

VILAS COUNTY

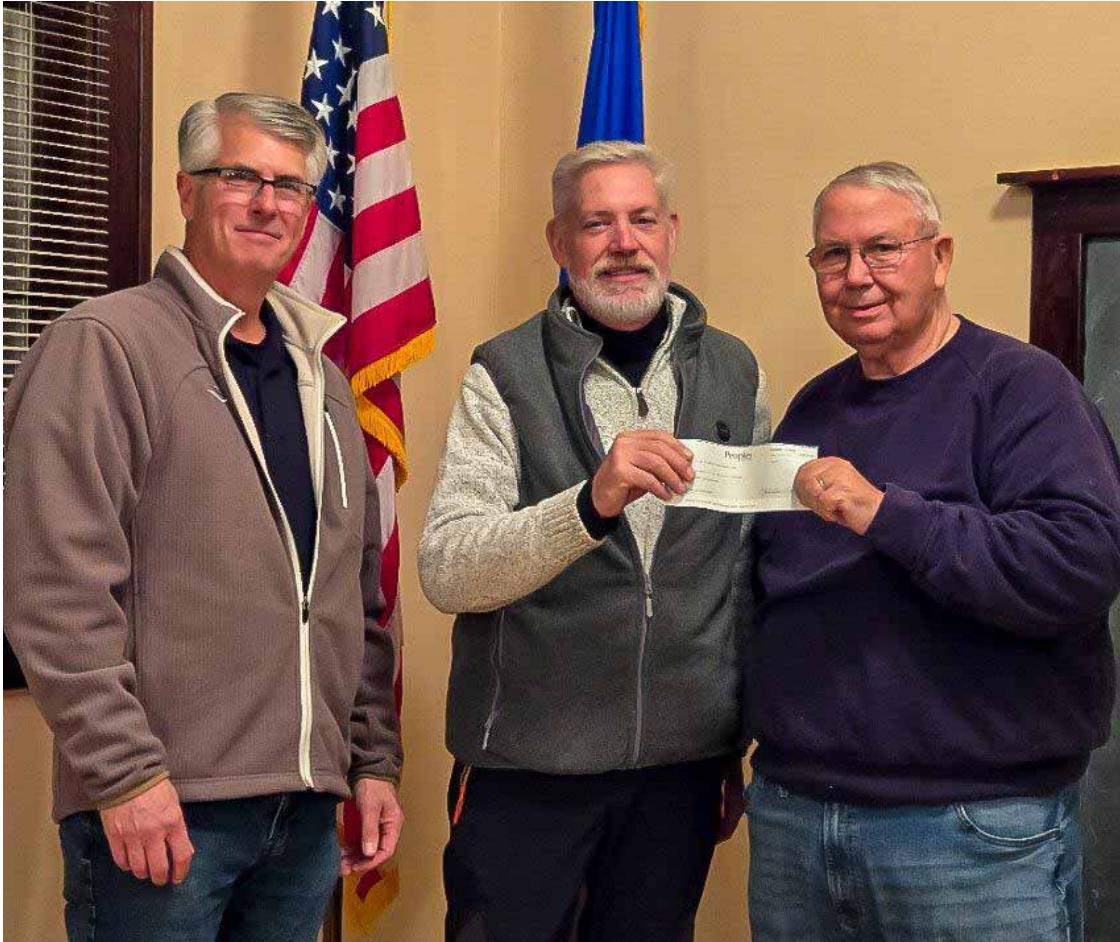
NEWS-REVIEW

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Lake group supports buoy program on Chain



(<https://gamma.creativecirclecdn.com/mmc/original/20251216-093129-754-PRM%20washington%20ercla%20buoy%2012.17.25%20md.jpg>).

Taking part in the check presentation are, from left, Michael Queoff, ERCLA vice president of operations; Jody Voight, ERCLA president; and Jim Egan, Town of Washington chairperson.

—CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Posted Friday, December 19, 2025 4:00 pm

At a recent meeting of the Town of Washington, the Eagle River Chain of Lakes Association (ERCLA) donated \$5,000 to support the Eagle River Chain Buoy Program.

ERCLA has provided annual funding for many years, enabling the purchase of new buoys and lights. In addition, the association collaborates with the Town of Washington in maintenance of the buoys.

The towns of Washington and Lincoln and the City of Eagle River also financially support the program, and the buoys are placed and removed through the cooperative effort of these municipalities. Washington coordinates the program.

In addition to labor costs, operating costs include maintenance of the pontoon boat, boat motor, power-washer, and crane used to place and remove the buoys. During the boating season, buoys that have been moved or damaged are repositioned or repaired by volunteers from the Eagle River Chain of Lakes Association.

Ongoing repairs and replacement are required due to aging, weather, boat traffic, and occasional strikes by watercraft.

There are more than 100 buoys on the Eagle River Chain from Cranberry Lake to the Highway 70 bridge on Watersmeet Lake. Buoys are placed under permitting from the Wisconsin DNR utilizing GPS coordinates.

With the limited funding from the towns and city, there is insufficient money to repair and replace the buoys, and additional financial support is required to operate the Chain buoy program. Donations are the sole source of this revenue.

The recent ERCLA donation will fund new buoys to be placed in 2026.

Keywords

Town of Washington, Eagle River Chain of Lakes Association, donation, Eagle River Chain Buoy Program, funding, City of Eagle River, local news