

FEBRUARY
2026

THE LMDA ANCHOR



LMDA BOARD MEMBERS

Elaine Garry
President Emerita

Teresa Boysen
President

Jo Dohrer
1st Vice President

Open Seat
2nd Vice President

Connie Korthals
Secretary/Treasurer

Mike Anderson

Dan Carlson

Murray Driggs

Kyle Elenkiwich

Bob Ellsworth

Jim Farquhar

Gary Fikse

Eddie Fischer

Luke Fortney

Jackie Hagggar-Tuschen

Don Helberg

Martin Jarrett

Steve Koch

Larry Kotten

Mark Kuca

Clint Sargent

Mike Swiden

Bob Van Liere

Mike Walz

Mike Teslow

It's Time to Renew!

Haven't renewed your LMDA membership yet? There's still time! Your membership directly supports efforts like lake safety programs, routine water testing, shoreline protection, and local education that keeps our community informed and engaged. Join or renew today and play a part in keeping Lake Madison strong and thriving in 2026!



Save the Date:

Golf
Tournament
May 30th



June 13th

Boater Safety
Training



Our Mission:

Our mission is to to promote water safety and to protect the water quality, natural resources, and ecosystems of Lake Madison and the surrounding watershed by promoting conservation, research, and education so the natural beauty and environment of the lake and surrounding area may be preserved for the enjoyment of people today and for generations to come.

Want to give back to the community you love? Volunteer for the Lake Madison Development Association Board of Directors! Your skills and perspective can make a real impact.

Reach out to Imdasd@outlook.com to get involved!



Lake Madison Rec Trail Update

The Lake Madison Recreation Trail Committee is committed to moving the project forward with the development of the first phase of a new recreation trail. Our focus for 2026 includes grant writing and local fundraising to bring this project to life.

Project Review and Recommendation --

The committee recently met with DGR Engineering to review potential trail projects for 2026-2027. Three options were evaluated:

1. Completing the trail through Scott Peterson Park to Linden Drive
2. Constructing a gravel trail from Linden Drive to Walker's Point State Park
3. Building a trail from the Hillside area to 461st Street

After careful consideration, the committee is recommending **Project #2: the gravel trail from Linden Drive to Walker's Point State Park** for the following reasons:

- This trail would connect a significant number of homes on the south side of the lake to the existing trail system, including the Woodland, Best Point, The Harbor, Evergreen Acres, and Peninsula Point neighborhoods, as well as Walker's Point State Park users.
- Gravel for the project has been offered as a donation, which reduces overall costs and qualifies as "matching" dollars for grant applications.
- We have received a verbal agreement for the required land easement.
- The project cost is within reach, and depending on fundraising success, it may be possible to complete the project without grant funding.
- Concurrently, LMDA is working on this trail extension while John Bame of South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks is pursuing funding to construct a trail within Walker's Point State Park, creating a seamless connection.

The estimated cost of Project #2 is **\$400,000** if completed with grant funding. If awarded a grant, we would need to raise approximately **\$80,000** locally. If completed without the RTP grant, the project cost would be closer to **\$300,000**, as grant-funded projects generally carry higher administrative costs.

Grant Applications --

We are currently preparing an application for the **Recreation Trail Program (RTP)** grant, which requires a 20% local match. We are also exploring the **Land and Water Conservation Fund** grant, which requires a 50% local match. If you are aware of any companies, organizations, or programs that offer grants or financial support for community projects, we would greatly appreciate hearing about them. Contributions of any size are meaningful. For example, Sioux Valley Energy's Operation Round-Up Program recently provided \$1,000 toward trail maintenance. You do not need to write the grant (unless you wish to); simply sharing the opportunity is extremely helpful.



**Donate to the
Rec Trail
Maintenance Fund**

**Donate to the
Rec Trail
Program Fund**

Letters of Support

All grant applications require letters of support from bikers, walkers, community members, and local businesses.

Please consider writing a letter expressing your support for the Lake Madison Recreation Trail project. Letters may be addressed "To Whom It May Concern" and should briefly explain your support and why the trail is important to you or the community.

Letters can be mailed to:
Lake Madison Development Association
P.O. Box 296
Madison, SD 57042
or emailed to: lmdasd@outlook.com

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!





Game, Fish & Parks Update Ice Fishing Reminders

Fish House Placement

- Give plenty of space to other anglers. Crowding someone's spot - especially if they were there first - creates tension fast.
- Think about noise: generators, heaters, and lights can affect nearby anglers, so spacing helps everyone enjoy the day.
- Be aware of changing ice conditions and predicted weather. Warm temperatures or heavy snowfall can make your life difficult.

Litter Prevention

- Pack out everything, even the tiny stuff - line clippings, bait containers, food wrappers, and especially anything that could freeze to the ice.
- Secure loose items so they don't blow away. A windy day can scatter trash before you even notice.
- Before leaving, do a slow walk-around of your house or hole area to make sure nothing is left behind.

Licensing Reminders

- Keep your fishing license up to date and accessible. Your old license expired January 31st, 2026, so NOW is the time to renew.
- Know the local regulations for the lake you're on - season dates, size limits, possession limits, and any special restrictions.
- If you're hosting newcomers, remind them to obtain a license and review the rules so they start off on the right foot.

Respecting Other Anglers

- Keep noise reasonable - loud music, shouting, or revving machines near others can ruin the atmosphere.
- Don't drill holes right next to someone who's already set up unless you've asked and they're okay with it.
- A friendly wave or quick hello goes a long way toward maintaining a positive community vibe.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Wildlife Conservation Officer Cody Symens at 605-480-3364.

LMDA RESIDENT REMINDER

We would like to remind residents that shipping containers are not permitted anywhere around lake areas.



Recently, a 40-foot shipping container was placed on a property without the required permit or approval. Lake County Zoning ordered its removal and has issued a \$500 fine, with the possibility of additional penalties if the violation is not corrected.

We encourage all property owners to review current county ordinances and obtain proper approvals before placing any accessory structures on their property.

Why That Blue Sign Matters 75892

If you live at the lake, you've likely seen, (and hopefully have!) the blue reflective house number sign posted at the end of your driveway. It may seem small, but it plays a big role in keeping our lake community safe.

At places like Lake Madison, many homes sit off winding roads, private lanes, or tree-lined driveways. In an emergency, first responders don't have time to guess which property is yours. Clear, visible address signage helps police, fire, and ambulance crews find you quickly - especially at night, in bad weather, or during the busy summer season.

Those blue signs are:

- Highly reflective for nighttime visibility
- Standardized so emergency crews know exactly what to look for
- Placed strategically to reduce response time

Minutes - even seconds - matter in emergencies. Keeping your blue address sign visible, upright, and unobstructed by snow, landscaping, or parked vehicles can truly make a difference.

It's a simple step that helps protect your family, your neighbors, and our entire lake community.

If your sign is missing, damaged, or hard to see, consider getting it replaced or repositioned. It's one of the easiest ways to support lake safety!

What is a Road District?

A **road district** is a local form of government allowed under South Dakota law that enables property owners in a defined area to take responsibility for the construction and maintenance of their roads. Road districts are most commonly used in rural or lake-area communities where county road maintenance may be limited or infrequent.

When a road district is formed, it is governed by a small board of trustees-typically local landowners-who are responsible for planning road work, setting budgets, and ensuring maintenance is completed. Funding for road districts comes from taxes or assessments levied only within the district, meaning money raised stays dedicated to the roads serving that area.

One of the main benefits of a road district is **local control**. Decisions about grading, graveling, snow removal, and long-term improvements are made by people who live on and use the roads, rather than being subject to county-wide priorities. This often results in more timely maintenance and better alignment with needs.

Lake Restaurants

Click on each logo to bring up that restaurant's Facebook.

