



## **Meeting Minutes**

Meeting date: April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2013

The first 2013 meeting of the Polk County Association of Lakes and Rivers (PCALR) was held Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at the Polk County Justice Center in Balsam Lake. Meeting came to order at 7:00 p.m.

### **Attending:**

Jim Maxwell, Big Blake Lake; Phil Foster, Bone Lake; Dan Bergeron, Big Round Lake; Ford Elliott, Big Blake Lake; Carl Holmgren, Balsam Lake; Jeremy Williamson, LWRD; Larry Bresina, N Pipe Lake; Karen Engelbretson, Bone Lake; Katelin Holm, LWRD;

### **Treasurers report**

Balance at the end of 2012 was \$1037.21. At the time of the meeting no checks had been written or deposited in 2013.

### **Review of Wisconsin Lakes Convention**

Noted a greater number of vendor displays related to GIS mapping

Karen attended a presentation regarding using a watershed approach to restore health to the land. The presentation stressed that community activity and getting people involved is more important than regulations in creating solutions.

Jeremy Williamson's presentation on shallow lakes was very well attended with standing room only.

Katelin and Jeremy attended a presentation on algae toxins. State wide maps show a great presence of algae toxins in Polk County.

Carl received numerous questions during the conference regarding the CBCW program on Balsam Lake. He has provided numerous groups across the state with information on Balsam Lake's program.

PCALR's document entitled "How to Choose a Contractor" is being used without giving credit to PCALR. Credit should be given in the future.

Karen attended a presentation on APM permitting which talked about the fact that treatment grants are becoming more competitive. The WDNR will also be taking steps to ensure that the treatments are more effective (ie. Bone Lake's permit only allows for application if winds are forecasted to be under 15 mph).

Pamela Toshner and Jane Malischke received special recognition for innovative service for their work in streamlining the CBCW process. The grant application process is much easier and can be completed entirely online with awards of up to \$4,000 per landing. Additionally, the entry of volunteer hours into SWIMS is done in place of end of year grant reporting of volunteer hours.

Karen brought new invasive species information on worms. Christal Campbell ([christal.campbell@wisconsin.gov](mailto:christal.campbell@wisconsin.gov)) can be contacted for educational supplies (wildcards, postcards, stickers). Additionally, the LWRD office has a large supply of free educational supplies. LWRD also provided new copies of the "Impervious Surfaces" publication. They also have a large supply of this publication.

Larry attended a presentation on the Public Trust Doctrine which discussed how the ordinary high water mark is not set in stone and the potential impacts climate change may pose on this standard in the future. Also, navigable waters are defined as those which can float a canoe. The presentation highlighted that the constitution is fairly vague in regards to these issues.

One of the keynotes discussed how quagga mussels are outcompeting zebra mussels in Lake Michigan and Lake Erie. These mussels are effective filter feeders which have caused much greater water clarity. However, impacts on fisheries are not likely to be positive. Quagga mussels are also partly responsible for the recent outbreak of avian botulism which resulted in ~1,500 loons being killed in the Great Lakes in 2012.

### **PCALR organization structure**

The group discussed steps to become a qualified lake organization, which is a necessary step for PCALR to be able to apply for WDNR grants. Voted and approved moving forward with this process (i.e. filling for incorporation, writing bylaws, retaining current membership fees). Need to have 25 members each year to be a qualified lake organization. Also, voted and approved pursuing 501c(3) status and a federal tax ID number.

### **County Board**

Supervisors will be meeting on April 23<sup>rd</sup> for a Meeting of the Whole where they will rank county programs. LWRD has 2 of the 37 county programs, which relate to lakes. Programs need to rank high to stay safe from budget cuts.

One LWRD program is called “Runoff, soil and water management” which involves LWRD efforts to keep phosphorus out of the rivers and lakes through agricultural issues such as cropland erosion control, manure runoff management, nutrient management, etc., and urban issues such as construction site erosion control and stormwater runoff management. The other LWRD program is called “Lake protection” which involves LWRD’s in-lake, shoreland, and watershed management planning activities, shoreland zoning technical assistance, and all the AIS prevention and control efforts.

Karen will draft a letter and talking points for Districts to use when contacting their appointed County Board Supervisor. Carl will represent PCALR at the County Board meeting.

The next County Board meeting is April 30<sup>th</sup>.

### **LWRD funding**

Discussed current state resolution to cut 1.3 million from County Land and Water Departments, which amounts to ~\$20,000 per county. Karen will draft a letter and talking points for Districts to use when contacting their State Legislators

### **PCALR workshop**

PCALR and LWRD will be hosting three workshops in 2013 at the Polk County Justice Center. So far 27 participants have registered.

Session dates & times: Sat., May 4, 9-11:30 a.m.; Tues. May 14, 6:30-9 p.m.; and Tues. June 4, 6:30-9 p.m.

Cost:

\$25 full workshop, or \$10 individual session

More information and online registration at [www.pcalr.org](http://www.pcalr.org)

### **Additional items**

Dan provided information on a program to improve safety on roads near Tribal lands.

Karen was emailed by Our Lake Gifts which provides apparel and gifts exclusive to lakes. <http://www.ourlakegifts.com/>

### **2013 meeting schedule: Wednesdays, 7-9**

June 12<sup>th</sup> (note date change): Invite County Board members

August 21: Presentation by John Haack on citizen marketing

September 18<sup>th</sup>: Wrap up and strategy