

Montello Lake Inland Protection & Rehabilitation District
Annual Meeting
August 15, 2026

1. Meeting called to order at 1004
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call – present Venise Mugler, City Representative; Mimi Pierson, Chairperson; Don Gibson, Secretary; Ken Borzick, Town Representative; by phone Sue Fichtel, Treasurer
4. Agenda was approved
5. Minutes from April 25, 2026, discussed and approved
6. Old Business
 - a. Herbicide treatment was applied on June 8, 2026. Sixty-four homeowners chose to have personal pier/shoreline treated
 - b. Second application to navigational lanes completed June 25, 2026
 - c. \$250 grant from the Marquette County Lake Association will be used to revitalize the signage at the Public Boat Launch
 - d. It was confirmed that the City of Montello does have ownership of the Public Launch. The launch was inspected by Pat Kilby and was found to be in compliance
 - e. The Harvester required repair of a paddle. The Harvester was not cutting for a short time, but is now repaired and cutting
 - f. Second Offloading site for the Harvester currently has no new information. A second boat launch is being looked into by Bill Faulkner. The site would be located in the City Park. The site would be on City property, maintained by the city. Grants are being explored to assist with infrastructure and development of the launch.
 - g. Nanobubble technology – no response from the company as of meeting date
7. New Business
 - a. Treasurer's Report
 - i. Audit completed by Lisa Dunaway
 - ii. The 2026-2027 budget was presented by Sue Fitchel
 1. \$3000 is being placed in the Lake Management plan each year to offset a \$15,000, mandated, Lake Management Plan each 5 years
8. Annual Meeting Voting
 - a. Commissioner stipend is currently \$125 per meeting. No changes proposed
 - b. MLIPRD annual assessment – no change proposed for 2026-2027

- c. 2026-2027 MLIPRD annual budget – by written ballot was approved
- d. Commissioner election. Sue Fitchel will be stepping down from her position as Treasurer. MLIPRD would like to thank Sue for her work in organizing and upgrading the District's financial books.
 - i. Dan Easter volunteered as a candidate. Dan has previously been on the Board for over 13 years. No other candidates volunteered and Dan Easter was elected by vote by hand.
 - ii. Dredging – A ballot question was presented, Should the Board continue to pursue information regarding dredging Lake Montello? Lake Montello is approximately 120 years old (the dam was constructed “in the early 1900’s”). Natural life of a lake is about 100 years. Dredging would be Navigational Lanes, 15 feet from property, 50 feet wide. Mechanical Dredging would require a drawdown and a cold winter, hydraulic dredging does not require either. A combination of both methods would probably be used. Previous study shows that 65,000 cubic yards of sediment would be removed from the lake. Previous estimate of dredging cost was \$1.9 million. The District does not have a guaranteed estimate but projects that current cost could be \$2.2 million. There are state loans that could be applied for, ultimately, property taxes would need to increase to pay for the loan. An estimation of \$4 per \$1000 valuation of property may need to be generated over a 10-year period to repay the loan. A written ballot vote approved the Board to continue to pursue information regarding dredging Lake Montello.
 - iii. Drawdown – A written ballot question was presented – “Should the MLIPRD Board pursue a permit to drawdown the lake during the winter of 2027-2028?”. Last drawdown was the winter of 2012. The water level is lowered, usually, 3 feet. The goal is to compact the sediment and kill off root systems in the drawdown area. This is only a temporary solution to the sediment and weeds. In the past the lake was significantly improved for about 3 years following the drawdown. Fish and fishing are impacted. The impact from the recent Spring influx of pelicans was discussed. The City of Montello owns the dam and would have to agree with the drawdown. It is unknown if the City will agree. There may be a reimbursement cost to the dam owner for the power not generated during the drawdown. A written ballot approved the Board to pursue a permit to drawdown the lake during the winter of 2027-2028

9. Public Comments

- a. Can we get the DNR to check the set-point for the Dam level?
 - i. Pat Kilby will be contacted to see if he can check the set-point.
 - b. An informational Facebook page will be created. It will be "Montello Lake District".
10. Date of next meeting – **October 17, 2026** (10:00 in the City Hall Community Room)
11. Adjourn 1135

Website – montellolakedistrict.com

Facebook – Montello Lake District