



Meeting Minutes

October 20, 2010

The sixth and last 2010 meeting of Polk County Association of Lakes and Rivers (PCALR) was held Wednesday, October 20, 2010 at Polk County Justice Center in Balsam Lake. Meeting came to order at 7:00 pm.

Lake districts and their appointed county board supervisor were invited to attend. Letters were sent to the home addresses of each county board supervisor appointed to a lake district; follow up phone calls were made to lake district commissioners and county board supervisors. In addition, special invitations were sent to District 28 Rep. Ann Hraychuck, Sen. Sheila Harsdorf, and county administrator Dana Frey, and Assembly candidate, Eric Severson.

Attending:

Rep. Ann Hraychuck

County board supervisors:

Pat Schmidt, District 4

Herschel Brown, District 5, appointed to Big Round, Blake, and Pipe Lakes

William Johnson, District 2, County Board Chair

Neil Johnson, appointed to Cedar Lake

Dean Johansen, District 3, appointed to Big Butternut

Also attending:

Dick Hollar, Larry Bresina, Pipe Lakes; Peter Frohnert, Loveless; Phil Foster, Bob Boyd, Bone Lake; Cheryl Miller, Nancy Knutson, Lotus Lake; Tom Borden, Sam Rivers Weber, Ford Elliot, Big Blake Lake; Howard Seim, Karen Aubin, Caroline Rediske, Steve Rediske, Milt Stanze, Carl Holmgren, Balsam Lake; Dan Bergeron, Big Round Lake; Marty Messar, Ken Peterson, Ron Peterson, Butternut Lake; Eric Severson, Assembly 28th District candidate.

Karen Engelbretson, PCALR president, introduced PCALR as a forum for sharing ideas and expertise among advocates for lake protection. The organization works with Polk County Land and Water Resources Dept. (LWRD) on education projects. In addition the organization produces its own materials, such as the AIS prevention bait sticker. Members include lake district commissioners and individuals. PCALR is one of 25 county-wide groups in Wisconsin supported by Wisconsin Assoc. of Lakes, DNR and UW Extension.

Presentations

Lake districts were invited to present a 3-5 minute narrative on the management and protection efforts underway on their lake, to inform county board supervisors and state government about issues throughout the county.

Nancy Knutson, Lotus Lake

Lotus Lake's biggest issue is purple loosestrife, an invasive wetland plant.

Sam Rivers Weber, Big Blake Lake

Big Blake has been running a harvester for four years to reduce their population of Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP). The harvesting operation has reduced the amount of the plant in the lake (documented). Operating costs have been funded by DNR grants; grants may not be available for 2011.

Phil Foster, Bone Lake

Bone Lake is implementing their recently DNR approved lake management plan (LMP). Efforts include site visits to help property owners learn how they can reduce runoff to the lake. The district is offering five \$1000 incentives to replace failing septic systems. The lake has 85 acres of Curly Leaf Pondweed that is being treated according to an Aquatic Plant Management plan, part of the LMP. They have stocked smallmouth bass this year.

Bob Boyd, Bone Lake

Bob is working with the tribes and DNR to have the Musky winter harvest included in the total safe harvest numbers for the lake.

Peter Frohnert, Loveless Lake

Loveless is a small lake, 80% non-Wisconsinites.

Dick Hollar, Pipe Lake

Pipe is a "premier quality lake." Has no invasive species, has secchi readings of 25 feet or more.

Howard Seim, Balsam Lake

Curly Leaf Pondweed is being treated on Balsam.

Marty Messar, Big Butternut

The 385-acre lake is urban, totally within the Village of Luck. Biggest issue is phosphorus. Storm runoff is considered to be the primary source of P to the lake. They have a 75,000 70% grant to work on water quality. CLP is present, and unfortunately is located in mostly fragile sensitive areas.

Gordon Kill, Big Round

Gordon showed all the projects Big Round has undertaken, including their management plan, paleolimnology (core sample) study, their map project with AIS prevention messaging.

Monica Bringman, Long Lake

283-acre Long Lake is being treated for CLP. In 2010 algae studies were completed. They have a high phosphorus count. Blue green algae was present on the lake during 2010 and there was a documented dog death due to the toxins released by the algae. Another animal was sickened and suffered seizures.

Jeremy Williamson, Polk County LWRD

Jeremy is LWRD's only water quality specialist, and only biologist. Every lake that presented, mentioned working with Jeremy to help with their studies and planning. Jeremy is currently working on four different management plans in the county. In addition to the dog death on Long Lake, another occurred on Wapogasset during 2010. Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) is present in Little Trade Lake and Big Trade Lake near the Burnett county border. EWM was identified and treated in Pike Lake in Amery during

2010, at a cost of \$28,500 to the district; the fee included a point intercept survey necessary prior to any plant management efforts. Estimated cost to treat EWM each season is \$2000 per acre. Long Trade is considering a drawdown this winter to freeze the substrate and kill the EWM present.

Eurasian Water Milfoil is the county's biggest threat and potentially its biggest problem. The plant is difficult to treat. We have become good at killing plants, but DWM requires stronger chemicals, such as 2-4D which can be toxic to other plants, animals, and humans.

Agriculture and nutrients are not as much of a problem now as in previous years. We must protect native plant communities. Plants equal clean water. Without plants we get algae, and toxins.

District 28 State Representative Ann Hraychuck

Rep. Hraychuck confesses she learns much from her husband, who works as a fishing guide, about water quality, management and tourism. Last session's state budget underwent the biggest cuts in the history of Wisconsin, the biggest cuts in the Midwest. There was a 6% cut to all state agencies except technical colleges. It is up to the agencies to apply the cuts. Rep. Hraychuck appreciates hearing from constituents prior to a vote rather than after, and invites all to write or call to voice opinion. She is preparing for next session: what kinds of legislation do we need, how to assist us. She will prioritize water quality management with the natural resources committee.

Last session two bi-partisan water quality bills were passed and signed, banning phosphorus in fertilizer and home cleaning products. The new law to enforce and pull over boats and trailers with plants attached as received much public support.

Questions

Attendees were invited to ask questions of our state and county representatives.

Carl Holmgren, Balsam Lake

What is the future of DNR lakes? DNR should support the great protection efforts by volunteers and LWRD.

Ann Hraychuck responds: We are doing a good job on AIS prevention. In the legislature, the natural resources committee splits its time between water quality and "hooks & bullets." The phosphorus ban is a good thing. Priorities won't shift.

Marty Messar, Big Butternut

Is there a way that rural communities can utilize the efforts of universities to support county government efforts for water quality?

Jeremy Williamson responds: Lake management is difficult in Polk County as the county spans a glacial tension zone with a variety of conditions. We need university support, and funding of applied research. We need graduate students to do their work throughout the state — not just in Madison on Lake Mendota.

Herschel Brown

What is the status of DNR funding before, now, and in the future?

Ford Elliot, Big Blake

DNR is not planning to support harvesting with grants in the future. The lake's CLP plan is working, but how will they pay for it without DNR funding?

Ann Hraychuck responds: Send the names of grants, \$ amounts, the span of years and her office will track them. Karen Engelbretson offered to collect the information and forward it to Ann's office.

Bob Boyd, Bone Lake

Boyd points out that Bone Lake's county board supervisor, Brian Masters is not in attendance. What do appointed supervisors do for us? What do supervisors think of the lake districts?

County board chair William Johnson responds: Supervisors appointed to lake districts have a responsibility to attend meetings; they should be advocates for their assigned lake districts and act as liaison between the county board and the lake district. Perhaps a job description is needed to be sure that lake districts are represented to the county board.

Ken Peterson, Butternut

Are lakes and rivers more important than the county gravel pit?

Herschel Brown responds: Yes. Without lakes and rivers we are in trouble.

Dick Hollar, Pipe Lake

What does the appointed supervisor do?

Herschel Brown responds: The appointed supervisor attends the district's meeting. Herschel attends all his district's annual meetings and makes presentations. Dick Hollar interjects that they put their county supervisor to work and give him responsibilities.

Pat Schmidt comments: everyone here is a wonderful volunteer. It's how the county gets its work done. Ms. Schmidt was born and raised in Polk County. She supports LWRD; used to work at LWRD.

Carl Holmgren, Balsam Lake, reminds us that an county board representative appointed to a lake district does not need to be a county board supervisor. Carl is the county board rep appointed to Balsam Lake and he is not a supervisor.

Nancy Knutson, Lotus Lake

How do we conduct these management/protection efforts with such limited budgets?

The group answers, interns. Perhaps the lake districts together can fund interns that can work at LWRD.

Dean Johanssen suggests we call our county administrator, Dana Frey, to state these three suggestions:

1. Fund interns to LWRD to work on lake management issues
2. Restore the I&E position at LWRD
3. Fund the I&E position at LWRD

Ken Peterson, Big Butternut

Volunteers are they key to work and progress for the lakes. Retired people have many underutilized skills. How do we harness them and put people to work on behalf of their lakes? Does our litigious society prevent involvement?

Howard Seim suggests we invite Dana Frey to our meeting and make sure he's supportive of lakes.

Drawing

A drawing was conducted for a cool, flat pumpkin donated by Karen Engelbretson. Sam Rivers Weber was the lucky winner.

Website

Attendees were reminded to visit the new PCALR website at www.pcalr.org. Karen acknowledged Larry Bresina for his dedication in developing the site and his many hours of work to take it live.

Karen Engelbretson expressed her thanks for those who attended and prepared their presentations.

Meeting adjourned at 9pm

Next meeting, March 16, 2011

Minutes submitted by
Karen Engelbretson, President
Polk County Ass'n of Lakes and Rivers
October 28, 2010

PCALR 2010 MEMBERSHIP"

Lakes:

Amery Lakes, Big Round, Butternut, Bone, Balsam, Big Butternut, Wapogasset, Pipe and North Pipe, Loveless, Lotus, Largon

Individuals:

Wayne Wolsey, Dan Bergeron

Businesses:

Polk County Sportsmans Club
Lake Services Unlimited

Thank you for supporting PCALR. Renewals are due in May 2011.