



Meeting Minutes

Meeting date: Wednesday, September 19, 2012

The fourth 2012 meeting of Polk County Association of Lakes and Rivers (PCALR) was held Wednesday, September 19 at Polk County Justice Center, Balsam Lake. The topic of the meeting was review of 2012 meetings and plans for 2013.

Attending:

Linda Mahoney, White Ash; James and Joan Maxwell, Big Blake; Ken Peterson, Butternut; Cheryl Miller, Lotus; Jeremy Williamson, LWRD; Carl Holmgren, Balsam; Ray Schmidt, Wild Goose; Mary Chorwycz, Bone, Karen Engelbretson, Bone and PCALR president.

Agenda:

Programming ideas for 2013, suggested: reprint who's who brochure, county wide lake fair, video camera interviews, plant ID workshops, intro to social marketing, reducing phosphorus in lakeshore environments.

Treasury/Membership

Current balance \$1,360.67

Expenditures: \$227.73 website hosting;

Income \$54, sale of Top 10 Shrubs Brochure

Current members (May 2012-May 2013) include the following organizations: Amery P&R, Bone Lake, Lotus Lake, Big Butternut, Largon, Antler, Balsam, Big Blake, Wapogasset/Bear Trap, Half Moon, Wild Goose, Pipe & North Pipe, ChurchPine Round & Big Lake; and these individuals: Ken Peterson, Dan Bergeron, Wayne Wolsey.

Membership renewals will be due May 1, 2012.

Discussion:

Who's Who. A motion was made, seconded, passed to fund the reprint of the Who's Who brochure, who to call with your waterfront property questions. Members are asked to review the brochure (available at pcalr.org) for changes. Katelin Holm has recommended reprinting in spring 2013 when updates to the shoreland ordinance will be complete and can be incorporated into the brochure. Send corrections or any suggestions for improvement to president@pcalr.org.

Lake Fair

Jeremy Williamson, LWRD, expressed enthusiasm about the prospect of a county-wide lake fair in 2013. In 1999, one was held at DD Kennedy Park. It was well attended, even by the DNR secretary. Nature of Amery, consecutive annual events held a few years ago, were very popular.

Discussion of the date and location ended with the decision to hold the event on **May 18 in North Park, City of Amery**. Considerations included timing of fishing opener, mother's day, graduation parties, lake district annual meetings and other events that could conflict with a mid- to late-summer date.

The Lake Fair would include activities, speakers, displays by lake protection and management consultants, local lake services, nurseries, individual lake and river districts, tribal groups, wildlife management, DNR, food booths, and other vendors.

Specific suggestions:

- Bird watching with Bruce DeLong on hike or by pontoon on the river
- Pontoon AIS cruise on Pike Lake to get a look at EWM and discuss its management with Ray Newman, U of M
- DNR Fish Tank trailer (would need someone to go get it from LaCrosse and take it back)
- Tribal Environmental Group booth/presentation
- Booths/sales by local Dragonfly Gardens, Pro Lawn
- Food vendors: Amery Boy Scouts, Lions, Church Group (must be self-powered)
- Booths by St Croix River Association, Stower Trail
- PCALR booth, interactive pin your location map, examples of bad lakes, or what can happen to your lake (algae, invasive plants & animals)
- Baby animals by ?
- Frogs with John Haack, DNR
- Crex Meadows display/speaker
- Raptor Center or local bird group
- DNR Water Patrol
- National Park Service mussels display
- Minnesota Science Museum
- Large tent may be available from Amery Fire Dept., tables for vendors, register in advance
- Publicize event in local and city papers, AM radio 1260, 104.9, 93.1, Twin City papers

Jeremy will handle negotiations with City of Amery to reserve North Park for the event, secure necessary law enforcement, Amery Chamber of Commerce, City of Amery Planning.

Katelin and Karen will begin a planning document and share developments with PCALR members and friends over the winter.

Suggestions are welcome. Contact president@pcalr.org.

Video Camera Interviews

Polk County LWRD has purchased a video camera using AIS grant funds. They have created a YouTube channel with features on pulling EWM, purple loosestrife, Japanese knotweed, farmland preservation meetings.

Ideas for future videos: Balsam Lake CBCW, and the White Ash Lake harvester.

Lake districts are invited to contact Jeremy Williamson or Katelin Holm at Polk County LWRD if interested in creating a video on topics like restoration projects, AIS prevention, education, interviews with residents, CBCW actions.

Pontoon Cruise Social

Bringing back a PCALR favorite, Ray Schmidt has volunteered to host a Pontoon Tour of Wild Goose Lake in 2013. Date TBD. This is a great opportunity to visit and tour a Polk County lake along with one of its residents and volunteer lake managers. Other tours are encouraged. Contact president@pcalr.org to schedule & publicize a date. Participants are should bring a snack to share and their own life jacket.

Bleach sprayer for AIS prevention

Jeremy Williamson mentioned his work took him to over 60 lakes in Polk County over the past two years. He uses a sprayer filled with a bleach solution to disinfect his boat before and after entering the water at public launches.

2013 Meeting Schedule

April: Lake Fair planning, Wisconsin Lakes Convention review

June: Invite county board members. The word is this session is working. A raised awareness county lakes has been noticed and budgeted funds to LWRD have not been cut since PCALR has hosted two annual County Board invitational meetings.

August: Social marketing.

September: review, strategic planning.

Meetings will be held on the third Wednesday of the month.

Reducing phosphorus

Lake districts are encouraged to get the word out to residents about how they contribute phosphorus to the watershed. Laundry detergent alone adds two billion pounds of phosphorus per year to surface and ground water. Phosphorus-free products are available everywhere for laundry detergent, cleaning products, dish and dish washer soap. Keep in mind your septic drain field has a limited ability to absorb phosphorus in its soils. Once that limit is reached phosphorus is released to ground water which ultimately shows up in lakes and rivers. Phosphorus in fertilizer, while unlawful in Polk County shoreland areas, continues to contribute excess P to our lakes. If you use fertilizer in shoreland areas be sure it is phosphorus-free – the middle number of the formula must be ZERO!

Footnote on the St Croix Watershed TMDL — to meet the TMDL in Polk County, an additional 15 staff members and \$52 million is required. You can do your part with a few changes in your purchasing habits. Choose phosphorus free cleaning products.

Minutes submitted by Karen Engelbretson, president
Polk County Association of Lakes and Rivers
October 4, 2012