the Planning Commission.

Board Member Reports - Town Hall - Trash/Recycle - Roads - Planning Commission - Weed Report - Website	No issues at the town hall. Need to get dumpsters for Amnesty Day and hire Bill J. to work. The DNR has posted that hunters need to dispose of deer carcasses on their private land, in a landfill or with your garbage hauler. Need to check with White Earth Sanitation about these being put in a dumpster. Residents from Homer’s farm expressed concerns about traffic going about 60 mph past their farm and asked about getting speed limit signs put up. Also concerns with the dust. Tim explained the state regulations with creating a speed limit. Population density requirements, etc. Kurt mentioned that need to get the message out to others to slow down. Pat S. talked about putting signs up. This is okay but the signs cannot be put in the road right of way. Dust control was not put on the road this year by the township because of the high cost. Homers have had dust control put on in the past in front of their homes. Additional gravel will be put on as needed on the township roads once Thelen’s get the crushing done. No new permits or updates. Planning Commission Committee Report – Recommended to put on the website. John L. explained the survey results and they will be put on the township website. In the surveys, names were removed from the comment section. Tim explained the DNR process and how it will go forward. He proposed a dateline of how the township would deal with this issue going forward. Barb made a motion that the individuals that requested this survey or the BMLAA continue the process if they wish to continue with creating an ordinance for wake boats. See Attachment (2). Check the township website for the survey results and comments. Tim proposed having a public hearing on Sept. 5th. This would be an informational meeting and attendants will give feedback. Maybe break into groups to come up with ideas. Mowing has been done but not able to mow Horseshoe Road because it is too narrow. Delete Board of Equalization information from the township website	Tim will follow through with these items. Barb motioned to put the results on the township website Lynn second, motion carried Barb motioned to turn the process back to the individuals that want an ordinance. There was no second, motion failed Barb motioned, Lynn second, motion carried
Old Business		.
New Business	Survey discussion from residents at this meeting – see attached (#1)	

Adjourn		Barb motion,Lynn second Motion carried
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Tim Holzkamm_____Date_____ Barb Christiansen_____Date_____

Lynn Lindow_____Date_____ Karen Hefner/Clerk_____Date_____

Attachment #1

August 10, 2026 Township Meeting

Public Comments

- Paul Lundquist requested a new survey with different questions
- Justin Johnson – possible results from dynamics – making notice and request general. We are not supporting a ban – proposed regulation to pay attention to stay in the middle of the lake.
- John LaFond – read comments – see what neighbors are saying – use meeting to come up with reasonable chance of success and meeting the comments. How can we structure meeting to hear from all and understand to bring concerns.
- Steve Lindow – open ended survey results, 75% asked for help with regulations – request wishes from wake boat owners too.
- Barb Christiansen shared information that she had collected from past meetings of the township and BMLAA. Also, sheriff's reports from 2023-2026 (see attached)
- Pat Sweeney challenged Steve L. - said that there had been a sheriff's report and incident. (This was prior to 2023 information that Barb collected)
- SEE document- rules for wake boats. We don't want to have a meeting that is not peaceful conversation. Let's think about your presentation – how can we make it positive?
- Hopefully this will not go forward and be addressed and resolved. Come up with an action plan. Not pitting neighbor against neighbor. Why are we coming to meeting – want a purpose, objective and next step from meeting.
- Discussed date for meeting, zoom platform for more engagement
- Steve Lindow - all groups need time allowed
- Tim Holzkamm suggested hours of operation for wake boats
- Kurt Withnell does not want time restrictions
- Justin Johnson – concerned about regulations – Becker Co. Sheriff – neighbors can work together building togetherness not acting like sheriffs. How can we make this work? Have the second meeting on Memorial weekend of 2027.
- Plan for a productive meeting in the next year, hopefully by next spring.
- Dropping this is not an option
- Al Hefner – would another survey be helpful?
- Tim Holzkamm – plan for a public meeting on Sept. 5th from 9-11 am. Talk 2 minutes or small groups – come with points to record, review results and circle back with alternatives, Conclusion – that the board need to conclude what regulations might be proposed and what the next steps are. Memorial Day – Plan A, B, C or rough draft by Annual Meeting – make it all public.

Attachment (2)

Township Meeting

August 10, 2026

This information was gathered from the Forest Township meeting minutes and the Bad Medicine Lake Area Assoc. (BMLAA) meeting minutes by Barb Christiansen.

History

2019 Annual Township Mtg – Steve discussed information about “AIS and Ballast Tank Boats and lake implication”. “Steve Lindow asked the township board to survey property owners for input and conduct public meetings. Ray Valasak suggested that the Bad Medicine Lake Assn. be asked to conduct surveys and bring results to the township board as this affects only Bad Medicine Lake property owners. **Motion was made by Ray Vlasak requesting the Forest Township Board support a Bad Medicine Lake Association survey** about the use and control of the effect of ballast tank boats, i.e. Wakeboard Boats, second by Steve Lindow. Motion carried unanimously.”

May 10, 2019 – BMLAA Mtg – “NEW BUSINESS: **Request by Forest Township** for survey of property owners re. wake boats.”

2019 Annual BMLAA Mtg – SEE committee created. Matt Hanson introduced a new committee for BML, the SEE committee Safety, Education and Etiquette. The purpose of the committee is for all boat operators to have a formal place to communicate and to review complaints of boating activity on the lake.

Aug. 16, 2019 – BMLAA Mtg – “Presentation of survey/petition – Steve Lindow a. Steve gave an update on concerns he had about the lake. b. **Motion by Paul Stadem to table the topic for a year. 2nd by Dede.** Passed unanimously.”

2026 Annual Township Mtg – “Steve Lindow talked about the University of Minnesota study to establish regulations for wake boats...” “**Steve Lindow made a motion that the township establish regulations for wake boats on the lake.** Steve Sandrol seconded. Some opposed stating that this is not a township issue. **John Lafond motioned that this be changed to establish a committee to work on regulations for wake boats on the lake.** Carol Peterson seconded. **The motion carried with four residents opposed.** Planning commission to assemble the Wake Boat Committee.”

Sept. 2021 – April 2026 – BMLAA has **NOT** had wake boats on the agenda and there has been no documentation in the minutes about any wake boat discussion.

May 14, 2026 – BMLAA Mtg – Wake boats – “Discuss adding link to our website to MN COLA <https://mncola.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/MN-COLA-2026-Position-Statement-re-Enhanced-Wake-Activites-March-2026.pdf> Recommended regulations: 1. A minimum depth of 20 feet to minimize subsurface ecological impact 2. A minimum distance from shore of 500 feet **Motion to add a link on the BMLAA website to the township website page that discusses these proposed wake boat regulations.**”

June 27, 2026 – BMLAA Annual Mtg – Nothing on the agenda for wake boats and not discussed at the meeting.

Sheriff's Boat/Water Violations on Bad Medicine Lake from Sept. 2023 – Present

22 – Total violation reports;

19 – violations for no license, registrations, no life jackets, etc.;

2 – reports involved complaints with jet skis;

1 report for a boat accident that involved one boat towing another disabled boat to the public access.

The following information was gathered from a phone conversation with a Big Sugar Bush Township Supervisor and a member of the Big Sugar Bush Lake Assoc. board member by Barb Christiansen

Big Sugar Bush Township – The town board is NOT doing anything to regulate wake boats in their township. A proposal to pursue it has been made but the township turned it down.

Big Sugar Bush Lake Assoc. - Committee was formed last annual meeting to come back to the group with a proposal on wake boats. Brian Espesth presented the findings. Proposal is an educational sign at the landing requesting people refrain from using enhanced wake surfing mode with some educational material. Cost would be less than \$500 and paid for with member dues. **No proposal to pursue any kind of legally enforceable ordinance.** It is to educate on the damage enhanced wake surfing mode can cause, not regulate. Membership approved proceeding with the sign and verbiage in the handout requesting only.

Motion – The township has paid for this survey to be done. **I (Barb C.) move that the individuals that requested this survey or the BMLAA continue the process if they wish to continue with creating an ordinance for wake boats.** Once done, they can bring that to the town board, County Commissioners and DNR if they wish to have an ordinance.