



FAQs about Voting

The Bone Lake Management District is considering alum treatments to improve water clarity in Bone Lake. Bone Lake typically experiences algae blooms in the mid- to late-summer that can affect the safety and enjoyment of the water. Alum treatments can reduce these blooms; however, they are costly. The funding would primarily come from a special assessment on Bone Lake properties which would need to be approved by majority vote of Bone Lake property owners at an annual District meeting. We know you have questions. The following are frequently asked questions about voting in a lake management district.

Why would we vote on using alum in Bone Lake?

The cost of alum would require a special assessment to property owners with lake access. If there is enough interest in treating the lake with alum, as determined by the Bone Lake Management District (BLMD) Commissioners based on input and a survey of BLMD members, a vote will be brought to the membership at an annual meeting, potentially in August 2021.

Can the Bone Lake Management District Board levy special assessments on the property owners on Bone Lake?

Yes. Under Wisconsin Statute, Chapter 33, Public Inland Waters, the Bone Lake Management District Board is a government-approved lake protection board and, as such, has the power to levy special assessments on district property owners on items proposed and voted on, with a simple majority by attending owners, at annual lake district meetings.¹

Who can vote at the District meeting?

A U.S. citizen over the age of 18 and who meets any of the following requirements:

- An elector a qualified voter who resides in the District;
- A person whose name appears as an owner of real property on the tax roll;
- A person who owns title to real property even if that person's name does not appear on the tax roll (i.e. spouse);
- One official representative of a trust or corporation that owns real property is in the district.¹

If a person is not named on the tax roll it is up to that person to provide evidence to the District that he/she is owner of property or a designated representative of an organizational property owner. Evidence may be in the form of:

- A copy of a deed indicating ownership, or
- A letter on the stationery of an organization owning property which clearly authorizes the person to vote on behalf of that organization.¹

Owners of multiple properties can only vote once.

How do I vote?

Voting is required in person during the annual meeting. No absentee ballots or proxies are allowed. You would sign in during the hours of the annual meeting. Although you do not have to stay through the entire meeting to vote, once the meeting has been adjourned you can no longer vote.

Do I need to vote in person?

Yes. This is required by law. Again, no absentee ballots or proxies are allowed.

Do I have to show identification?

Not necessarily. Your name will be checked against the voter registration list acquired from the Polk County Treasurer and the county real estate tax rolls. If there is a question, you may need to provide verification or sign a voter certification document.

¹ <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/33/1V/31>

This is one in a series of four handouts answering frequently asked questions about Bone Lake's water quality, alum treatments, costs and funding alum treatments, and voting in a lake management district.
