

Lakes Committee - Town of Plum Lake
May 20, 2026, 10:00 am
Plum Lake Library, Sayner WI

Present: Wayne Ax, Cheryl Carper, Jim Haberle, Joe Heitz, Cathy Higley, Bob Jackson, Bob Marsh, Bob Munsen, Doug Pinney, Tracy Wallace, Lynn Wiggins, Jackey Postuchow (Chair, Town of Plum Lake), George Lannert (President, Plum Lake Association)

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. by Bob Jackson, Chair.

1. Open Meeting Verification – Notice of the meeting was appropriately posted at the Sayner United States Post Office and on the Town of Plum Lake website.
2. Minutes of the September 17, 2025 Meeting – Upon a **motion** by Doug Pinney and seconded by Joe Heitz, the minutes of the September 17, 2025 meeting were unanimously approved.
3. Treasurer’s Report – A copy of the Town Lakes Committee project analysis through December 31, 2025 was distributed prior to the meeting showing income and expenses for the following Town Lakes Committee projects:
 - Clean Boats/Clean Waters (CBCW)
 - Large Lake Surveying Onterra, LLC
 - I-LIDS Acquisition and Monitoring
 - Small Lakes Monitoring
 - Little Star AIS Remediation
 - Fish Sticks

The analysis has been updated with information from Bob Klager, Town Treasurer, and is in agreement with transactions recorded in the Town accounting records. The worksheets are intended to be used by the Committee to see that the projects can be completed within amounts budgeted by the Town. All 2025 projects were completed on budget.

There have been slight increases in the lake group invoices based on past contributions and ability to pay. In 2025, \$10,100 was billed and \$13,495 was received. In 2026, \$12,000 has been billed consistent with the 2026 Town budget of \$11,782.

The 2026 Budget was approved by the Town Board of Supervisors last fall. We have begun receiving DNR grant advances for 2026 projects consistent with the Town Budget.

Upon a **motion** by Bob Marsh and seconded by Bob Munsen, the Treasurer’s report was unanimously accepted.

4. Recap of 2025 Programs – A summary of 2025 Lakes Committee activities was presented by Bob Jackson and can be found in the Town of Plum Lake Lakes Committee Annual Report dated February 2026. This report was presented to the Town Board of Supervisors at its April 2026 meeting, was distributed to the Committee and can be found on the Town website.

Bob Jackson thanked Joe Heitz for presenting the Annual Report at the Town Supervisors meeting.

Bob thanked Bob Munsen for coordinating the CBCW monitoring program and coordinating the paid volunteers. He also thanked Warren Jeinski for his tireless work in staffing the landings as a paid volunteer. All grant contractual obligations for monitoring were met.

5. New Business – Status of 2026 Programs –

A. Lake Management Plan Update Surveys – A total of \$32,513 was approved by the State for the Lake Management grant applications submitted last fall. Additional grants were approved by the State for CBCW and I-LIDS.

- i. Town of Plum Lake Aquatic Plant Surveys-Phase II – Phase II lakes are Lake Laura, Irving, Ballard and White Birch lakes. Point intercept surveys and emergent and floating-leaf community mapping surveys will be performed by Onterra during July and August.
- ii. Plum Lake Late Season AIS Surveys (2026-2028) – Late season Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) mapping surveys will be performed by Onterra in late August/ early September.
- iii. Little Star Lake AIS Monitoring (2026-2028) – Early season EWM mapping surveys will be performed in June. Late Season EWM mapping surveys will be performed in late August/early September.
- iv. Razorback Lake Early Season AIS Survey – An early season AIS mapping survey will be performed by Onterra in June.

A small number of EWM colonies were found on the south side of the lake by Cathy Higley during a routine survey of Razorback Lake. More detailed information will be available after the June Onterra survey and a plan of action developed. An early response grant may be available. The EWM has not undergone genetic testing.

Tim Hoyman plans to attend the June or July Committee meeting.

B. BLIMS

- i. Maintenance – All cameras were installed last Monday by Bob Jackson, John Richter, Joe Heitz, Wayne Ax and Sam Patterson and are operational.

C. Clean Boats/Clean Waters (CBCW)

- i. Grant – The 2026 grant for CBCW coverage prepared by Cathy Higley and Bob Jackson was approved by the State for \$23,945.
- ii. Monitoring Coverage – Interns from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh will monitor the landings on Razorback, Plum Public Pier, Plum Statehouse Point, Lake Laura, Ballard/Irving and Star from May 20 through August 18. Copies of the monitoring schedule were distributed prior to the meeting. As in past years, coverage during busy periods and after interns complete their work will be supplemented by paid volunteers. Bob Munsen will continue to

coordinate this coverage. Two additional people are interested in paid volunteer positions.

Bob Jackson will let the coordinator of the CBCW program know that EWM has been found on Razorback Lake. Signage at the landings notifying boaters that a lake has invasive species was discussed.

D. Little Star Remediation –

- i. Survey and Management - As in prior years Onterra will survey Little Star for Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) in June. Aquatic Plant Management will perform hand harvesting as indicated.
- ii. Chemical Treatment – Chemical treatment of the lake was discussed with Tim Hoyman last September and his recommendations distributed to the Committee. The amount of EWM on Little Star does not currently warrant treatment with an herbicide and any spot chemical treatment would likely have negative lake-wide impacts on non-target native species. In addition, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources’ new stance is to not provide permitting for chemical treatment of EWM unless navigation is truly impaired by the abundance of EWM on the lake. The other option is to allow EWM to go untreated, monitor growth and determine if a low steady state of EWM is reached or additional treatment is needed. Cathy suggested considering using weevils to control EWM. Brandy Lake has a program using weevils which may be of interest to the Committee.

E. Rapid Response Lake Surveys – The final 2025 report on early AIS and spiny water flea surveys will be distributed shortly. The Discovery Center will again monitor our lakes this summer. Bob Jackson will distribute bricks for Quagga and Zebra Mussel monitoring for five of the lakes.

F. Fish Sticks – Due to weather conditions and availability of the placement crew, bundles were not placed on Star Lake this year. Placement in January/February 2027 may be possible. Additional grant funding may be sought.

G. Boat Decontamination – Cathy distributed a detailed report and analysis of the decontamination program from 2018 through 2025.

The boat decontamination program offers voluntary hot pressure washing of boats and equipment to willing boaters to prevent the spread of spiny water fleas and zebra mussels between lakes. Between June and August 2025 Vilas County Land & Water staff spent 100 hours dedicated to decontamination at four boat launches on Big Muskellunge, Plum, Star and Trout lakes. As is prior years, approximately 13% of boaters opted for boat decontamination and an increasing number of boaters are reporting steps taken on their own to clean their boats. Cathy thanked last year’s Committee volunteers who had done outreach for the program.

A decontamination grant for 2026 has been obtained. Tracy Wallace, Joe Heitz, Cheryl Carper and Bob Jackson volunteered to do community outreach, including conversations with stakeholders and flyer posting.

Cathy noted that teaching boat owners to decontaminate their own boats may be a viable option. Bob Munsen mentioned contacting guides and local organizations whose members “lake hop” frequently and educate them about the program and importance of decontamination. Oneida County is currently working with local boat rental businesses on decontamination procedures. More work with this group is needed.

6. Vilas County Update – Cathy Higley reported on the following projects.
 - A. Fish Sticks – Bundles were not installed on Star Lake this winter. (See 5.F above.)
 - B. Decontamination Units - The program will continue in 2026. (See 5.G above.)
 - C. Vilas County Lake Monitoring – The county’s plans for monitoring the shorelines of Lake Laura and other lakes for phragmites and other invasive species will not duplicate Onterra’s on-lake monitoring activities.
 - D. Razorback – Eurasian Watermilfoil has been found in Razorback lake. (See 5.A.iv above.)
 - E. Wild Rice Monitoring – Vilas County has received a grant for wild rice and lake level monitoring on multiple lakes throughout the County.
 - F. Phragmites – Monitoring for phragmites will continue on several lakes including Razorback Lake, Dorothy Dunn and Lake Laura.
 - G. Clean Boats/Clean Waters – The 2026 CBCW grant was awarded by the State. Interns have been scheduled and will begin monitoring Town landings on May 20. (See 5.C above.)
 - H. Vilas County Shorelines Brochure – Cathy distributed a brochure that was distributed to new shoreline property owners in 2025. The brochure summarizes how to keep our lakes healthy and lists resources available to property owners.

7. Other New Business and Citizens’ Comments –
 - A. Plum Lake Public Pier – Jackie Postuchow asked about ownership of the landing and pier at the public landing on Plum. It is unclear who, i.e. the Town or a private land owner, bears ownership responsibility for these areas.
 - B. Community Center – The old Town Hall has been demolished, and the new Community Center is under construction. Planned completion is the end of September with a Grand Opening tentatively scheduled for October 3.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:16 am.

The next meeting of the Lakes Committee for the Town of Plum Lake will be held on Wednesday, June 17, 2026 at 10:00 am in the Plum Lake Library. Dates for the remainder of the summer, all at 10:00 am in the Plum Lake Library are July 15, August 19, and September 16.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynn Wiggins
Secretary

Approved 6.17.2026