

Monthly Board of Directors Meeting

02/01/2026@ 7:00pm

Attendees: Mike, Tim, Carol, Jodi, Mark, Maverick, Renee, Marguerite, Jackson

Absent:

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm

Monthly Items

- Treasurer's Report

Opening Balance	\$7,346.09
Opening Cash Balance	\$0.00
Transactions (Exc. Cash)	-\$369.95
Sales	\$0.00
Pathtag Transactions	-\$11.50
Pathtag Balance	\$5.00
Closing Balance	\$6,976.14
Cash on Hand	\$0.00
Total Assets	\$6,981.14

A 2026 budget framework was worked on from past history. Reviewed by the board.

Recommendations

Have a baseline budget balance low level amount

For WGA picnic and camp events – board should try to get free by offering a Geo101 session

- Committee Reports
 - TB Race
 - Trailer decal for this year's winner has been received, will be applied when warm
 - First status update was posted in December
 - WB 2026 –
 - WB Area CoC – 1-262-338-2666
 - Next year's dates are Aug 7-8 2026
 - For future, can increase the long sleeve and sweatshirt order count, can take extra to Fall Campout and Chili events
 - Other feedback items to note
 - -Need to have new merchandise ready to go before set up
 - -Try to have square simplified for sales
 - -New signage was great
 - -Need to get tablecloth clips

- Merchandise/Store
 - Geocoin – will start looking into having a coin created for 2026
 - Discussion was held on if we should also create a pathtag this year
 - Flash tags have arrived for Chili and volunteer tags
 - Geocaching container stickers for this year's design
 - Looking into having cacheckinz (custom trackables) made – have been paid for, may be available for chili event
 - submitted all of the old artwork to Lisa with Compass Creek Designs
 - Purchased a ticket gun for merchandise sales
- Oldest County List
 - All in good status
- State Park Series
 - Most look in good shape, 1 may have a wet log, another had a container replacement instead of an ammo can, or the red bison that a member had found previously
 - completion list needs to be checked and updated.
- Ice Age Trail Series
 - All in good status
 - Finders list has been updated
- State Trail Series –
 - Completion pathtag – has been ordered
 - No issues with the hides
- Photo of the Month
 - January winner will be posted by Jen
 - February contest will be started within the next day
 - 2025 photo of the year contest is complete
 - themes for Jan, Feb, March to be published in news article
- LCG (Lonely Cache Game)
 - Justin is looking into WGA site code to make updates that may be able to incorporate something for LCG.
 - Having an event around this effort-spring time for a kickoff – maybe by region
 - Rewards (Jen sent this quarter)
 - 1 year end winner starting in 2025 (\$20) – CampWebb was quarterly and year winner
 - Quarterly Points winner AND Quarterly 2nd chance drawing for all participants was announced, award sent to each winner
 - Can only win quarterly drawing once per year
 - \$10 for every quarterly prize awarded
- Membership
 - Zip Code could be added to summary list – future add.
- Education
 - Eau Claire Earthcache – big success, 23-24 pople including some from MN. For future events, set up for 2 hour.
 - Looking into an event in the SE Wisconsin area.
 - Possible new session in the future

- The earthcache contact for session might be able to help IAT alliance get theirs moving
- 2026 suggestion – geocaching 101 for community police departments (members get free memberships) Geocaching > Land Management and Law Enforcement
- Renee and Jackie have the display boards
- Newsletter
 - Next Newsletter to publish 2nd week of Feb to include election results
 - Committee meeting will be held within the next few weeks
 - Panel comic contest running...results posted in latest publishing.
 - Adding a single panel comic contest... Only 2 submissions...may give out 2 first prizes of \$25 each.
- Historical
 - – progress discussed at recent events...hoping to have display at the Chili event
 - - no other updates
- Quarterly Cache Spotlight
 - Latest spotlights were noted/rewarded in the latest newsletter – posted on social
- Mammoth Meetups – 2026
 - Remember to get notice out about the mammoth meetups in August right after Cache Bash
- Spring picnic 2026
 - **May 16th, 2026**
 - Northwest area – Willow River Campground – near Hudson
 - Will submit picnic event middle of February
 - Looking into holding 101 session with help of the camp naturalist
 - List of hiders for the event list has been created
 - Other activities being looked into...possible stargazing session Saturday night
 - Grab bags ordered and received
 - Reservation is booked
 - Main shelter is Un-reservable, but we have free access to it.
 - At least 150 caches in that park
 - Only can put out event page 3 months before.
 - kids toys bucket has been resupplied
 - Receipts to be sent to treasurer
- Website –
 - New website is up and running!
 - How membership additions are functioning will be looked into
 - Have a more integrated function for LCG
 - Would like to add events
- Social Media
 - no issues as far as board has heard
 - election memo will be coming out this week
- Elections
 - Renee, Mark, Carol and Marguerite on committee for 2026 election

- Chili 2026
 - Booked at District One for 3/7
 - A specific Chili Event only tote was created, will not need to be hauled to other events
 - The plan is not haul the trailer to Chili event; only Welcome, Chili, extension cord, and merchandise totes.
 - Gift basket – members that donate get a raffle tickets, board members to donate a basket if able to – social media announcement will go out.
 - Gift basket feedback – donators supply basket name and list items in basket
 - **People liked that the ingredient lists were used**
 - Decided to go down to 10 lbs of public chili – 5 beef, 5 chicken – Tim to make it up
 - Social media post for community members welcome to donate gift baskets (community members get a free raffle ticket as thank you)
 - Reach out to local cachers for help placing some new hides in the area
 - Big Jim willing to hide some caches....
 - Plan to use same venue for 2026 – nice central location in the state, free location
 - Flashtags for chili event and 2026 Volunteer tags arrived
 - Renee to call for board meeting room rental
 - heavy duty Nesco liners for chili have been purchased
- Fall Campout 2026 (Sept 18/19)
 - Will book at Bong Recreation Center in SE quadrant - Mark
 - Bong Shelter #3 is the one we want
 - Mark and Mike visited Bong and documented where to hold activities, where caches can be placed, etc.
 - Mark booked the shelter – an open-air shelter
- CITO
 - - To continue posting announcement on social media about cost reimbursement
 - - WGA has agreed to reimburse 5 events per season
- GIFF 2027 events -
 - - get gift certificate template completed ahead of time to be ready for GIFF season.
- Other
 - -IGO - Iowa Geocaching Association- joint board meeting to discuss possible border event
 - Board has a contact for IGO – no updates as of 01/04
 - - Michigan meeting – still want to do a border event with them
 - Last weekend of August
 - Carol and Jen to take lead
 - No response from Michigan contact to multiple communications
 - - Geocoinfest in Illinois to be held October 17, 2026- GCBD8ZQ – possible vendor opportunity

Items, Ideas, and thoughts to retain

- Waukesha County trails policy change regarding caches
 - Previously contacted Johnny Waypoint about why no new caches being approved on trails
 - Updated policy is posted on their website – they will allow limited
 - Will have to get information on how to proceed with Waukesha County
 - No new updates as of March
 - Looking to propose a meeting with the bug line trail representative to learn their concerns

- Ice Age Trail cache approvals
 - May need to order new cache container stickers
 - Jackson has scouted the Plover area, has info for 4 new earth caches
 - Reach out to DOT landowner contact – for access permission to rest areas
- Interurban/Powerline Trails
 - Geocaches not allowed on WEnergies properties.
 - Plan to make an attempt with Ozaukee County and WEnergies to gain permission to place caches on Interurban Trail/Power Line trail – Jen has a name to contact
 - If new geocaches will not be allowed, may need to archive other caches that are along the trail if requested.
 - No new updates as of June
- Increase volunteer opportunities to get involved – to include
 - Membership recruitment
 - Social media help
 - TB race tracking
 - Newsletter articles
 - Event posting on website – summary list
 - Hiding caches for events
 - Trail Bosses – any openings (Jackson)
- New Idea to institute resources in **Teams** application – volunteer tag in membership database
 - CRM (Contact Resource Management)
 - Categories and sub categories?
 - Volunteer interest
 - Region
 - Interests
 - Survey Monkey usage

The social media state wide groups – post these pages to WGA website for geocachers to find

- Put under Info Section of Web Site

Chippawa valley Geocaching
 Wild bunch (SE Wis)
 Fox valley
 Coulee Region Cachers
 Dane County Wisconsin Geocaching Group
 Rock County, WI Geocaching
 Northern Wisconsin (Renee to check)

- Event placement within the 4 regions, (**Social media/Newsletters committees**)
 - Publish the selection procedure, where have things been held before
 - Keep list of counties held in for those 4 regions
 - Have in other counties within a region
 - Have regions “bid” for going there (location, Volunteer hiders available, proposal)
- BOD committee assignments
 - Geo201: an effort to find someone with more social media presence...possibly including videos. Looking for volunteers

- Types:
 - Puzzles solving,
 - GSAK,
 - permission to hide suggestions,
 - Geocaching maintenance,
 - Geocaching Tool Box.
 - Cache Stats, what are geocaching challenges?
 - Project GC
 - Attributes
- 301 – types
 - How to create a geoart,
 - earth caches
- John Sudar posted in Geocachers of Wisconsin FB page about GSAK, and a number of people commented about doing a class on it.... following up with John about this.
- Reach out to the lady that has lots of knowledge about Earth Caches class
- State Trail Series pathtag reimbursement for trail boss recognition – Agreed to by board

- Geoart /cache series ideas
 - Cheese curds
 - Ice cream/custard locations
- Idea for theme for next year – list found under Administration – Yearly theme
 - Possible for upcoming years
 - Keeping it Cheesy
 - Always time for one more cache
- Border events- event in the Dubuque, IA or La Crosse, WI for a tri-state event
 - Ice Age Trail alliance earth cache reviewers not allowing Ice Age Alliance link on cache pages – about 10 ECs hanging out there – Renee
 - New MN board would like to work with us on a 2 state co-event

New Topics

Action Items

Unfinished business

Next meeting Sunday March 8th – link at Administration / General. Should be pinned at top.
 Meeting adjourned at: 8:42 pm