

White Lake

Water Quality and Quantity

ADVISORY BOARD BYLAWS

Article I

Name & Purpose:

Section 1. The White Lake Water Quality and Quantity Advisory Board was established in July 2025 by the White Lake Town Board of Commissioners. The purpose of this Advisory Board is to provide guidance and expertise to the Town of White Lake regarding the water resources of White Lake and the areas surrounding the lake that affect these resources and to report its recommendations to the Town Board of Commissioners for consideration. The Advisory Board serves in an advisory capacity only and shall have no independent authority to obligate the Town, expend Town funds, or direct Town staff. The Advisory Board, and these ByLaws, are at all times subject to White Lake Code of Ordinances #2025-01 Chapter 35: Advisory Boards. In the event of a conflict between these ByLaws and the Town Code, the Code shall control.

White Lake is a natural lake—one of the geological formations known as Carolina Bays. These freshwater wetlands occur from Georgia to Delaware, with the highest concentrations primarily in the coastal plains of North Carolina and South Carolina. The bays are elliptical depressions, all with a NW-SE orientation and raised sand rims. These shallow depressions, often with a depth profile that increases from northwest to southeast, are typically found in areas with loose, sandy soil. These bays are also characterized by specific soil and vegetative profiles.

Among the Carolina bays, White Lake is unique in being the only one with clear water. Other water-filled Carolina bays, such as nearby Jones and Singletary Lakes, have tea-colored water. Protecting this special resource is of ecological and economic importance to the area. This Board will recommend and support sustainable and economically viable actions that achieve a healthy lake and watershed for White Lake while preserving the integrity of the Carolina Bay ecosystem.

Section 2. The scope of activities covered by this Board shall include, but is not limited to, the following:

- A. Support the study of lake clarity and recommend sustainable actions to improve and restore the lake clarity.
- B. Provide management advice based on sound science and study that includes regular monitoring of lake water and other factors that affect quality, quantity and clarity, and inventory of resources and investigations and research into the actions that affect them.
- C. Provide accurate information, advice, and assistance to property owners to enable them to take individual and community actions that will protect and preserve the water resources and natural elements that make White Lake unique (e.g., actions that contribute to clear water and that restore natural communities).
- D. Identify conservation easement areas in White Lake and the surrounding areas that affect the water quality and natural resources, and support actions to implement the easements, including providing easement sources and information on how-to complete an easement.

- E. Identify all the stakeholders and influencers that affect water resource management for White Lake and advocate for their participation in creating effective management plans and sustainable resource practices.
- F. Encourage survey and study of the influences of land use types on water resources, including those that affect groundwater levels, lake water level, and water clarity.
- G. Build and sustain relationships with partners (e.g., citizens, state and local governments, non-governmental organizations, private landowners) and encourage their participation in practical, fact-based solutions to management issues.
- H. Recommend and support actions for continued study of groundwater flow under and around the lake, using the information provided by the Lumber River Council of Governments.
- I. Work with the N. C. State Parks and Recreation agency staff to find an alternate public location for the lake outlet, which is now on private property.
- J. Explore economical and environmentally sustainable means to maintain lake levels for recreation and the health of the aquatic ecosystem.
- K. Support the development and distribution of accurate information and educational materials for stakeholders and the public on appropriate actions for resource improvement and restoration.
- L. Advocate for legislative actions where needed, such as permitting sludge removal in the lake (e.g., on the Hwy 53 side of the lake).

Section 3. The duties of the Board are to represent the interests of area citizens, provide information to the public about ways to protect and conserve the natural resources, solicit input and ideas from other stakeholders, along with state agencies.

Article II

Membership

A. Appointment. All applicants desiring an initial appointment to an advisory board must fill out an application, which is available at Town Hall, on the town's website, or by contacting the staff liaison for that advisory board. The application will be turned into the staff liaison for the advisory board and will, in turn, be presented at the next scheduled advisory board meeting in which a vacancy exists. If more applications are presented than existing vacancies, the advisory board will conduct an open vote. The applicant(s) receiving the highest number of votes will be forwarded to the Town Board for final approval. No applicant applying for a vacancy on any advisory board will serve in an official capacity until his or her approval has been finalized by the Town Board.

Section 1. The Board shall be made up of a cross-section of White Lake property owners or others with a strong desire to help in the planning, with a strong commitment to the community. Effective July 8, 2025, membership of the White Lake Water Quality and Quantity Advisory Board shall consist of seven (7) members, appointed by the Town Board of Commissioners

Section 2. The Town of White Lake Board of Commissioners will appoint initial members on staggered terms.

Section 3. The Town of White Lake Board of Commissioners shall have the authority to remove an Advisory Board Member for cause, including, but not limited to, failing to comply with rules and regulations set forth herein, violation of Town ethics policies, conflict of interest, misconduct, or neglect of duty.

B. Reappointment. Members may succeed themselves with no limit on the number of terms they may serve on the advisory board. Stronger consideration will be granted to those applicants seeking reappointment to the advisory board, provided their past performance is satisfactory as defined by the Town Board. Recommendations for reappointment will be forwarded to the Town Board by the advisory board.

C. Terms of office. Unless otherwise provided in the bylaws, advisory board members will serve three-year staggered terms. Members will continue to serve until their successors have been appointed by the Town Board. All advisory board members serve at the pleasure of the Town Board.

D. Qualifications for membership. All applicants must have a sincere interest in the purpose of the advisory board or possess special skills that uniquely qualify them for an appointment to that advisory board. In addition, citizens are limited to serving on no more than two advisory boards concurrently. Elected Officials serving on the Board of Commissioners are not eligible for appointment to Advisory Boards.

Article III

Meetings

Section 1. The regular meeting of the membership of the Board shall be held at least quarterly, with day and time determined by the Advisory Board members at the White Lake Town Hall or other designated and advertised location deemed by the consensus of the Committee. All meetings shall comply with the North Carolina Open Meetings Law (N.C.G.S. Chapter 143, Article 33C) and Public Records Law (N.C.G.S. Chapter 132).

Section 2.

Meetings will be held in-person, and in-person attendance is encouraged. A virtual option will be offered to Board members unable to physically attend. The Board will allow remote quorum, participation, and voting.

Section 3. A majority of the appointed members of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business at any regular meeting of the Board. In the absence of a quorum at any regularly scheduled meeting, the members present shall function as a full subcommittee, electing an interim chair, if necessary. If the number of members present is 1/3 or greater of the full Board, the agenda for the meeting will be followed, and any recommendations of this full subcommittee shall be presented to the Board at the next regularly scheduled meeting. If the number present is less than 1/3, the members may, if they wish, vote to follow the agenda or postpone the agenda to the next regular meeting.

Section 4. Only the appointed members shall be entitled to vote at any meeting of the Board. However, the public is welcome, and their input is invited.

Article IV

Officers

Section 1. The members of the Board shall elect from their membership the following offices at the July meeting (August Meeting in 2025):

A: Chairman

B: Vice-Chairman

C: Secretary

Section 2. The terms of office for all officers shall be one year, beginning at the first regular Board meeting of the year and terminating at the last regular Board meeting of the year, or until their successors are elected at the next regular meeting of the Board.

Section 3. Any officer may be re-elected for the same office.

Section 4. A vacancy in any office may be filled by the Board at any regular meeting.

Section 5. Duties

Chairman

The Chairman shall preside at all meetings of the Board and conduct all meetings of the Board. He or she shall forward action taken by the Board to the Board of Commissioners for whatever action the Board deems appropriate. The Chairman shall appoint subcommittees as appropriate and deemed necessary by the Board and notify the Board of such appointments.

Vice-Chairman

In the absence of the Chairman or in the event of his or her inability to act, the Vice-Chairman shall exercise all powers and duties of the Chairman.

Secretary

The Secretary will record minutes of all meetings of the advisory board, prepare minutes for the agenda packet, obtain chair's signature on all approved minutes, coordinate with the Town Clerk for the safe-keeping of all minutes and other documents of the advisory board, coordinate with the staff liaison on all communication for the advisory board, and perform any other secretarial duties as needed. Further, the Secretary will send the agenda to the Town Clerk, at least one week prior to the next scheduled meeting, will type up recommendations of the Advisory Board and deliver to the Town Clerk for inclusion in the Town Board agenda packet at least one week prior to the next Town Board meeting, which meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month. The secretary shall also ensure that an annual written report on the Advisory Board's activities and recommendations is prepared and submitted to the Town Clerk.

Article V

Amendments

Section 1. These bylaws may be amended by the two-thirds vote of the membership present and voting at any regular meeting of the Board after notice of such proposals for an amendment has been given to all members as provided in these bylaws. All such amendments shall be subject to approval by the Board of Commissioners.

Section 2. Notice of any proposed amendment shall be submitted in writing to all members of the Board not less than thirty (30) days before the meeting at which such amendments are to be considered.

Article VI

Rules of Procedure

Section 1. All meetings of the Board shall be conducted informally unless otherwise specified in these bylaws.

Section 2. Agenda items are to be determined by priorities as set by the full Board. All requests from the Board of Commissioners will be honored.

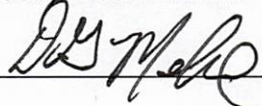
Article VII

Rights & Privileges

Section 1. No individual member shall possess any right, interest, or privilege that may be transferable by that member, or which shall continue in any manner if the membership of such individual member ceases.

This, 14 day of October, 2025.

Advisory Board Chair

By: 

Mayor of White Lake

By: 