



Lake Isle and Lac Ste. Anne Stewardship Society

AGM 2025

August 9, 2025

Alberta Beach Agliplex

Chair – Ray Hutscal

LILSA AGM Commenced: 9:36am

Board Members

Present: Ray Hutscal, Connie Stonehouse, Brian Brady, Michelle Desjardins, Debbie Durocher

Regrets: Bernie Poulin, Kelsey Norton, Kevin Lovich, Keir Packer, Michael Findlater, Tracey Friedel, Megan Thompson

1. **Land Acknowledgment:** Provided by Ray Hutscal.
We wish to acknowledge that the land on which we gather is Treaty 6 territory and a traditional meeting ground and home for many Indigenous Peoples including the Cree, Saulteux, Niitsitapi (Blackfoot), Metis, and Nakota Sioux Peoples.
2. **Introductions:** Board members in attendance, Guests Kallum MacDonald, Dawn Watts (arrived later), & NSWA
3. **Approval of the Agenda for August 9th, 2025:**
MOTION moved by Connie Stonehouse to approve the agenda for the AGM 2025. - *Passed*.
4. **Approval of August 17, 2024, AGM Meeting Minutes**
MOTION: moved by Brad B. the adoption of August 17, 2024, AGM Meeting Minutes. *Passed*.
5. **President's Report:** Read by Brian Brady. See Appendix A.
MOTION moved by Brian to approve the President's Report. *Passed*.
6. **Financials:** Presented by Connie S. No outstanding deposits or cheques. Amount in bank account: \$19,279.00. One example of where money was spent was on the education door hanger campaign – identifying invasive species, native plants, and a call for memberships. This helped with additional membership.
MOTION: Michelle moved the adoption of the 2025 financial as presented. *Passed*.

7. **Election of Directors** – Require two 2-year terms and Two 4-year terms. Meetings are open to members; all are welcome to join. For the next meeting, which is likely to be held on August 26 at 7:00pm, an organizational meeting will be held, to determine Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary.

2025 LILSA Board of Directors

1. **Bernie Poulin (Board Member) – Acclamation**
2. **Kelsie Norton (Board Member - on leave) - Acclamation**
3. Connie Stonehouse (Board Member)
4. Michelle Desjardins (Board Member)
5. Debbie Durocher (Board Member)
6. Ray Hutscal (Board Member)
7. Brian Brady (Board Member)
8. **Stephanie Ewasiuk (Board Member) – Acclamation**
9. **Barrie Ronaldson (Board Member) – Acclamation**
10. **Tricia Spink (Board Member) – Acclamation**
11. Kevin Lovich (Voting Director)
12. Tracy Friedel (Voting Director)
13. Megan Thompson (Voting Director)

MOTION: Brian Brady motioned to accept the 5 nominees as acclimated to the LILSA Board of Directors. *Passed.*

8. **Lake Isle and Lac Ste Anne Water Quality and Quantity Project** – Provided by Ray Hutscal. See Appendix B.

MOTION: Michelle motioned to accept the report as information. *Passed.*

9. **Community Concerns** (summarized)

- a) What's the management plan for the Weir? The Lake Management Plan (part of the above project) will address this.
- b) Lake Isle vs Isle Lake. The lake is known as Isle Lake. The community is known as Lake Isle.
- c) Proposed project is similar to other projects in Alberta (ie Pigeon Lake). Acknowledged that part of the project will be to review and learn from similar projects throughout Alberta.
- d) ALMS Annual Conference is being held in Wabamum on September 24 & 25, 2025. Attendees were encouraged to attend this educational event. ALMS would like to extend invitation to volunteer with some of the work they do which dovetails with LILSA's objectives.
- e) Trestle Creek has a water permit to extract water from the Sturgeon River. Rumor has it that their permit is expiring and that they will be requesting renewal of this permit.
- f) Weed removal from Isle Lake – Contact Sandi Benford (Summer Village of South View) for more information. LIAMS has a permit for weed pulling, details can be provided by Sandi.

10. **Adjournment**

Bran B moved the adjournment of the LILSA AGM at 10:48 AM

11. **PRESENTATIONS:**

- a. Kallum McDonald, Invasive Species Council
- b. Dawn Watts, MM Gardens



Appendix A President's Report

I would like to thank our Board of Directors Kelsie Norton, Vice Chair; Connie Stonehouse Treasurer; Michelle Desjardins; Secretary/Web Master; Debbie Durocher, Kier Packer, Kevin Lovich, Ray Hutscal, Jenna Carter, Tracy Friedel and Brian Brady.

I must apologize for my absence. My grandson is competing in the Canada Summer Games in Newfoundland this week. My wife and I are attending the Games to support him.

We continue to focus on three areas:

1. Water Quality
2. Water Quantity
3. Flowering Rush

On the water quality front, Kelsey is on maternity leave. Water quality and water quantity on lake level are closely linked. Ray Hutscal will update you in this area.

Flowering Rush is in its fourth year of a five-year program of spraying on Lake Isle. We currently have reduced the mass by 50% to date. Our four-person team continues to monitor and map both lakes and the connecting Sturgeon River. The team is presently working for the last three weeks of August on Lac Ste Anne. Year 2026 is in the completion of chemical treatment on Lake Isle. We will be requesting that the Alberta Government support an ongoing annual maintenance program. We believe that the flowering rush will flourish again if no maintenance program is in place.

A reminder to purchase a family membership at a cost of \$20. You can send an e-transfer to lilsawaterquality@gmail.com. Please state your name and email address in the comment box.

Respectfully
Bernie Poulin

Appendix B Water Quality and Quantity Report

- Alberta Environment and Protected Areas (EPA) is aware of the low water levels at Lac Ste. Anne and understand the frustrations.
- Poor water quality due to low water levels, low water flow, and nutrients entering the water body are also acknowledged.
- Water levels are low in many lakes across the province due to regional effects such as a decrease in annual precipitation and run-off from snow melt and higher than normal evaporation in the area over several years.

	1939	2009	2020	2025 (Aug 8)
Lac Ste Anne	721.989	722.372	723.587	722.341 (down 4.1 feet from 2020, 1.2 feet higher than the low in 1939)
Lake Isle		729.230	730.559	730.108 (down 1.5 feet)

- Our lakes are connected by a broader watershed system that includes Devils Lake, Big Lake, and others. The Sturgeon River, which flows through the region, has been federally designated as one of Canada's Top 10 most endangered rivers.
- Neither Environment and Protected Areas (EPA), Agriculture and Irrigation (AGI), LSAC, or any other municipality owns or is responsible for the remnants or maintenance of the Lac Ste. Anne weir.
- Any efforts to regulate water levels must:
 - Account for potential flooding and its economic and public health impacts.
 - Include a strategy for managing beaver dams and their influence on the watershed.
 - Consider impacts on fish habitat (e.g., spawning and migration), property use, boating, and agriculture.
 - Involve broad stakeholder engagement, including municipalities, residents, First Nations, and recreational users both upstream and downstream of the lake.
 - A shared understanding and consensus on desired outcomes and responsibilities is essential before moving forward with any management plan.
- EPA is committed to providing guidance on navigating applicable provincial regulatory requirements under the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act* (EPEA), *Water Act*, and *Public Lands Act*. In addition to provincial requirements, Federal approvals required include Transport Canada Canadian Navigable Waters Act, and Fisheries and Oceans Canada Fisheries Act, Species at Risk Act.
- Three meetings have occurred with Environment and Protected Areas, and one meeting amongst many of the municipalities around Lake Isle and Lac Ste Anne.
- Pleased to report that our municipalities are aligning around a proactive, coordinated approach. LILSA will be leading the development of a comprehensive Lake Mgmt Plan for Lake Isle and Lac Ste Anne, that will tie in with other Watershed Plans (Sturgeon River Watershed Management Plan (2020)). This plan is the first step toward potential long-term solutions, and it will be built with science, data, and collaboration.
- We are hoping that each municipality will be passing a motion showing their support.
- LILSA has commenced efforts on a draft project plan to make this happen.
- Once majority of municipalities are onboard and agree with the plan, the plan will be posted on LILSA's website, and updates will be made.
- Special thanks to MLA Shane Getson and his office, LSAC Reeve Joe Blakeman and Council for their support. Looking forward to the challenge ahead, and everyone's support.