



Meeting Minutes

Meeting date: Wednesday, April 30th, 2014 (rescheduled from Wednesday, April 16th, 2014)

The first 2014 meeting of the Polk County Association of Lakes and Rivers (PCALR) was held Wednesday, April 30th, 2014 at the Polk County Justice Center in Balsam Lake.

Attending

Gordon Kill, Big Round Lake; Katelin Holm, Polk County LWRD; Pat Schmidt, County Board Supervisor and Bone Lake Representative; Marvin Caspersen, County Board Supervisor and Big Blake Lake Representative; Curtis Schmidt, Zoning Board of Adjustments; Larry Bresina, Pipe Lakes; Phil Foster, Bone Lake; Tom Borden, Big Blake Lake; Larry Jepsen, County Board Supervisor and Long Lake Representative, William Johnson, County Board Chair, Jim Maxwell, Big Blake Lake; Carl Holmgren, Balsam Lake; Karen Engelbretson, Bone Lake; Dan Bergeron, Big Round Lake; Jeremy Williamson, Polk County LWRD; Trish Carlson, Lotus Lake

Welcome and Introductions

Treasurer's Report

Current balance is \$1,787.52. Recent revenues include \$80 in membership dues and expenses include \$400 for coasters for the Governors Fishing Opener.

Membership

The 2014 membership year begins on May 1st. Annual dues are \$25 for organizations and businesses and \$10 for individuals. Thank you to everyone who has already renewed their membership or joined PCALR for the first time! PCALR currently has 6 members that have already renewed for 2014. Twenty-five members are needed to earn the status of a qualified lake association and the ability to apply for Wisconsin DNR grants.

Governors Fishing Opener

One hundred fifty sets of four coasters were delivered to the Polk County Information Center for the Governors Fishing Opener, which will take place on Balsam Lake on Saturday, May 3rd. The cost was \$400, which was approved at the September 2013 meeting. Permission from UWEX-Lakes was granted to use the images from the plant field guide "Through the Looking Glass" for the coaster design. Each coaster features a different aquatic plant that is beneficial to fish.

Positive feedback on the coasters was received from members, UWEX, and other county conservation offices (Burnett and Sawyer). PCALR was thanked by the Tourism Center for the coasters. Extra coasters were passed out to members at the meeting and sets were given to William to share with each County Board Supervisor.

Impaired Waters Discussion: August Meeting

Alex Smith will be joining us for the August 20th PCALR meeting to discuss the Impaired Waters designations. County Board Supervisors have been invited to this important meeting. This presentation has been rescheduled from the June date to accommodate speaker schedules.

June 18th and October 15th Meeting Agenda Ideas

---Presentation on birds

---Conservation of Polk County (would have to be October meeting): invite conservation related organizations to provide a brief 10-15 minute presentation on their organization and follow up discussion on ideas of how our organizations can work together. Ideas include: Sportsman's Clubs, Friends Groups, West Wisconsin Land Trust, St. Croix River Association, Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, St. Croix Tribal Environmental Services Department

---Share how various herbicide treatments/harvesting programs are progressing across the County. Share successes, challenges, etc.

---Top/bottom coring projects—speakers include Jeremy Williamson and/or Mark Edlund

Big Blake Lake Dam Discussion

A large amount of shoreline was washed away at the Big Blake Lake dam due to high water levels. The dam is privately owned and is not in compliance. WDNR visited the site and said no repair/maintenance can be done at this time. Opportunity to possibly replace the dam but there are issues to be resolved with ownership and liability. Potential for lake level to drop 2-3 feet. Open book is the 3rd Saturday of the month for Georgetown.

Website Updates Discussion

Discussed the usefulness of a content commons for lake groups to use for their newsletters and the possibility of developing a Facebook page. For the time, PCALR will continue to post important information on the website through PCALR news. A large thank you was extended to Larry Bresina for managing the PCALR website. If you have any comments for changes and/or improvements, contact Karen.

WDNR Drain Campaign

The Drain Campaign is a WDNR statewide initiative to make sure anglers know about Wisconsin's AIS draining laws—what they are, why they're important, and some easy ways to comply. Lakes that participate will be given ice packs, flyers, and posters. The ice packs and flyers are to hand out to anglers on June 14-15 at the boat landing and the posters are laminated and intended to be hung up at bait dealers, ice vendors, landings, and other places where anglers are likely to be contacted. A few flyers were brought to the PCALR meeting and handed out.

Flyers, along with additional WDNR publications, can be ordered free of charge. A complete list of publications and ordering information can be found at:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/invasives/AISPubList.pdf>

WDNR Clean Boats, Clean Waters

The Clean Boats, Clean Waters 2014 data collection form has undergone a few changes. The new form focuses on education and having a quality conversation with boaters rather than data collection. A prompt sheet was also developed to aid volunteers in having a quality conversation with boaters. The prompt sheet can be customized for specific waterbodies. A CBCW refresher training was held at the Polk County Government Center on April 30th at 9:00 am. Katelin brought three extra packets of information from the April 30th training which were handed out to interested lake groups at the meeting. A CBCW training was also held at Unity School on April 29th. The new CBCW form, prompt sheet, and handbook can be found at:

<http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/UWEXLakes/Pages/programs/cbcw/default.aspx>

Plant Identification

If you have a plant in your lake or river that you are unable to identify and/or looks suspicious, feel free to drop it off at Land and Water for identification.

Wisconsin Lakes Partnership Convention Review

Attendance was up approximately 20%, with over 600 people in attendance.

Especially useful presentations attended by PCALR members included:

---Dr. Tyrone Hayes: From Silent Spring to Silent Night: A Tale of Toads and Men

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OHd2rPrtuE&feature=youtu.be>

--- Harmful algae blooms: if you're up to your knees and can't see your feet—get out of the water

---Keynote panel on long term experiment carried out on Little Rock Lake to study effects of acid rain. The lake was split in half with a barrier, and sulfuric acid was added to one half of the lake. Side with acid added had increased filamentous algae, decreased smallmouth bass, and increased mercury levels (bacteria that use the sulfur in the acid release mercury when breaking down organic matter)

---State Representative Robin Vos

---Diatoms and sediment cores

---Wisconsin grant updates: grant deadlines and programs are changing, process is becoming more streamlined, application will be able to be submitted electronically

---Climate change track: 132 years of data have been collected on Lake Mendota which show that the lake is only frozen 51 days/year as compared to 100 days/year. Wisconsin lakes may warm by 4-9 degrees by 2055. Walleye study discovered a correlation between lake warming and walleye population declines.

---Legislative updates

---Dam session

---Rain gardens

---Larry Bresina held a full day workshop on WordPress. The class size limit of 12 was reached shortly after registration.

---Commissioner Training: highly useful, should be mandatory for lake and river group commissioners to attend, covers a wide range of topics including policies and bylaws

Scholarship to Lakes Convention

Membership voted and approved to offer one \$150 scholarship to cover registration to the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership Convention.

St. Croix River Association Membership

Voted to become a member of the St. Croix River Association at the \$50 level.

County Board Update

Preliminary list of County Board Supervisor Lake District appointments is completed. The list may be amended at the May County Board Meeting.

Board of Adjustments Updates

There are going to be a few open seats on the Board of Adjustments. A press release will be coming out in the following weeks.

Bait Lid AIS Stickers

Stickers for bait lids with an AIS message are still available. If you'd like a roll of stickers to bring to your local bait store contact Katelin. Stickers were available at the meeting.

Lake Maps with AIS Messages

Big Round Lake and Balsam Lake are interested in doing a reprint. Please email Karen if your lake or river is interested in doing a reprint. The more maps that are printed, the lower the cost becomes for everyone.

PCALR Elections

Elections will be held next year.

Adjourn

Minutes respectively submitted by
Katelin Holm, Secretary
Polk County Association of Lakes and Rivers
May 2014