

GMDBC Board Meeting May 11, 2026

Attendance

Board Members Present:			
President	Cheryl Moran	Vice President	Linda Braun
Treasurer	0 (Steve Augustine absent)	Secretary	Lois Edwards (in for Laura Reynolds absent)
Team Captains Present:			
Blackheart	Mary Lou Bremmer	Silver Dragons	John Townley
Dirty Dozen	Steve Printz	Sunset Island Dragons	Bill Clark
Eastport Sun Dragons	Gail Long	This Boat Rocks	Linda Braun
Leatherneck Warriors	Robin Lockerby	Village Dragons	Jane Spellacy
Paddling Patriots	Dave Bethel	Warriors	Joe Harten
Maintenance	Frank Lupoli		
Membership	0 (Karen Ness absent)		
Website Coordinator	0 (Rich Eichorn absent)		

Quorum.

Opening Meeting called to order at Canal St. Rec Ctr. at 12:58pm. Sign-in at the door attendance was archived.

Secretary's Report

1. April board meeting minutes were previously sent out via e-mail.
 - a. A motion to approve the minutes by John Townley, seconded by Linda Braun, was passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

1. April financial report was reviewed.
 - a. A motion to approve the report by Steve Printz, seconded by John Townley, was passed unanimously.

President's Report

1. 80's & Over Social Paddle at Central Lake on May 8th was a success.
 - a. Clearing of wasp nests under the Central Lake bridge was completed.
2. The Chicken Race on Lake Sumter with all teams participating on May 1 was a success. John Rohan was particularly pleased with how the event was planned and executed, and expressed his interest in this continuing as an annual event on Lake Sumter with the following considerations in future planning:

- a. Mark boats/lanes, large & clear for spectators (stern pennants were difficult to read from shore).
 - b. Add start line buoys for improved visual of start line for steerers.
 - c. Incorporate a strong fund-raising component to benefit a local community charity.
3. Team captains must be consistent in using one App for looking at the weather for team practices as we go into the summer season. Download and use, if you are not already, the "Wunder Ground" app with The Villages location to view the local weather conditions, including the "Feels Like" temperature. Any Feels Like temp of 104 or more will require practice cancellation.
4. A request to change the GMDBC Bylaws is coming.
 - a. Work has started to prepare a request to change the GMDBC bylaws. This will be for the purpose of expanding the Board by creating a new 2nd Vice President position, effective this year, upon approval. John Townley is working on that bylaw change wording. As soon as it is ready it will be presented to the membership for a vote. This position would, if/when approved through the bylaw change, open the new position effective immediately for an interested member to volunteer, be added to the 2027 Board Member Vote (along with nominees for President and Secretary), and again in every 2 years intervals thereafter in the odd years.
5. Leatherneck Warriors are working on the event plan for the Rodeo Event to be held at Central Lake this fall.
6. Nominations for the two Board positions currently open in 2026 (Vice President and Treasurer) will be presented at the GMDBC General Membership meeting scheduled for tomorrow May 12th at Seabreeze Rec Center. Bios should be presented at that meeting for any members wanting to be considered. Cheryl asked Captains to encourage their team members to consider becoming a member of the Board for these open positions.

Vice President's Report

1. Safety
 - a. Summer Heat and Paddler Health. Linda Braun reminded everyone that the summer high outdoor temperatures (particularly in the afternoon) are quickly approaching. Linda emphasized that team captains should follow the best practice guideline to have a small cooler with 2-3 bottles of water and a couple cold wash cloths on board their boats during practices for emergency use. Captains should also regularly remind their teams to stay hydrated and use electrolytes especially during the summer months.
 - b. Linda reminded everyone that the GMDBC Incident Report form can be found on the club website and is to be used to report/document any health emergency or accident.

c. Gail Long reported that additional cleats are needed on the Central Lake dock by the Boat House for safety and securing more boats.

d. Bill Clark confirmed that the boat launch area at Lake Sumter is still a safety hazard and needs repair where the sand meets the water. Cheryl advised that the rec department is currently contacting an engineer to find best solution.

2. Camp Villages Summer 2026, Dragonboat paddling for teens (age 13-16)

a. Linda provided update on the June 18 & July 23 Camp Villages dragon boat paddling for teens in this popular summer program.

She asked for the following: 1) volunteers to paddle with the campers, 2) approx. 30 regular folding chairs for land instruction, and 3) teams previously scheduled on Lake Sumter on these 2 mornings to move their practice to Central Lake.

b. Steve Printz will provide steerers for Camp Villages. Bob Kane has also offered to assist again this year with the camp.

Old Business

1. Club Historian is still needed since this volunteer role has become open.

2. Rodeo

a. Robin Lockerby is leading this Fall 2026 event at Central Lake.

b. Consideration will be given to adding a charity element to the event to raise money for a local community group, Robin will bring suggestions to the Board for a group to receive the money raised.

3. Steering Camp/Clinic

a. Jane Spellacy is handling this Clinic planning. More steerers are needed for our GMDBC teams. Two boats will be needed for the camp. Volunteer paddlers (30-40) will be needed to paddle in the 2 boats while steerers learn.

4. Storage Unit, Future Need

a. Our current storage facility, storing mostly boat dragon heads & tails, buoys, and a small amount of tools/maintenance supplies, has a cost of approximately \$1800./year. An option to move the items in storage to the newly available Central Lake Boat House was discussed.

b. A motion to move the contents of the current storage facility to the Boat House was made by Steve Printz, seconded by Bill Clark, and was passed unanimously. Volunteers will be needed to transport/move the items. Linda noted Dragon boat heads will likely need new supports built to hold them steady on the Boat House shelves to avoid falling over.

Boat Repairs and Maintenance

1. Hull repair requested. The black hull boat at Sumter Lake needs minor hull repair on its bow. Frank will make this repair.
2. Dragon boat drummer seats. Stored at Lake Sumter and Lake Miona, drummer seats are in inventory for both Buk and Champion boats - - but do not have a universal standard method of attachment to the boats. They use slightly different hardware configurations to attach based on the mfg. Bill Clark will inspect which seats fit which boats and coordinate any retrofit requirements necessary to ensure the seats are at the location they need to be to fit the type of boats stored at that Lake.
3. Gunnel repairs. Frank Lupoli purchased a sander & materials for gunnel repairs and forwarded receipts to Steve. Ed completed gunnel repairs (removing white paint) on the boats affected.
4. Boat insurance. Cheryl noted that regularly scheduled payments totaling approx. \$5,000 will be coming due soon.

Membership

1. Membership count for GMDBC stands at 420 as of April 30, 2026.
2. With the club membership currently at 420, a slightly larger number than this time last year, Cheryl emphasized it would be reasonable to expect we could have a membership over 500 by the end of this year with the increased local interest and number of new paddlers trying the sport here, particularly now that Central Lake is complete. Three club teams are working with new paddlers including the students from the Enrichment Academy program.
2. Club growth will require more member participation, member volunteering, and growth of the Board.

Close

The Board Meeting was adjourned at 1:57pm.

Next Board Meeting will be 1:00pm, June 8th at Canal Street Rec Center

Next General Meeting will be 6:30pm, August 11 for CERT Training

Teams are encouraged to plan an event for Open dates to use the facilities pre-scheduled.

Next General Meetings:

June 9 – Open (No General Membership Meeting)
July 14 – Open (No General Membership Meeting)
August 11 – CERT Training
September 8 – Open (No General Membership Meeting)
October 13 – Annual Safety Meeting hosted by Vice President Linda Braun
November 10 – Taco Tuesday hosted by Eastport Sun Dragons
December 8 – Blackheart Christmas Party