

Adams County Lake Alliance By-Laws

I. Name

The name of the organization is the Adams County Lake Alliance

II. Purpose

The purposes of the Adams County Lake Alliance are to:

1. Share knowledge and expertise about lake problems and solutions.
2. Identify and help implement county-wide programs of education and political action to protect and preserve our lakes.
3. Provide a united citizen-based voice to county and state government agencies.
4. Ensure that the important county tax based provided by property surrounding lakes is not devalued by lost of lake water quality.

III. Membership

The members of the ACLA are formally appointed representatives of Adams County lake property owners' associations, lake districts, other lake organizations or organized Adams County lake user groups (e.g. angler or boating clubs), with one representative each. Additionally, one person from each lake not having an active lake organization will also be recognized as a member. Organizations appointed a member shall have as one of their primary purposes to maintain and improve the quality of an Adams County lake or waterway for the benefit of the general public, various users and property owners. All other interested parties are strongly encouraged to attend and participate fully in all meetings, including individual property owners, lake anglers, boater, and officials or employees at the lake district, town, county or state level who have specific interests in lake management and protection.

The members of the ACLA are representatives of all public access lakes in Adams County with one vote per member. Additionally, organizations who have interests connected to the ACLA mission may petition the ACLA for membership. If a body of water or organization is already a recorded member of the ACLA, additional associate members will not be admitted. Organizations who are appointed a member of the ACLA shall have as one of their primary purposes to maintain and improve the quality of an Adams County waterway for the benefit of the general public, various users and property owners. All members are strongly encouraged to attend and participate fully in all meetings and all associated ACLA functions.

IV. Deliberation and Voting

Each member is given one vote. In those circumstances where a group advisory action or advocacy position needs to be decided officially, everyone present shall be encouraged to fully participate and voice opinions, including all county lake users and lake property owners attending, irrespective of membership status, in a manner parallel to a public hearing by a town board or county board committee. As much as possible the goal will be to work toward consensus. However, if and when a formal decision or position needs to be acted upon, voting shall be restricted to members. While proxy votes are not permitted, organizations are encouraged to appoint both a representative and an alternate to increase the likelihood of their being represented by one or the other at all meetings.

Administration issues (ie: approval of minutes, approval of financial report, motions to adjourn) shall be approved by the majority of attendance as opposed to majority of members. Items requiring a member vote would include but not be limited to financial expenditures, By-Law changes, support or non-support of county legislation and participation in an event or program. Proxy votes are not permitted and members are encouraged to appoint both a representative and an alternate to increase the likelihood of their being represented at all meetings.

V. Quorum

Inasmuch as Adams County has 23 named lakes with some level of public access, a quorum for ACLA voting shall consist of one more than 30% of the potential lake organizations members (e.g. 8)

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VI. Facilitation

To ensure smooth functioning of the ACLA and avoid potential conflict of interest with county and state employees, a leadership group shall be elected annually from the membership consisting of a Chair, Vice Chair and Recording Secretary¹. If possible the leadership group will have representatives from both northern and southern regions of Adams County. Representatives from the Adams County LWCD, University of Wisconsin-Extension-Adams County and Wisconsin DNR will serve as Ex-Officio (non-voting) members of the Leadership group. No member of the leadership group shall be compensated.

¹*Revise to: consisting of a Chair, Vice Chair and Recording Secretary/Treasurer.*

Add this paragraph: All elected members of the Leadership Group shall serve a two year term with the possibility of reelection. In odd numbered years, the Chair and Vice Chair are elected. In even numbered years the Secretary/Treasurer is elected. Elections will be held at the November meeting.

VII. Leadership Group Functions

Members of the Leadership Group (including Ex-Officio members as appropriate) shall be responsible for (1) presiding at/facilitating ACLA meetings, (2) testifying at Town, County or State hearings or meetings on issues of concern, (3) authoring letters reflecting the ACLA's positions and (4) negotiating /deliberating with Town, County or State representatives on matters of lake-related actions or policy.

VIII. Funding

The Lake Alliance shall have no formal dues structure. Support for mailing, printing, meetings rooms and refreshments will be requested as necessary of the LWCD, University of Wisconsin-Extension and/or Wisconsin DNR. If support is deemed necessary for specific projects, it will be requested from one of the aforementioned agencies or from all members and supporters of the ACLA as voluntary donations. Participants in educational seminars and conferences will be expected to pay for the accounted costs on a per participant basis.

Funding for the Lake Alliance may come from a number of sources. Donations may be sought from each lake association/district in the county. Contributions may also be solicited from the general public who wish to support the ACLA's mission. Financial support for the ACLA may also come from the University of Wisconsin Extension, LWCD and/or Wisconsin DNR. It is also possible that the ACLA may engage in some fundraising activities to generate funds. During the October meeting, a proposed budget for the following calendar year will be discussed and approved. The Recording Secretary/Treasurer is responsible for receiving and disbursing ACLA funds. A financial report will be presented at each ACLA meeting.

IX. Meetings

ACLA meetings generally will be monthly² with variations from the schedule determined by the members. Notes or minutes of each meeting shall be taken and distributed to each member, posted on the group website, and filed with the Recording Secretary for future reference. For each meeting, the Leadership Group shall send timely notice of the meeting times and locations along with a proposed agenda of discussion topics. Participants at meetings will limit comments to topics on the agenda. Meeting generally will last no longer than 120 minutes, unless an education topic requiring extra time is agreed upon by the participants in advance.

²**Revise this sentence to read as follows:**

ACLA meetings generally will be held bi-monthly in February, April, June, August, October and November with variations from that schedule determined by the Leadership Group.

X. Amendment and Dissolution

These By-Laws may be amended by a membership majority vote in accordance with sections V. and VI. Notice of proposed amendment shall be sent to all members at least 30 days in advance of the meeting when action is to be taken. A copy of the proposed amendment shall be included with the notice.³ Action to dissolve this ACLA may be taken by the membership under the same process as an amendment.

³*or posted on the ACLA website.*