

Montello Lake Inland Protection & Rehabilitation District
Quarterly Meeting
Montello City Hall Community Room
February 14, 2026
Draft Minutes

1. Meeting called to order at 1000
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call – present Venise Mugler, City Representative; Mimi Pierson, Chairperson; Don Gibson, Secretary; Ken Borzick, Town Representative; by telephone Sue Fichtel, Treasurer.
4. Agenda was approved
5. Minutes October 18, 2025, discussed and approved
6. Old Business
 - a. Dam Survey Committee update – Committee members are Mimi Pierson, Bill Falkner, and Keith Klabunde. Committee members spoke with the dam operator (dam is owned by City of Montello). Operator states the integrity of the dam is sound. The East Spillway wall has cracked concrete. DNR has no structural concerns. Next major inspection will be in 2034. Last estimated cost for repair of spillway was obtained 10 years ago.
 - b. Drawdown – Please see the October 18, 2025, discussion regarding drawdown. The question was asked, “If there is a drawdown and any portion of the dam should fail, would we be liable?”. The answer is not known currently. Statement that if there were a drawdown the weed population in the lake would reduce for a few years, but so would the fish population. The fish population has always rebounded. Our current Aquatic Plan states that a drawdown is another adjunct to maintaining weed population. There were concerns since last drawdown (2013) that the White Pelicans are now visiting Lake Montello and what impact would they have on fish population due to lower water level.
 - c. City of Montello’s response to grant application for dam repair – the grant is a match grant (any funds obtained by state through the grant would have to be matched by the City). Currently there are no funds saved for repair of dam; all previously earmarked funds have been moved to general funds for City departments. Currently, grants are not being explored.
 - d. Size of Limit signage – mock-up signage has been developed. Venise Mugler will contact City to get permission to re-paint and add new signage to the board at the landing. There will be no cost to MLIPRD.

- e. Dredging Lake Montello -- Dredging Lake Montello was discussed. Both mechanical and hydraulic dredging would probably need to be used. Mechanical dredging would most likely require a drawdown. If a drawdown is not permitted will hydraulic only be utilized? It was stated that the approximate cost for dredging needs to be identified and this information will be presented to the property owners during the Annual Meeting. Could a county referendum be used to help with costs? The DNR requires nine elements for dredging plans. Currently we are in the stage to apply for DNR permit. The discussion will be continued at the Annual Meeting and if members agree to continue then we will begin to work on the project.

7. New Business

- a. Treasurers Report – The CD discussed and approved last meeting is being finalized.
- b. Harvesting
 - i. Positions have been posted. There is a desire by property owners to have Saturday cutting and dock pick-up.
 - ii. Discussion regarding hourly pay. Motion passed to increase Lake Manager, Art Schick, hourly payment to \$22/hour, and to increase returning operator’s hourly payment to \$21/hour. New operators will be compensated \$19-21 depending on qualifications.
 - iii. Maintenance of Harvester – new belts to be ordered
 - iv. Windshield damage to truck that occurred last Fall will be referred to insurance
- c. Proposal to have second offload area near park was discussed. Possible site is on public land owned by the Town of Montello. A second loading site would allow for more truckloads of weeds to be hauled but will require more manpower and original cost of infrastructure/equipment. A motion was passed to contact the Town of Montello to see if the site is feasible, to obtain potential cost of conveyor, and potential cost of gravel (infrastructure) for site.

8. Public Comments – comments were heard through-out meeting

9. Adjourn 1133

10. Next meeting scheduled for April 25, 2026