



## **Meeting Minutes**

April 20, 2011

The first 2011 meeting of Polk County Association of Lakes and Rivers (PCALR) was held Wednesday, April 20, 2011 at Polk County Justice Center in Balsam Lake. Meeting came to order at 7:00 pm.

### **Attending:**

Gordon Kill, Big Round; Ray Schmidt, Wild Goose; Sam Rivers Weber, Big Blake; Peter Frohnert, Loveless; Dan Leh, Half Moon; Kathryn Kienholz, Antler; Dan Bergeron, Big Round; Dave and Vi Nelson, Wapogasset; Carl Holmgren, Balsam; Eric Lindberg, Matthews; Tim Ritten, Polk County LWRD, Twin Lake; Gary Ovik, Church, Pine, Round, Big Lake.

### **Agenda:**

Stop Aquatic Hitchhiker Bobbers

Lakes Convention

County board appointees job description

Phosphorus Rules Rollback

**Bobbers** were distributed to those lake districts that purchased them. Wapogasset purchased 1000. PCALR purchased a supply of 500 and sold some to Big Blake Lake, Balsam Lake, and Wild Goose Lake. About 225 bobbers are left for sale at \$.23 each. Great giveaways for summer events. Contact [president@pcalr.org](mailto:president@pcalr.org) to reserve yours. Pay and pickup at the May 18 PCALR meeting.

**Phosphorus Rules Rollback.** The Wisconsin Joint Finance Committee (JFC) will soon vote on the proposed delay in implementing the phosphorus standards set by the National Resources Board in June, 2010 and adopted into law in December 2010 and January 2011, approved by the EPA and incorporated into federal law. [For background information visit [pcalr.org](http://pcalr.org).] The delay in implementing the rules is part of the Governor's Budget Bill. PCALR members attending agreed to send a message to JFC members encouraging them to remove the phosphorus rules rollback from the budget, and continue to plan to implement the rules as passed. The proposed letter should include messages that our lake property taxes make up 51% of the county's operating budget and these resources are based on clean water, visitors and tourists. If the lakes are not clear and clean, revenues will go into reverse. We have a duty to invest in Wisconsin's clean, clear lakes. Gov Walker views all state initiatives through a "jobs and business prism". Those present agreed that lakeshore property owners, visitors and tourists who come here for the lakes won't return if they find them polluted. Jobs and small businesses will go away with them. Costs to implement the rules may be high for counties and municipalities as they address wastewater treatment and agriculture runoff rules. The Rules have measures with options for financially-strapped municipalities. Members agreed to send a letter to JFC committee members in support of the Phosphorus Rules as written into law.

**2011 Wisconsin Lakes Convention.** Carl Holmgren, Dan Leh and Karen Engelbretson attended. Dan Leh went for the all day commissioner's training and found it valuable. Carl Holmgren presents Balsam's CBCW efforts at the convention. Karen Engelbretson went specifically to attend the arts and science workshop and found it disappointing. Karen assisted Larry Bresina, Pipe Lake, in a Q&A session after his presentation "Steps to Building a Web Site." Some members didn't attend this year because they found the content of the convention to be "light".

**County Board appointees job description.** Following up on last October's roundtable where the question was asked about the responsibilities of appointees to lake district boards by Tim Ritten, LWRD. William Johnson, County Board Chair responded: "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." Tim Ritten will take this suggestion as he appoints and defines the role of supervisor appointed to a lake district. Currently the job description recommends the appointee be active on the district's board, attend meetings, report on county issues to the district board.

Further discussion: Polk County has 15 lake districts and 23 county supervisors. Tim Ritten tries to match supervisors with lakes in their district, or with the supervisor from the past. Supervisors appointed to districts should run interference on county issues, permits. They should be advocates for LWRD, the department lake districts rely on. Carl Holmgren reminds us that an appointee liaison from the county board to a lake district does not need to be a county board supervisor. He is not a supervisor and serves as Balsam Lake's liaison to the county board.

Members of the Board of Adjustments do not include anyone who lives on a lake and they are making decisions about lakes properties. Board of Adjustment members are appointed by the county board chair.

Karen Engelbretson stated that at the Lakes Convention, in the county-wide groups session, Washburn County's county-wide lakes group stated they have become influential on lakes issues with their county board. A representative from the county-wide group attends board meetings in an advisory position. Tim Ritten will contact Washburn county for more information about this relationship and schedule a meeting with William Johnson, County Board chair, Dana Frey, county administrator, Karen Engelbretson, PCALR president, and himself.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm

**Next meeting, May 18, 2011**

Minutes submitted by  
Karen Engelbretson, President  
Polk County Ass'n of Lakes and Rivers  
April 25, 2011





