WML Fishing Club Minutes

Wednesday, January 21, 2026

Attendees:

Name
Benjamin Peretto
Frank Bianchi
Jeff Wadleigh
Keith Small
Ken Trickilo
Lauren Bianchi
Marty Sweinhart

The meeting was called to order on Wednesday, January 21, 2026 at 8:06 p.m. in person in the Trophy Room at the WML Clubhouse. We had a moment of silence for Gerry Primavera.

1. December 2025 Minutes approved.
2. Old Business:
    - Cash Tournament Letter: We provided Lake our cash tournament letter in May 2025 and have not heard any updates since. We would like to have information before the 2026 Fishing Season starts. Representatives of Fishing Club will attend the February Board Meeting and read the letter during Good & Welfare.
    - 2026 Contest Calendar reminder:

2026 Contest Calendar ***Excludes Carp**

Date	Type	Name	Species
April 1-Sept. 30	**Adult + Kid**	**Carp Rodeo**	**Carp**
4-Apr	**Adult + Kid**	**Opening Day Fishing Contest**	**Any***
17-May	**Adult + Kid**	**Fishing Contest**	**Walleye/ Bass**
13-Jun	**Adult + Kid**	**Fishing Contest**	**Any***
TBD	**Adult**	**Evening Catfish Contest/ Gathering**	**Catfish**
18-Jul	**Kid**	**Festival Weekend Kids Fishing Contest**	**Any***
9-Aug	**Kid**	**Fishing Contest**	**Any***
20-Sep	**Adult + Kid**	**Ray Shanahan Bass Contest**	**Bass**

3. Fishing Club Updates and information
    - Distribution List was updated to active members (attended at least 1 meeting in the past 12 months).

- Meetings will now be the 4th Wednesday of the month at 8 pm. Next meeting is February 25.

4. Discuss Trout Stocking
    - Qty of fish and sizes-Fishing Club agreed to spend about ½ the Gamefish budget on trout (similar to what we did in previous years). We want to order:
        - One 21-23" tagged trout
        - 200: 12"-14" trout
        - 50: 14"-15" trout
        - Delivery and tax
    - Potential dates for Stocking Event-Will request **March 28, hopefully Mucky is available.**
    - Logistics of Stocking Event
        - Suggestions for improvement include: Post NO FISHING signs before the event. Put sponsor request in the newsletter. Try and get a donation of bagels for 2026 (otherwise WMLFC will pay from budget line). Have more cocoa, less coffee. Buy munchkins again, Give a raffle ticket to each kid in attendance and raffle off prizes. Request photos from parents to include in the newsletter.
    - Volunteers needed to call Sponsors for 2026 Trophy Trout. We currently have 14 companies/ people on the Sponsor List. We average about 5 sponsored trout per year. We will also have a standing sponsor request in the newsletter. Cost is $150 and pays for a trout and a $50 prize.

5. 2026 Kid/ Adult classes-need to discuss dates to get it into the calendar
    - Clinic to teach casting-will reach out to Cubscouts for date/ time
    - Lure selection-TBD
    - Tying knots-TBD
    - Lure making-May 30 or 31 at Beach 3 gazebo. Put in Newsletter (March, April, May)
    - Fly fishing-TBD
6. 2026 Potential Club Activities
    - Group fishing trip to Lake Hopatcong
    - Group Fishing Trip to Delaware River
    - Mid-year evening fishing and hangout
    - End of year party-trophies for kids who won contests
    - Field trip to Musky Trout Hatchery

7. Lake Committee January updates briefly discussed.
8. Other Topics-How can we increase membership in Fishing Club?
    - Organize different fishing trips
    - Offer cash prizes for contests
    - Have contests that require fish to be weighed in. Members voted to spend budget money on a scale.
    - Create a WMLFC Facebook page for active Fishing Club members to join.

The meeting was officially adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Minutes written by Lauren Bianchi

The next meeting is: February 25, 2026

_____Letter to Lake Committee_____

Date: May 29, 2025

Dear Lake Committee,

In an effort to enhance participation and foster friendly competition, White Meadow Lake Fishing Club proposes implementing an entry fee for our fishing contests. These fees would be used to cover the cost of an official to oversee weigh stations and fund a cash prize for the participant who catches the heaviest fish.

Previously, WML Fishing Club was advised that charging entry fees could be considered gambling, which is prohibited under New Jersey Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) regulations and could potentially jeopardize our liquor license. However, according to the NJ ABC Handbook (page 33, section on gambling), the prohibition does **not** apply to tournaments in which skill is the determining factor.

To ensure compliance with this provision, WML Fishing Club proposes adopting a rule similar to the NJ Bass Federation's official tournament regulations, prohibiting the use of live, dead, or prepared bait. By requiring participants to fish exclusively with artificial lures, the outcome of our contests would be determined solely by an angler's knowledge and skill, including lure selection based on weather conditions, water temperature, fishing techniques, and targeted fish species.

We would still allow a non-entry aspect of each contest, where the contestant can send photos and compete for a WML fishing club prize.

We kindly request that the Lake Committee confirm this interpretation with legal counsel. Upon receiving approval, we would like to proceed with instituting a nominal entry fee for our fishing contests.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to your guidance on this matter.

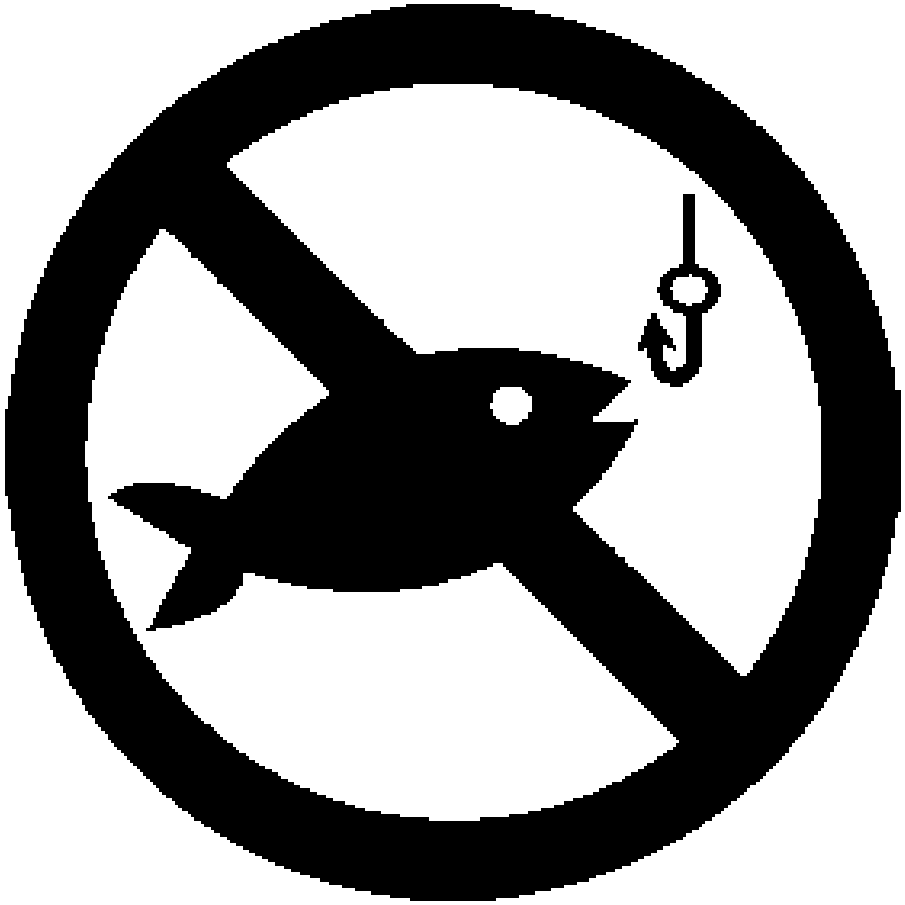
Best Regards,

White Meadow Lake Fishing Club

NOTICE

MARCH 28 until April 1

NO FISHING



April 1until APRIL 3

NO TROUT FISHING

If trout are caught, release immediately.

WML Fishing Club Minutes

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

Attendees:

Name
Benjamin Peretto
John D
Keith Small
Ken Trickilo
Tom Grobleski

The meeting was called to order on Wednesday, February 25, 2026 at 8:05 p.m. in person in the Trophy Room at the WML Clubhouse. Thank you, Keith for running the meeting tonight!

1. January 2026 Minutes approved.
2. Old Business:
    - Cash Tournament Letter: Discussed the fishing tournament fee. Not sure which event, but this came up years ago (not fishing) and it was knocked down because of our 501 nonprofit status. We will bring to March Board Meeting (March 18) to read the letter during Good & Welfare. A response is not expected, but will be requested.
    - 2026 Contest Calendar reminder:

2026 Contest Calendar ***Excludes Carp**

Date	Type	Name	Species
April 1-Sept. 30	**Adult + Kid**	**Carp Rodeo**	**Carp**
4-Apr	**Adult + Kid**	**Opening Day Fishing Contest**	**Any***
17-May	**Adult + Kid**	**Fishing Contest**	**Walleye/ Bass**
13-Jun	**Adult + Kid**	**Fishing Contest**	**Any***
TBD	**Adult**	**Evening Catfish Contest/ Gathering**	**Catfish**
18-Jul	**Kid**	**Festival Weekend Kids Fishing Contest**	**Any***
9-Aug	**Kid**	**Fishing Contest**	**Any***
20-Sep	**Adult + Kid**	**Ray Shanahan Bass Contest**	**Bass**

3. Fishing Club Updates and information
    - Reminder: Meetings will now be the 4th Wednesday of the month at 8 pm. Next meeting is March 25, 2026.
    - Sponsored Trout-We need to give Musky the final quantity by March 18. Ben P will give an update to Lauren.

- Ken T brought in the trout check from Cafe Navona $150,00. Keith to bring it to the office on Thursday.
- Lake would like us to revise the NO FISHING from March 28-April 3 and close the full lake for any fishing. Unanimous to keep the lake closed to ALL fish until opening day. Signs will be made and posted.
- Scale to weigh fish at designated contests, lure making kits, and raffle tickets for the trout stocking event purchased. The cost for these items is $74.63 from Line 521.06.
- New Fishing Regulations go into effect February 17. The 2026 Freshwater Fishing Digest is available online. Some updates include: Official Opening Day of Trout Season is the 2nd Saturday in April going forward (I don't know if that is applicable for this year or begins next year), Removal of pre-season closure on trout-stocked lakes and ponds.

4. Trout Stocking
    - On March 28, we will have the Trout Stocking Event. Setup is at 7:30 AM on the lawn next to the Boathouse Ramp. Women's Club will have activities for the kids after the stocking. HOWEVER- If Lake is frozen, Kurt will open the lake with the Kubota if needed AND if the lawn is still snow covered refreshments can't be outdoors due to the electric cords. We will ask the Office if there is room inside as a contingency plan. That Saturday is also when 2nd boat spots are scheduled.

    - We have ordered:
        - One 21-23" tagged trout-sponsored by WMLFC
        - 200: 12"-14" trout
        - 50: 14"-15" trout

The cost is $2,927 from line 521.03 and motion passed at the February Board Meeting.

5. Other Events-We need to discuss dates at a future meeting to get it into the calendar-
    - Clinic to teach casting-will reach out to Cub scouts for date/ time-Sent a text, but no response.
    - Lure Making-There is a new system to request locations and times. It opens March 7. At that time, we will reserve Beach 3 for Lure Making on May 30 or May 31.

6. 2026 Potential Club Activities
    - Field trip to Musky Trout Hatchery-Jeff said we are welcome to visit the hatchery in May or June-ROAD TRIP!

The meeting was officially adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

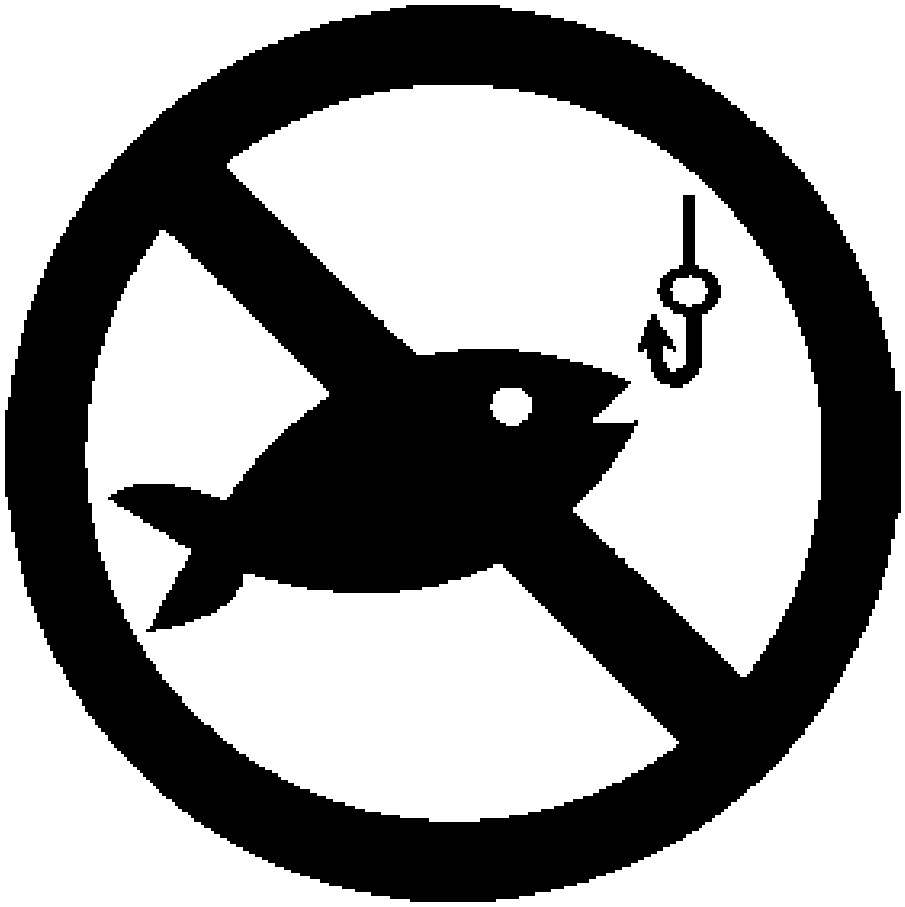
Minutes written by Keith Small and Lauren Bianchi

The next meeting is: March 25, 2026

NOTICE

MARCH 28 until April 3

NO FISHING



WML Fishing Club Minutes

Wednesday, March 25, 2026

Attendees:

Name
Benjamin Peretto
Frank Bianchi
Jeff Wadleigh
Keith Small
Ken Trickilo
Lauren Bianchi
Michael Lynch
Tom Grobleski

The meeting was called to order on Wednesday, March 25, 2026 at 8:02 p.m. in person in the Trophy Room at the WML Clubhouse.

1. February 2026 Minutes approved.
2. Old Business:
    - Cash Tournament Letter: Discussed the fishing tournament fee. Not sure which event, but this came up years ago (not fishing) and it was knocked down because of our 501 nonprofit status. We will bring to March Board Meeting (March 18) to read the letter during Good & Welfare. A response is not expected, but will be requested.
    - Letter from Gerry's wife regarding a fishing book. I tried to call, but no answer. Keith will reach out.
    - 2026 Contest Calendar reminder:

2026 Contest Calendar ***Excludes Carp**

Date	Type	Name	Species
April 1-Sept. 30	**Adult + Kid**	**Carp Rodeo**	**Carp**
4-Apr	**Adult + Kid**	**Opening Day Fishing Contest**	**Any***
17-May	**Adult + Kid**	**Fishing Contest**	**Walleye/ Bass**
13-Jun	**Adult + Kid**	**Fishing Contest**	**Any***
TBD	**Adult**	**Evening Catfish Contest/ Gathering**	**Catfish**
18-Jul	**Kid**	**Festival Weekend Kids Fishing Contest**	**Any***
9-Aug	**Kid**	**Fishing Contest**	**Any***
20-Sep	**Adult + Kid**	**Ray Shanahan Bass Contest**	**Bass**

3. Fishing Club Updates and information
    - Reminder: Meetings will now be the 4th Wednesday of the month at 8 pm. Next meeting is April 22, 2026.
    - Sponsored Trout-We ordered 7 from Musky. Thank you to our Sponsors: Lynch Power, Café Navona, Dave Kudelko, ARG (Almost Retired Guys), WML Fishing Club, Lenny's Bar, and Joanne Machalaba.
    - NO FISHING from March 28-April 3 Signs will be posted from March 26.

4. Stocking
    - On March 28, we will have the Trout Stocking Event at 8 am. Setup is at 7:30 AM on the lawn next to the Boathouse Ramp. Women's Club will have activities for the kids after the stocking. That Saturday is also when 2nd boat spots are scheduled.
    - We need to start thinking about 2026 stocking. Zetts said the prices are about the same except fatheads increased to $425 for 5,000. For this year, maybe crappie and fatheads, but we need to wait a bit longer before determining the species and quantity. Perch spawn is unbelievable (seems to be as good as in the 90's) and there are a lot of baby crappie. We are hopeful our stocking around the perimeter of the lake will pay off this year.

5. Other Events
    - Fishing Clinic with Cub Scouts: April 6 at 6 pm on the Clubhouse Lawn.
    - Lure Making-May 23 from 10-11:30 am at Beach 3.
    - TBD fly fishing lessons with Tom G.

6. 2026 Potential Club Activities
    - Field trip to Musky Trout Hatchery-Jeff said we are welcome to visit the hatchery in May or June-ROAD TRIP!
    - NJ DEP Wildlife Management Area to have a tournament.
    - Party boat on Lake Hopatcong (for Musky?)
    - Delaware River

The meeting was officially adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Minutes written Lauren Bianchi

The next meeting is: April 22, 2026

WML Fishing Club Minutes

Wednesday, April 22, 2026

Attendees:

Name
Benjamin Peretto
Frank Bianchi
Jeff Wadleigh
John D
Keith Small
Lauren Bianchi
Michael Kilgallen
Tom Grobleski

The meeting was called to order on Wednesday, April 22, 2026 at 8:00 p.m. in person in the Trophy Room at the WML Clubhouse.

1. March 2026 Minutes approved.
2. Old Business:
    - Read letter at Good & Welfare- March 18 Board Meeting Waiting for a response form the board.
    - Letter from Gerry's wife regarding a fishing book. I tried to call, but no answer. Keith will reach out.
    - 2026 Contest Calendar reminder:

2026 Contest Calendar ***Excludes Carp**

Date	Type	Name	Species
April 1-Sept. 30	**Adult + Kid**	**Carp Rodeo**	**Carp**
~~**4-Apr**~~	~~**Adult + Kid**~~	~~**Opening Day Fishing Contest**~~	~~**Any***~~
17-May	**Adult + Kid**	**Fishing Contest**	**Walleye/ Bass**
13-Jun	**Adult + Kid**	**Fishing Contest**	**Any***
TBD	**Adult**	**Evening Catfish Contest/ Gathering**	**Catfish**
18-Jul	**Kid**	**Festival Weekend Kids Fishing Contest**	**Any***
9-Aug	**Kid**	**Fishing Contest**	**Any***
20-Sep	**Adult + Kid**	**Ray Shanahan Bass Contest**	**Bass**

3. Fishing Club Updates and information
    - Reminder: Meetings will now be the 4th Wednesday of the month at 8 pm, but need to change for May. We will have the meeting on May 13. The newsletter lists 2 dates by accident.

- I got yelled at by the DEP for submitting the permit application too late. Going forward we will apply with the requested amount before Lake and Board approve.
- 3rd Annual Trout Stocking Event, which took place on March28. Three raffle numbers called-one picked up their prize. 23596 034, 23596 040, and 23596 004. For next year, we will try and hold the event indoors until the truck comes.
- We stocked 7 tagged trout, measuring between 21"- 23". THANK YOU to our sponsors for their generous donations this year!
    - Lynch Power
    - Joanne Machalaba
    - Café Navona
    - Dave Kudelko
    - Chuck Sevek
    - ARG (Almost Retired Guys)
    - Lenny's Bar
- April 4 we hosted the Larry O'Rourke Opening Day Fishing Contest -beautiful weather! Thank you to maintenance crew for having the tables, coffee, and condiments ready and thank you to Ken Trickilo for donating bagels and cream cheese! Winners to have their name engraved.
    - Due to technical difficulties, the online submission form was unavailable. If you fished from a boat and did not bring your catch to the Gazebo for measurement, please email me at wmlfishingclub@gmail.com. Jeff Wadleigh informed Michael Kritz caught the sponsored trout on Opening Day. Lauren to confirm and inform the office.
    - From the shore, anglers reeled in 4 carp, 2 bass, and one catfish. (Carp were not eligible for submission.)
    - Congratulations to our Contest Winners from Shore
        - Vince Romayo – 12"; catfish (first fish caught in the contest)
        - Ben Thompson – 12.5"; largemouth bass
        - Sasho Zdraveski – 18" largemouth bass
- Replenished contest prizes from Budget Line 521.06; 9-$25 gift cards for Adults, 10-$20 gift cards for kids.
- We need to start thinking about 2026 stocking. Zetts said the prices are about the same except fatheads increased to $425 for 5,000. For this year, maybe crappie and fatheads, but we may need to wait a bit longer before determining the species and quantity. Revisit in May meeting.

4. Other Events
    - Fishing Clinic with Cub Scouts: April 6 at 6 pm on the Clubhouse Lawn. CANCELLED due to weather. Trying to find a new date.
    - Lure Making-May 23 from 10-11:30 am at Beach 3. Need to put on Facebook.
    - TBD fly fishing lessons with Tom G. for adult members of Fishing Club only. Might use some Fishing Club funds to purchase materials for training.

5. 2026 Potential Club Activities
    - Field trip to Musky Trout Hatchery-Jeff said we are welcome to visit the hatchery in May or June-ROAD TRIP!

- NJ DEP Wildlife Management Area to have a tournament.
- Party boat on Lake Hopatcong
- Delaware River-maybe July, Aug, or Sept. Need to watch water levels and weather. Kayaks and canoes.

6. Other topics
    - Need to figure out the date for the Night Catfish Contest. End of July/ early August looks like the best time.
    - Suggestion to have an all-festival weekend cumulative fishing contest. Most fish caught between Thursday to Sunday at 7 pm. Adults and Kids separate. Winners announced over the loudspeaker.
    - Unanimous vote to make White Meadow Lake Opening Day of the Fishing Season to follow NJ's opening day of trout season on 2nd Saturday of April going forward.

The meeting was officially adjourned at 8:38 pm.

Minutes written Lauren Bianchi

The next meeting is: May 13, 2026