



Meeting Minutes

Meeting date: April 18th, 2012

The first 2012 meeting of the Polk County Association of Lakes and Rivers (PCALR) was held Wednesday, April 18th, 2012 at the Polk County Justice Center in Balsam Lake. Meeting came to order at 7:00 p.m.

Attending:

Cheryl Miller, Lotus Lake; Gordon Kill, Big Round Lake; Jim Maxwell, Big Blake Lake; Ford Elliott, Big Blake Lake; Troy Ethen, Loveless Lake; Phil Foster, Bone Lake; Karen Engelbretson, Bone Lake; Katelin Holm, LWRD; Carl Holmgren, Balsam Lake; Diane Gluth, Paulson Lake; Cass Carty, Paulson Lake

Agenda:

Wisconsin Lakes Convention Items of Interest

Karen attended a 3 hour SWIMS (Surface Water Integrated Monitoring System) instruction. SWIMS is a WDNR database that holds lake chemical, physical, and biological data. Through SWIMS you can access numerous lake reports and also create and access lake maps. SWIMS file managers need to set up the data sheet for individuals to enter their lake data. Also, the database is limited and unable to accommodate wildlife data (ie bird and frog surveys). All data will link to UW-Extension and WDNR application.

Be sure to visit the Wisconsin Lake List to ensure that your lake organization information is correct: <http://www4.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexplakes/lakelist/>

Karen reviewed the handout detailing the convention plenary speakers, which included Darby Nelson and John Mcknight.

The Wisconsin Lakes Trivia game, developed by Brett Shaw and John Haack and designed by Karen, was available at the convention for \$11. The game is selling through the UWEX-

Learning Store for \$23 or can be purchased directly through Karen for \$15. The game has 400 informational questions and is designed to engage families in learning about Wisconsin Lakes. Game categories include: lake history, wildlife, fish, and sports and recreation.

Karen attended an interesting presentation on the effects of Endotholl on fathead minnows. Endotholl is applied primarily for Eurasian water milfoil control. Concentrations of about 2.2 ppm resulted in changes in minnow morphology.

Carl noted that the CBCW data sheet has changed and is more conversational in tone. The new sheet is available on the PCALR website under the news tab.

Carl also attended an interesting presentation on lake draw down (using various methods) which is being used to control Eurasian water milfoil on smaller lakes. The successes of draw downs can vary based on weather. For example if a winter is mild, control is less effective.

Updates

Don't forget to sign up for PCALR news, which is different than the PCALR email listserve. PCALR news is similar to a blog and can be subscribed to. By subscribing, you will get an email when a news article is posted to the website. Examples of news articles include legislative updates and action items.

Reminder: Check out the PCALR library (on the website) to see if you have new APM or LMP documents that can be uploaded. Let Karen or Larry know if you have new documents to add to the library. The library is a great resource and allows folks to see reports for other lakes.

Top Ten Shrub brochures are available for purchase through PCALR for \$1.80/brochure.

PCALR membership forms were passed out. The new year begins on May 1st.

A new County Board has been elected. At the May County Board meeting Supervisors will be appointed to Lake Districts. The job description for County Board Supervisors, developed in partnership by PCALR and LWRD, will be given to Supervisors at the time they are appointed to a District. Supervisors will also be invited to the June 20, 2012 PCALR meeting.

2012 meeting schedule

June 20, 2012: Invite LWRD and County Board for a discussion. AIS were identified as the biggest threat to Polk County Lakes and therefore a topic for meeting discussion. Each lake will be given time for a 5 minute presentation. Confirmed for presentations are: Balsam, Big Round, Blake, Paulsen, and Lotus (possibly). Loveless will have a new president on Memorial Day and will decide on participation at their meeting. LWRD will be invited to give a department wide presentation and Supervisors will be given time to introduce themselves and consider how they might bring their gifts and talents to a particular Lake District. Time will be given for a Q/A

session. Ahead of the meeting supervisors will be asked to submit any questions they might have about Lake Districts.

Roadwork was also brought up as a topic of discussion. Loveless: coordination of roadwork between towns and county was discussed. It was noted that the Town of Balsam Lake doesn't have zoning. Lotus: county taking a lot of water for the lake when doing roadwork.

August 15, 2012: Invite DNR and assembly and senate legislators. It was noted that Shelia Harsdorf voted against the republican status quo on a few controversial issues.

September 19, 2012: Wrap up meeting with roundtable to discuss problems/solutions, successes, programs going on, and plans for the future.

Roundtable

Attendees have noticed that on some lakes curly leaf pondweed has already topped out and that fish are already spawning due to an early ice out.

Big Round Lake: DNR fish study being done through the end of October. A DNR boat will be on the lake all summer. Grant for iLIDS camera is at a halt because when awarding the grant the DNR didn't realize that the site is on State owned land. iLIDS cameras can't be installed on State owned land.

Bone Lake: iLIDS camera is installed. Bone Lake also received a small scale lake planning grant to conduct a frog study. The study will use the same data points as the bird study to allow the data to be correlated based on habitat. Future small scale grant ideas are a winter wildlife tracking study. Bone Lake Fair is on May 19th at the East Baptist Church. Speakers will start around 10 and will include a presentation by the UW-Minnesota Raptor Center. Dragonfly Gardens will also have native plants available for sale.

Balsam: District acquired 34 acre Stumps Bay parcel which is located adjacent to another District owned property. Signage will mark the property from the lake and trails are available. The District is moving ahead with the new bridge on Cty Road I allowing access to the Mill Pond. The entire Mill Pond is no-wake. Bids will be out January/February 2013. Bridge will look similar to the bridge at Kennedy Mill and the bridge in Amery.

Big Blake: Problems with boaters obeying no-wake zones. No wake is 200 feet from shore for personal watercraft and 100 feet for boats. Discussed putting out buoys.

Loveless: Discussed putting buoys out to limit boat traffic.

Paulson: Noted that water levels were down. Still trying to get their boat landing fixed. Alden Township has not acted on fixing the landing and members suggested contacting their County Board Supervisor for assistance. The need for a DNR permit to fix the landing was also discussed.

Question was asked regarding if there are colleges in Polk County who might have students available to do a study of economic development as it relates to lakes.

Question was asked regarding cost-share availability through the county for shoreline buffers. Budget for this has been reduced.

Polk County Land and Water Resources Department received their 2012 AIS grant. The grant will include funding for the CBCW Story Hour, CBCW trainings, AIS monitoring of randomly generated lakes as part of a state-wide DNR study, design of lake maps, and billboard space. The grant will also fund reconnoitering of lakes near those with known Eurasian water milfoil populations and zebra mussels populations. Zebra mussels were confirmed in 2010 in Bass Lake (St. Croix County) but have not yet been found in Polk County. However, the Horse Creek Watershed in Polk County will be monitored for zebra mussels.