



## **Meeting Minutes**

May 19, 2010

The second 2010 meeting of Polk County Association of Lakes and Rivers (PCALR) was held Wednesday, May 19 at Polk County Justice Center in Balsam Lake. Meeting came to order at 7:05 pm.

Attending: Dave and Vi Nelson, Wapogasset/Bear Trap; Peter Frohnert, Loveless; Phil Foster, Bone Lake; Dan Bergeron, Big Round; Ken Peterson, Butternut; Carl Holmgren, Balsam; Larry Bresina, North Pipe; Tim Ritten, LWRD/Amery Lakes; Karen Engelbretson, Bone Lake.

## **Membership**

PCALR has received memberships from Amery Lakes, Big Round, Dan Bergeron, Jonesy's Market/Lake Services, Polk County Sportsmen Club. Membership dues are due now. Payment forms and brochures were made available. Because LWRD's Admin, Rebecca Fredrickson has been ill, dues will be sent directly to PCALR treasurer, Dan Bergeron's address, 2276 71st Street, Luck, WI 54853.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Current balance is \$891.74

## **County Board of Supervisors Lake Representatives**

Tim Ritten, Polk County Land and Water Resources Department (LWRD) will be sending a letter to each County Board Supervisor appointed as a representative to a Polk County Lake. The letter sent to representatives in 2008 was reviewed and suggestions for messaging and wording were offered for the new, 2010 letter, including:

- Promote PCALR and the value in attending PCALR meetings
- Importance of water resources in Polk County, and the health of those waters
- Economic impact of healthy vs. degraded water resources
- Non-voting taxpayers support community businesses and pay over 50% of total lakeshore property tax, while requiring few government services; these taxpayers are represented by their lake organization and their county appointee.
- Taxes on lakeshore properties make up 52% of the total county budget.

It was recommended that the letter outline lake groups' expectations of the representative, including:

- Attend meetings
- Learn lake issues
- Advocate for lakes at county board meetings
- Bring county issues and information to the lake organization

Tim Ritten will draft and send the letter. Copies will be available at next meeting.

## **Responses to questions posed in May meeting announcement, minutes, alert & question**

How can PCALR attract more members? What does PCALR offer members? Why aren't more lake district commissioners in attendance? LWRD is working with 5 or 6 lake districts none of whom are PCALR members. How do we get those memberships?

Feedback and suggestions:

- 1) know about opportunities to improve zoning ordinances, 2) know about regulatory changes and obligations we must address, 3) know what other lake districts or associations are offering that we may want to imitate or build on - or their issues that we share so we can join forces.
- A representative from PCLAR should contact each lake Chair and request their participation by stressing the importance of working together.
- Include a membership form as attachment in every email message rotate through their officers to represent their district at PCALR meetings.
- Versus having each lake give an update at the beginning ( which is helpful sometimes ) suggest lakes indicate to a question (s) that they would like other lakes feedback on. Lakes would share info on a particular topic. If you don't receive any questions, you would establish the questions/topic and distribute as part of the agenda. Should keep this sharing to 30 minutes. Then cover a couple of other topics and keep the meeting to 90 minutes. Have someone else volunteer to do the minutes to allow Karen to better facilitate the meeting.
- A phone conference system could be used to include members unable to attend the meeting due to distance. Phone conference could be available for 30 minutes of meeting and facilitator would be required to keep meeting on task. A recording secretary would be required for this segment in addition to the facilitator. Two or more members had suggestions for systems and setup.
- The business community can support PCALR and its efforts to protect and manage county lakes with their membership. Carl Holmgren volunteered to get information on county businesses from the Assessor's office. PCALR has received memberships from the Sportsmen's Club and Jonesy's Market.
- Tim Ritten will send Karen a list of the 15 Lake Districts, commissioners and contact information
- Focus on providing networking, resources, information & education to lake organization officers more than the general public
- Replace the "Roundtable" with a questions or help forum, directly addressing issues and needs from attendees.

## **Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), Polk County Land Use Ordinances**

Karen Engelbretson, PCALR president, attended the April 28 CAC meeting, conducted by Tim Anderson, Polk County Planner, Land Information Dept. The goal of the project is to develop an entirely new set of land use regulations for Polk County in one codified document according to the recently completed state-mandated Comprehensive Plan. The meeting was spent reviewing definitions from the various Polk County ordinances that will be combined into one document. Mr. Anderson recommended going through the definitions alphabetically. After three hours, we reached the letter "G".

Polk County ordinances included in this process are:

- Comprehensive Land Use Ordinance
- Shoreland Zoning Ordinance
- Small Wind Energy Ordinance
- Floodplain Ordinance
- Subdivision Ordinance
- Telecommunications Tower Ordinance
- Lower St Croix Riverway Ordinance
- Sanitary Ordinance

The committee is made up of one representative for each Polk County town, one for county rivers, one for county lakes, and one representing county developers. Karen, as president of PCALR, represents Polk County lakes. If she is unable to attend, an alternate

will be selected from those members willing and available to attend, including Peter Frohnert, Loveless, Gordon Kill, Big Round, Melinda Mahoney, White Ash. Communications from the committee meetings will be communicated to PCALR members in email correspondence and at regular PCALR meetings.

### **Invasive species, lake protection**

Discussion about PCALR's AIS prevention messages for 2010. Last year we produced the bait container stickers, funded by PCALR, LWRD and area lakes and distributed to all county bait sellers. Dan Bergeron will poll bait stores on how many were used, how many are left, and poll available anglers for feedback on the stickers, noting any behavior changes. Dave Nelson reports the stickers were not put on plastic bags or minnow buckets; but were put on worm containers. Please send any other feedback on the bait stickers to karen@kje.com

Previous suggestion for 2010 was a small, accordian fold brochure including ID photos and info about invasive threats to Polk County lakes. Development in 2010 of new AIS messaging was not supported by the group.

Native plants discussion: how to get lakeshore property owners interested in using native plants for water quality and habitat restoration. Jeremy Williamson got one side of Church Pine lake to install buffers by influencing property owners one at a time and using peer pressure. Ken Peterson, Butternut noted that the single most important thing to do is change the people. Issues on Butternut include runoff from lawn, fertilizers, and runoff from road. Changing the mindset about lakeshore landscaping first, then change the behavior. First step, stop mowing the lawn at the water's edge and let it grow naturally.

### **PCALR Website**

Larry Bresina has offered to set up and maintain for one year a PCALR website. Proposed content and costs were outlined in a handout and circulated for a second time. Karen outlined how a PCALR website could provide information and contacts that county government cannot, and county policies surrounding lake protection. Website can improve communications and provide information, links and downloads. A motion was made to move forward on the website as proposed, and seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Larry and Karen will begin outlining the site content and design.

Meeting adjourned at 9pm

Minutes submitted by

Karen Engelbretson, President

Polk County Ass'n of Lakes and Rivers

June 13, 2010