

Tug Lake District Newsletter

November 2025

Our goal is to keep you informed about important updates from the Board of Commissioners (BoC), share news on upcoming meetings and events, and highlight opportunities for you to get involved in the stewardship of our lake district.

In This Issue

- What is the Board of Commissioners?
- How Commissioners Are Elected
- Opportunities to Serve on the Board

We believe that an informed and involved community is the key to maintaining a vibrant and healthy lake district. Your feedback, ideas, and participation are always welcome!

The Role of the Board of Commissioners

The Tug Lake Board of Commissioners is the governing body of the Tug Lake District. Lake Districts are established to manage and protect lakes and their ecosystems for residents, property owners, and the public.

For Tug Lake to qualify as a Lake District, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources requires that a Board of Commissioners (BoC) – comprised of five representatives from the Town of Rock Falls, the Lincoln County Board of Directors, and residents of Tug Lake.

The BoC meets on a quarterly basis to oversee Lake District management activities.

Annual Meeting: The BoC schedules the Tug Lake Annual Meeting between May 22 and September 8 (unless a majority vote at the previous meeting scheduled a time outside those dates).

Election Process: Commissioners are elected at the Annual Meeting by **secret ballot** to serve for staggered three-year terms. Staggered terms ensure that the BoC will have some institutional memory as leadership evolves over the years. Commissioners' terms of office expire at the conclusion of the Annual Meeting at which their successors are elected.

In order to stagger the terms of commissioners, the three commissioners elected at the **first** annual meeting serve for one, two and three-year term, respectively. The length of the term is sometimes determined by the number of votes each receives (i.e., the person with the most votes gets the three-year term, the person with the second most votes get the two-year term, and so on.)

As these initial terms expire, successor commissioners are elected to regular three-year terms. This means that an election for one commissioner is held at each Annual Meeting.

Current Board of Commissioners

- **Chair:** Todd Nicklaus - term ends in 2027
- **Treasurer:** Don Olson - term ends in 2028
- **Secretary:** John Greenwood - term ends in 2026

The remaining two Board Commissioners are appointed by the Lincoln County Board of Directors and the Township of Rock Falls Board.

Board of Commissioners Role

- **Chair:** Oversees Annual Meeting (usually last Saturday in August) and BoC meetings.
- **Treasurer:** Manages district finances, including tax revenue and DNR grants, and oversees contracts with water quality experts hired by the Tug Lake District.
- **Secretary:** Records meeting minutes and prepares newsletters as needed.

Board of Commissioners Succession Plan

As current Board of Commissioners (BoC) members near the end of their terms, we are seeking new Tug Lake residents to join the Board and help guide our community.

Newly elected Board Commissioners will receive mentoring from current BoC members at special BoC meetings to learn specific skills and action steps needed to fulfill their officer role.

To identify interested candidates, a BoC survey will be emailed and snail-mailed to all Tug Lake residents asking if they might be interested in a district officer position. Survey results will be presented at the December meeting (date and information forthcoming).

Additionally, we will explore how the Tug Lake website can support this process and enhance communication.

We Need Your Help!

If you are interested in serving as a Tug Lake Board Commissioner, fill out the accompanying BoC Survey and email it to **John Greenwood** at john.greenwood@wisconsin.edu.

If you have any further questions, you can also reach him at 715-218-0284.