



Meeting Minutes

Meeting date: Wednesday, April 19, 2017

The first 2017 meeting of the Polk County Association of Lakes and Rivers (PCALR) was held Wednesday, April 19, 2017 at 7pm at the Polk County Justice Center in Balsam Lake.

Attending

Paul Nordick, Sand Lake; Jim Peterson, Loveless Lake; William Johnson, Pipe, North Pipe, Largon, and Coon Lakes; Larry Bresina, Pipe and North Pipe Lakes; Paul Duxbury, Balsam Lake; Peggy Lauritsen, Big Blake Lake; Karen Engelbretson, Bone Lake; Katelin Anderson, Polk County Land and Water Resources Department

Welcome and Introductions

Treasurers Report

The current balance as of April 1st was \$2,305.91. Two checks, each for \$100, were made out to Jim Mitchell and Mike Rogge for scholarship awards to attend the Wisconsin Lake Convention. As of April 5th, the current balance was \$2,105.01.

Membership

The 2017 membership year begins on May 1st. Twenty-five members are needed to maintain the status of a Qualified Lake Association and the ability to apply for Wisconsin DNR grants. In 2016 the organization had 27 members. Thank you to everyone who is a member! To renew online, click [here](#) or to download a membership form click [here](#).

Approve October 2016 Minutes

Larry made a motion to approve the minutes and William seconded the motion.

Set Meetings Dates for 2017

Meetings dates will be June 14 (note date change), August 16, and October 18. Elections will take place at the June 14th meeting. At this time four board positions are open. Please let [Karen](#) know if you have additional agenda items.

Who's Who Brochures

Who's Who Brochures (2016 printing) were available at the meeting. Each member organization will receive 50 brochures. Additional brochures can be purchased for a cost of \$10 for 50 brochures.

WI Lakes Convention Review

The [Wisconsin Lakes Convention](#) was held on April 5-7, 2017 in Stevens Point. The 2018 convention will take place on April 18-20 in Stevens Point. Keynote speakers included Wallace Nichols the author of the book [Blue Mind](#) and Andrew Peters who is an author, poet, playwright, and nature photographer. Both presentation focused on the healing benefits of healthy waters.

Karen attended a presentation on the state budget that provided information on a high-cap well bill, aquaculture bill, and mining bill. The presentation also provided information on the DNR issuance of general permits for small scale dredging in lakes.

Larry and Peggy both attended a presentation on engaging your community in water sustainability. Take home points included that to change people's behavior, you need to change their mental model. It takes time to change lakes and everyone needs to work together versus alone. Working together is effective at a scale larger than an individual lake district. Look outside your district and open conversations with community partners.

Peggy attended a number of Healthy Lakes presentations and Karen passed around a companion guide for the grant program.

The Lake District Commissioner Training and Lake District Treasurer training continue to be popular at the Lakes Convention. The general thought of the group is that new commissioners should be required to take this training. Commissioners of Lake Districts are managing a public resource and serving in a public office.

The [presentations](#) from the Lake Convention are archived and available online.

DNR General Permit for Individual Dredging

This proposed general permit would be valid for 5 years and would allow individuals to dredge up to 25 cubic yards for five years. The DNR received 800 written comments during the public input opportunity for the statewide waterway general permit for small scale dredging. The DNR will review the comments and come back with a DNR rule. Currently, dredging requires more oversight from the DNR; however, this oversight would be reduced if the rule change occurs. The lake bed belongs to the people of Wisconsin and concerns were brought up regarding fish spawning and phosphorus suspension.

Bone Lake researched dredging in an artificial lagoon and the resolution to move forward was not passed, mostly as a result of the high cost of the project. Pipe and North Pipe Lake have dredged the channel between the two lakes to allow access and the process required oversight. Balsam Lake has passed a resolution to purchase a dredger if the rule change is made.

Qualified Lake Associations

Lake Associations are eligible to apply for WDNR grants if they become a qualified lake association. This is the process PCALR went through recently. The [application](#) is submitted to the WDNR and requires a number of steps.

Lakekit Website Hosting Opportunity: Larry Bresina

Larry is the network manager for [Lakekit.net](#) which provides a low cost option for lake organizations to build and maintain their websites without needing to focus on webmaster administration duties. The opportunity was initiated last year and the network currently has 16 members across the state of Wisconsin. With one network manager, the number of members may need to be limited to 20. The cost to participate is \$50 per site per year. One main benefit of participating is that Larry completes the behind the scenes work of running a website, which allows for each lake to focus on website content. Peggy worked with Larry to develop [Big Blake Lake's website](#) through lakekit.net and had a very positive experience. If you want to participate, please contact [Larry](#).

Our Lakes and PCALR's Future

Membership has increased but the organizations needs more active board members. Everyone is busy and has their individual lake to focus on, but with more support the organization could do more. Currently, the Vice President position is open as well as three board members positions. Goals include providing community outreach, increasing communication with the County Board, and increasing the number of lake organizations represented on the board.

Polk County AIS Strategic Plan Updates

At the August or October meeting, Katelin Anderson will gather feedback on the [Polk County AIS Strategic Plan](#) and a new [Rapid Response Plan](#). When the plan was written, membership decided it would be worthwhile to review and update the plan annually at PCALR.

Zebra Mussel Update

Katelin Anderson created [template zebra mussel education materials](#) available for lake groups to use. Feel free to add to these resources with information specific to your lake.

A [zebra mussel workshop](#) will be held next Monday, April 24th in St. Croix Falls. Katelin will be presenting along with Minnesota and Wisconsin Departments of Natural Resources, University of Minnesota, National Park Service, US Fish & Wildlife Service, and the Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District.

Discussion occurred regarding fishing tournaments and ways to limit the spread of invasive species through these venues. Two large tournaments include Deer Lake, where a zebra mussel was found in 2016. Tournaments requiring a WDNR permit can be searched [online](#). However, not all tournaments require a permit.

AIS Updates

Katelin will be holding a Clean Boats, Clean Waters training next Wednesday, April 26th from 1-3 in Balsam Lake and will be hosting a Citizen Lake Monitoring Network for AIS training on June 14th from 11-2. Paul Skawinski will be presenting at this training. New this year, monitoring kits that include a field guide and a plant rake (among other things) will be available to lakes that commit to monitoring for aquatic invasive species. Paul developed a field guide similar to the one developed by the [Minnehaha Creek Watershed District](#).

Healthy Lakes Update

Polk County LWRD received a small scale grant to provide site visits for Healthy Lakes projects. If you're interested in taking advantage of this support, contact Katelin.

Memberships

PCALR received a membership request from the River Alliance of Wisconsin. It was also decided to become a member of Wisconsin Lakes. Jim made a motion to approve joining both organizations at the \$100 level and Larry seconded it.

Polk County Manure and Water Quality Management Ordinance

A public hearing on the Polk County Manure and Water Quality Management Ordinance took place this morning. The ordinance was last updated in 2000 and was updated as part of the recent county-wide process of reviewing and rewriting all county ordinances. The ordinance was approved by the Environmental Services Committee and is on the agenda for the May 23rd County Board Meeting. The ordinance will be voted on at the June 20th County Board Meeting.

County Board Supervisor Update

Supervisor Warren Nelson passed away and Supervisor Craig Moriak moved out of his District. Supervisors Kate Isakson and Tracy LaBlanc have been appointed to fill these positions.

Kate was appointed to the Amery Lakes District and Tracey was appointed to the Horseshoe Lake District. Discussion is occurring to change the Lake District appointments such that County Board Supervisors are assigned to the Lake Districts that reside in their districts.

Alum Treatment

The public is invited to attend a demonstration of an alum treatment from 3:30-5:30 on June 14th at the Cedar Lake Landing. This is a day full of lake related activities including the Citizen Lake Monitoring Network AIS training, the alum treatment, and the second PCALR meeting.

Fish Hotel

PCALR received a complimentary copy of the new children's book [Fish Hotel](#) by Lynn Markham which discusses the important role tress in lakes provide for food, shelter, and spawning areas. The book was passed around and can be ordered [online](#).

Clean Boats, Clean Water (CBCW) Discussion

The question was brought up regarding if most lake groups pay their CBCW inspectors. Most programs utilize paid inspectors rather than volunteers. Dick Hollar conducted a survey of 16 lakes (15 in our area, 1 in NE Wisconsin). Ten of the lakes pay their inspector's \$10/hour, 3 pay less than \$10/hour, and 2 pay greater than \$10/hour. One lake uses all volunteer hours, but is switching to paid inspectors in 2017.

Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Convention

This [convention](#) will take place in Hayward on Friday, June 16th, 2017 and included twelve different breakout sessions.

Joint Finance Committee Public Hearings

Public Hearings for the Joint Finance Committee were held last week in both Spooner and Ellsworth.

Conservation Congress

The Spring Fish and Wildlife Rules Hearings and Wisconsin Conservation Congress county meetings were held Monday, April 10. These hearings are held every year, simultaneously in all 72 Wisconsin Counties. This year, there were 130 items to vote on. Results can be found [online](#). The majority of Wisconsin Counties voted for a moratorium on CAOF's and frac sand mining. Additionally, a majority voted not to change the permitting requirements for high capacity wells and to repeal the lessening of restrictions on mining bills.

St. Croix County Manure Spill

A manure spill that occurred in St. Croix County in December was only just reported 3 weeks ago.

Adjourn

Jim made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Peggy.

Minutes respectively submitted by
Katelin Anderson, Secretary
Polk County Association of Lakes and Rivers
April 2017