

Lake District Commissioners Notes:

Updated September 8, 2022

- Chairman Winkler would like to emphasize the importance of county board members fulfilling their statutory role as a lake district commissioner. If you are not be able to attend a scheduled lake district meeting, please call Chairman Winkler, 715-499-0759, so that other arrangements can be made.
- Five commissioners: Most lake districts have five commissioners. Three members are elected from the residents or property owners within the district. The other two commissioners are appointed by the local units of government. One of the appointed members is selected by the county board of supervisors. (If the district includes territory in more than one county, this appointment is made by the county with the highest equalized valuation in the district). The other appointed member is selected by the governing body of the town, village or city with the highest valuation in the district.
- Appointed Commissioners. The appointment of commissioners by counties and municipalities helps promote harmony and coordination among local governments and the district. Members of lake district boards appointed by a county, town, village or city serve at the pleasure of the appointing authority, rather than for fixed terms. They can be replaced whenever the appointing authority chooses.
- Chapter 33 does not establish further qualifications for appointed commissioners, giving local governments broad discretion to select persons they consider suitable. Typically, these appointed commissioners live or own property within the district or have a known interest in lake and water management
- Voting: Appointed commissioners have the same voting power on the lake district board as the elected commissioners. However, they are not eligible to vote at the annual meeting unless they qualify as a lake district property owner or elector.
- Responsibilities The board of commissioners is broadly responsible for the governance of the lake district. Except for powers reserved to the electors and property owners at the annual meeting, all of the powers of the lake district are exercised by the board of commissioners.