



SLPOA ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: August 8, 2026

Time: 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Location: Timberlake High School, 5973 W HWY 54, Spirit Lake, ID 83869

Call to Order: Paul Sturm 10:00 AM

Board Members Present: Paul Sturm (President), Jerry Peterson (Treasurer), Jane Clark (Secretary), Margie Wilke, Ed Niblock, Dustin Thiers, Kurt Peterson, Rob Brewster, Tod Kiblen, Tim King, Galen Beem, Ron Largent

Advisory Board Members Present: Carol Capra, Doug Freeland, Randy Hurst, Dan Sullivan

Absent: Dan Beha (Vice-President), Justin Morrison, Don Finney, Linda Pendleton, Brad Pendleton

GUEST PANEL COMMUNITY REPORTS

City of Spirit Lake – Mayor Charlene Phipps

Mayor Phipps highlighted several of the activities that the City is involved in including the downtown revitalization. This includes a proposed archway funded by grants, the community and businesses. Mayor Phipps also mentioned the cross-step authorization in which the Spirit Lake police officers can respond to calls within Kootenai County.

Department of Health – Jason Peppin

Jason is with the Panhandle Health District and in the Environmental Health Program. Jason started out by discussing the Panhandle Health septic program. He explained onsite septic systems use the native soil conditions and biological processes to treat and remove contaminants in wastewater. He shared that design of septic systems for residential is based on the number of bedrooms and soil type. Systems installed prior to 1973 are grandfathered in for original use (bedroom number for residential systems).

Jason also mentioned the Kootenai County Aquifer Protection noting that the aquifer is the sole drinking water source for over 600,000 Idaho and Washington residents. Next Jason discussed harmful algae blooms (HABs) which are caused by naturally occurring cyanobacteria with blooms being triggered by a rapid increase in cyanobacteria numbers. The cause of HABs includes increased nutrient loading, increased temperatures, and changes in precipitation. The regional HABs response includes a partnership between the regional Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Panhandle Health District- although neither agency has funding, but this is the only region in Idaho with a regional response due to the State of Idaho funding cuts. DEQ will investigate HABs reported by the public but toxin testing requires external funding as it is no longer in the DEQ budget.

Jason noted that regional DEQ staff are statewide HABs experts with 30+ years of experience studying HABs. Jason's presentation will be posted to the website.

Inland Empire Paper Company – Evan Neal

Evan is the new Forest Resources Manager for IEP replacing Paul Buckland who retired this past spring. He shared his background which included 9 years as a Field Forester. He explained Inland Paper is shutting down fire gathering due to dry conditions and fire danger, but is continuing to keep the gates open. Evan mentioned non-motorized access to IEP lands is allowed with a free permit.

SLPOA BUSINESS MEETING

SLPOA Vision Statement: Develop capacities within our community to provide a sustainable habitat, allowing all people who live, work and play within its environment an optimal Spirit Lake experience.



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The business portion of the meeting began at 10:50 am. The Board Members stood. Paul shared a PowerPoint presentation with the topics discussed that will be posted to the website.

Approve 2025 Annual Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the August 9, 2025 meeting minutes as presented was made by a member in attendance. Jerry Peterson seconded. There was no further discussion. Motion carried.

Current Treasures Report

Jerry Peterson provided a balance sheet and profit and loss report for the treasurer's report. From August 2025 to August 2026 an income of \$16,537 was collected which consisted of \$10,076 in dues and \$4,642 in other donations above dues, and \$1,500 in a HIP Grant. Expenses of \$4,888. Income/expense=+\$11,649. General fund balance as of 8/1/2026 = \$47,002. There are no reserves or other pots of money at this time for specific projects.

It was moved to approve the Treasures Report. Motion passed.

Progress Reports Updates

Jerry Peterson and Paul Sturm shared examples of what the SLPOA does. The recently constructed dam replacement project was turned over to the City of Spirit Lake. The ongoing Brickel Creek Restoration work had a topographical survey completed in Spring 2026. Water Quality Monitoring is ongoing. Water visibility was 7.5 meters in July, an increase from 6.5 meters in June. The water level started below the previous 3 years but is 2" higher today than it was at this time last year. The City website has water level information until the water gets below the dam. The lake level is also measured weekly at a specific location on the bridge. The SLPOA continues to provide education and communication with No Wake and educational information posted at the public boat launches with flyers. Milfoil was marked in the millpond.

Invasive Species

A milfoil video featuring Doug Freeland and produced by Peak Media, Jim Bolser and Robin Briley was shared.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JvM8ahZICE8>

The May/June 2026 SLPOA member survey results were shared in the PowerPoint presentation. Education is a top role of the SLPOA. The SLPOA is partnering with the Small Waterways Coalition which consists of 8 lakes in the region to discuss common issues. The lake level is one of the top focus points mentioned by members. Breaks and tears in the millpond liner are likely one aspect as to the low water level in addition to the minimal runoff and dry weather.

Board of Directors Nominations & Elections

Six directors were either appointed by the Board during 2026 or have terms expiring at the end of 2026 and nominated by the Board for reelection. These positions are:

#3 Tim King

#6 Rob Brewster

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#7 Justin Morrison

#8 Jane Clark

#9 Dustin Thiers

#10 Ed Niblock

Motion was made to elect these 6 positions for three-year terms as SLPOA Board of Directors. The vote was unanimous with no objections.

50/50 Raffle

Half of the raffle proceeds go to the winner and half go to the Brickle Creek/Wetland Restoration.

The 50/50 raffle was won by Elizabeth Krise. Elizabeth donated half of the winnings back to the SLPOA and the other half to the food bank. Thank you Elizabeth!

Meeting adjourned at 11:35am.