



Meeting Minutes

Meeting date: Wednesday, October 18, 2017

The fourth 2017 meeting of the Polk County Association of Lakes and Rivers (PCALR) was held Wednesday, October 18, 2017 at 7pm at the Polk County Justice Center in Balsam Lake.

Attending

Peggy Lauritsen, Big Blake Lake; Jim Maxwell, Big Blake Lake; Tom Bordon, Big Blake Lake; Gordon Kill, Big Round Lake; Gary McDowell, Big Round Lake; Mike Reiter, Big, Round, and Church Pine Lake; William Johnson, Pipe and North Pipe Lakes, Largon Lake, Coon Lake; Paul Duxbury, Balsam Lake; Larry Bresina, Pipe and North Pipe Lakes; Wayne Wolsey, Bone Lake; Angelique Dahlberg, St. Croix River Association; Jim Peterson, Loveless Lake; Anna Turk, Long Lake; Katelin Anderson, Polk County Land and Water Resources Department

Welcome and Introductions

Treasurer's Report

The current balance as of August 1 was \$2,215.91. There have been two \$25 membership deposits since the August meeting.

Membership Report

The 2017 membership year began 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. As of today, the organization has 11 lake members, 6 personal members, and has received one donation. Thank you to everyone who is a member! To renew online, click [here](#) or to download a membership form click [here](#).

Membership is down from 2016. Past membership lists will be compared to current members and follow up calls or emails made. For 2018, the organization will consider a due date for membership and also mailing out a reminder email prior to the first meeting. The reminder should be mailed out prior to the first business meetings of Districts and Associations.

Roundtable: What's happening at your lake?

Balsam Lake

The District is still working to get a permit for dredging. A resolution has been passed to purchase a dredger contingent on getting a permit to dredge. A good amount of harvesting was done this spring.

Loveless Lake

The Association is putting together a Healthy Lakes grant application and working to generate interest from homeowners.

Big Round Lake

The Lake District approved an AIS Management Plan, which is a new venture. Two weeks ago, the DNR stocked 10,000 nine inch walleye in the lake. Stocking takes place every 2 years and fish shocking occurs twice per year. Next year a large fish study will be completed on the lake. Three tickets went out this year as a result of the camera system at the landing. The initial cost of the camera was \$10,000 with annual fees of \$2,600.

St. Croix River Association (SCRA)

Next year a celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act protecting the St. Croix and Namekagon Rivers is taking place. Many events are taking place as part of this celebration, including a photography book by Craig Blacklock. Julie Galonska was recently hired as the Superintendent for the St. Croix Riverway. SCRA had four summer interns, paid in part through funding through the Fish and Wildlife Service. The interns monitored 106 miles of river for yellow iris and completed boat inspections at numerous river landings, including Lions Park in St. Croix Falls. Additional AIS projects this summer included: zebra mussel veliger tows (Indianhead Flowage, Dalles/Interstate Park, Deer, Balsam, Bone, and additional lakes in Pine, Chisago, and Burnett counties), monitoring zebra mussel plate samplers and cinder blocks, Project RED training with monitoring from Interstate to Osceola, a six unit decontamination blitz along the river, and participation in the AIS Bridge Snapshot Day. Upcoming projects include: dry dock boat checks at marinas and an Oriental Bittersweet training and monitoring event.

Big, Round, and Church Pine

The District recently finishing up a second curly leaf pondweed grant and will be asking DNR for advice on whether to keep treating after 2017 treatments results are available. The District may step back and watch to see what will happen rather than continuing to treat. Eight healthy lakes projects have been installed on the lakes and an additional seventeen projects are going forward. Jeremy Williamson with the Polk County Land and Water Resources Department will come out and do site visits. The District does stock walleye but natural reproduction is not

occurring. In partnership with the Big Lake Store (fishing tournament), the District purchases \$4,000 worth of fish each year.

Polk County Naturalist Articles

Mike Reiter has authored a number of interesting articles on topics ranging from opossums to turtles. You can find the articles on the PCALR website or sign up for [PCALR news](#) to automatically receive the articles.

Pipe and North Pipe Lakes

The Lake District is in the process of finishing up a 2 year grant to collect data and develop a lake management plan for Pipe and North Pipe Lakes. The planning committee has met three times and the technical team has met once.

Largon Lake

Largon Lake is putting barricades around their aerator. A property in the Town of McKinley is delinquent and the town will take ownership of the road, which should result in improvements.

Coon Lake

The Village Parks Board is involved with mitigating erosion along the hiking trail.

Long Lake

The District approved an alum treatment for next year, contingent on getting a grant. The grant would also include monitoring following the alum treatment. The treatment would cost approximately \$260,000. The District just rewrote their aquatic plant management plan which included a communication plan.

Bone Lake

Currently there are two public landings on Bone Lake. The Balsam Lake Rod and Gun Club wants to develop a new access on the lake on the west side. A vote took place at the annual meeting and most people were against the landing development. The August meeting minutes have more information on this topic. For landing improvement there is money available where half of the funding comes from Polk County and half from the DNR.

Big Blake Lake

Reducing phosphorus and AIS are the current focus issues of the District. Last year the District applied for and received a Healthy Lakes grant for nineteen practices on thirteen properties. A second grant for this year will cover an additional six projects. The project has been a lot of fun because it gets multi-generational involvement of members involved in conservation and doing the right thing for the lake. Sharing template information from Big, Round, and Church Pine Lakes also helped a lot with the healthy lakes project. In 2018, the District will start hiring for Clean Boats, Clean Waters because of declines in volunteers. An addition focus is on

communications and how to stay connected to members. This year 246 loads of curly leaf pondweed were removed from the lake and after June 8th plant growth declined. The harvester has been in operation for thirteen years. This year also had fewer algae blooms. Volunteers started an AIS monitoring program which will be expanded next year with additional zebra mussel plate samplers and monitoring locations.

AIS Strategic Plan and Rapid Response Plan Update: Katelin Anderson

Katelin Anderson presented the Polk County Aquatic Invasive Species Strategic Plan which was completed in 2015 and a Polk County Response to Early Detection Aquatic Invasive Species document drafted in 2017. The status of implementation was presented and ideas for future action items were discussed. The plan included a number of action items that were based on interest and feedback was provided on which actions to focus on in the future.

Priority ideas for future focus included: infestation indication signs at landings, a Polk County AIS database, the formation of a communication network, the inclusion of AIS information in the Polk County Tourism Guide, and providing education for fishing tournaments.

Old Business

Who's Who Brochures

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

Website

If you're interested in learning how to maintain the PCALR website please contact [Larry](#).

New Business

Set 2018 Meeting Dates and Strategies

The April meeting will occur in May due to a conflict with the 2018 Lakes Convention. The following meetings will occur in June, August, and October

Adjourn

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