



Meeting Minutes

June 16, 2010

The third 2010 meeting of Polk County Association of Lakes and Rivers (PCALR) was held Wednesday, June 16 at Polk County Justice Center in Balsam Lake. Meeting came to order at 7:00 pm.

Attending: Sarah Sawyer, Half Moon; Karen Aubin, Balsam; Dan Bergeron, Big Round; Gordon Kill, Big Round; Bob Boyd, Bone; Peter Frohnert, Loveless; Dave Nelson, Wapogasset; Phil Foster, Bone; Ken Peterson, Butternut; Dick Hollar, Pipe; Tim Ritten, Polk County LWRD; Carl Holmgren, Balsam; Nancy MacKenzie, Lotus Lake; Karen Engelbretson, Bone.

Membership

PCALR has received membership dues for 2010-11 from Amery Lakes, Big Round, and Bone Lake, Dan Bergeron, Jonesy's Market/Lake Services, Polk County Sportsmen Club. Memberships were due in May. Payment forms and brochures were made available at the meeting with the payment address updated to PCALR treasurer, Dan Bergeron's address, 2276 71st Street, Luck, WI 54853.

Treasurer's Report

Current balance is \$966.74

Pike Lake EWM update

The Eurasian Water Milfoil in Pike Lake (near Amery) was sprayed on June 16th. It took a month from discovery to spraying for DNR permits, permissions and funding for control. This is considered rapid response. Jeremy Williamson, LWRD has reported that the area is now a pretty big, thick stand of plants. What isn't killed by the spraying will be pulled by divers in the fall.

Old Business

Tim Ritten, Director, Polk County Land and Water Resources Department (LWRD) shared the letter his department composed and distributed to the Polk County Supervisors assigned to the county's 15 lake districts. Suggestions made at the May PCALR meeting were incorporated. It's a good letter! Copies were distributed, along with a list of appointees to the 15 county lake districts. If you have any updates to that list, please send them to Mr. Ritten.

Discussion about the county board:

Nancy McKenzie, Lotus Lake, intends to send a letter to Polk County's recently appointed and first county administrator, Mr. Dana Frey. The purpose of Nancy's letter is to inform Mr. Frey of how loss of staffing at LWRD has negatively affected the protection efforts on Lotus Lake. Tim Ritten reminded Nancy that the county administrator's function is to implement the decisions and direction of the County Board of Commissioners. It was suggested that PCALR members invite Mr. Frey to a meeting. Karen will draft an invitation.

Discussion topic

In this new meeting format, a question or issue can be raised from attendees for discussion.

Ken Peterson, Butternut, asked about Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW) monitoring and what kind of programs area lakes have developed. Carl Holmgren showed the new CBCW data collection form produced by the statewide program. Carl had considerable input to the new Watercraft Inspection form that is easier to use. It includes the "previous lake" information that was deleted from last year's form. Download the new form, get the training workshop schedule, and Data Entry Quick Links at the CBCW website: <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexlakes/CBCW>.

To help Ken Peterson get a program started on Butternut, he has asked that each lake with a CBCW program send a short, written synopsis of their high points. Send the info to karen@kje.com.

CBCW Comments:

Balsam has four landings, each staffed 20-25 hours per week with Unity High School students. Students are paid \$12/hour. Half of their hours are community service (unpaid) so wage is \$6/hour net. Annual budget is \$20,000. They have a grant for two more years at 75/25. High School graduates serve as team leaders. Teens sometimes don't do as good a job as adults. Satellite toilets and picnic tables have been installed at landings.

Dan Bergeron believes that CBCW is not effective in preventing the introduction of aquatic invasive species as \$20 K of tax dollars covers only 12% time landings are open.

Half Moon has installed a landing camera. Volunteers are monitoring the film. They have hired CBCW inspectors full time for weekends.

In response to the effectiveness of cameras, Dave Nelson, Wapogasset, stated that AIS may be unseen on inboards and jetskis. However, he advocates AIS prevention methods at the landings because if an invasive species takes hold in the lake, the first thing asked will be "what have you been doing to prevent this?"

It was requested that information about CBCW training sessions and lake monitoring and that this be put into the minutes. See the top of this page.

Attendees requested contact information for Matt Berg and Steve Schieffer's contact information. Karen will send.

Bait stickers

Dan Bergeron has visited the bait stores who received our AIS/VHS prevention stickers. Two thirds of the stores are using them 90% of the time. Unfortunately, some of the county's biggest bait dealers are not using the stickers: JONSEY'S, LUCKY BAIT, ST CROIX OUTFITTERS, GREAT NORTHERN OUTDOORS. Those in attendance volunteered to stop in to talk with the store owners they know and encourage them to use the stickers.

How to find out if boaters/anglers have seen the sticker? Gordon Kill suggested CBCW monitors keep a copy of the sticker on their clipboard and ask boaters if they've seen it.

Barriers to use may be: employees don't know about them, apathy. Comments included: reward those who are using the stickers.; Healthy lakes keep the bait dealers in business, help them make a living; Lakes degrade without our protection.

The group agreed that a letter stating "you are doing something important" should be sent to the dealers who are using the stickers, and the area newspapers: Ledger and Leader. Karen asked for a volunteer to draft the letter and received no response, so Karen will draft the letter.

Education event: Phil Foster, Ken Peterson and Tim Ritten will attend the Northwest Lakes Conference in Drummond, WI on Friday, June 18. They will report on their experience at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm

Minutes submitted by

Karen Engelbretson, President

Polk County Ass'n of Lakes and Rivers

June 21, 2010