

*Lakes Committee - Town of Plum Lake*  
*July 16, 2025, 9:00 am*  
*Town of Plum Lake Town Hall, Sayner WI*

Present: Wayne Ax, Wayne Bernahl, Cheryl Carper, Jim Haberle, Bob Jackson, Bob Marsh, Doug Pinney, John Richter, Tracy Wallace, Lynn Wiggins, George Lannert (President, Plum Lake Association)

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 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. Introduction of New Member – Bob Marsh was introduced as a new member of the Committee. Bob's family has a very long history in the area, beginning on Star Lake years ago. Bob and his wife became residents on Ballard Lake approximately two years ago.
3. Minutes of the June 18, 2025 Meeting – Upon a **motion** by Doug Pinney and seconded by Wayne Bernahl, the minutes of the June 18, 2025 meeting were unanimously approved.
4. Treasurer's Report – Doug Pinney sent a copy of the 2025 Year to Date Project Analysis to the Committee prior to the meeting. The report shows the income and expense for the following Town Lakes Committee projects:
  - Clean Boats/Clean Waters (CBCW)
  - Large Lake Surveying (Onterra LLC Contract)

All of the Committee's projects, including the projects noted above, are within budget. Bob Klager, Town Treasurer, has paid all invoices relating to the projects.

Upon a **motion** by John Richter and seconded by Jim Haberle, the Treasurer's report was unanimously accepted.

5. New Business – Status of 2025 Programs –
  - A. Lake Management Plan Update Surveys –

Onterra LLC performed its early-season Hybrid Water Milfoil (HWM) mapping survey of Plum and West Plum Lakes on June 18 and 19. Weather and visibility were good. Distinguishing the HWM from native northern watermilfoil was easier than during the survey last October. HWM occurred throughout much of the lake but was not found in highly dense colonies. Although the distribution of the HWM shown on the survey map may appear alarming, the distribution may parallel that of some of the lake's native species and will be compared to the lakes' point intercept surveys. More information will also be available after the late season HWM survey in late August or early September when HWM will be at its peak biomass.

John Richter is asking lake residents to notify him of the location of suspicious milfoil. He will provide these locations to Onterra for their late season survey.

Onterra's planned point intercept surveys of Plum, West Plum, Star and Little Star will be completed later this summer.

B. BLIMS

- i. Maintenance – All cameras are operational. John will check a questionable sensor at State House landing. The speaker on Irving is working. Wayne Ax reported that the solar panel on Razorback is slightly malpositioned; it will be repositioned.
- ii. Enforcement and Video Monitoring – Joe Heitz has spoken with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) regarding potential violations. As in past years, the WDNR is being notified of possible violations and is contacting involved boaters using the letter previously approved by the Committee. There have been no potential violations this summer.

C. Clean Boats/Clean Waters (CBCW)

- i. Monitoring Coverage - Coverage by the University of Wisconsin – Oshkosh (UW-Osh) interns is going well. Discussion followed regarding potential volunteers to cover busy weekends such as the Musky Tournament and providing coverage after the interns leave in mid-August.
- ii. Towels – Bob Jackson has received 309 of the new towels and will distribute them to lake volunteers. The towels are large and attractive and were shown to the Committee.

D. Little Star Remediation – Mapping of the Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) was performed by Onterra, LLC on June 19. There has been slight expansion of the EWM population in the lake but the population should remain responsive to hand harvesting. Aquatic Plant Management will perform hand harvesting in August.

E. Rapid Response Lake Surveys –

- i. 2025 Surveys – The Discovery Center anticipates starting their surveys of the Town lakes in July.

F. Fish Sticks – no new information.

G. Boat Decontamination – Tracy Wallace reported on her outreach efforts for the decontamination program. Tracy has contacted several of the businesses in Sayner and the campground manager at Razorback about the decontamination program and the impact of spiny water fleas on lakes. All were responsive to the boat contamination program and volunteered to relay information related to the program. Plum Lake Campground representatives were not receptive to notifying campers of the program. Bob suggested posting a flyer on the Plum Lake Campground bulletin board.

The dates for the decontamination program noted in the flyer will be confirmed with Cathy Higley.

See also 5.B. below.

H. Wake Boat Ordinance –

- i. Notification of Property Owners and Rental Units - The Vilas County Department of Zoning “Tourist Rooming House Permit List” was distributed to the Committee after the last meeting. Additional action will be considered by the Committee at the next meeting.
- ii. Border Lake Ordinances – The Border Lakes ordinances were passed at the last Town meeting. Copies of the ordinances have been posted on most of the border lakes; posting will be completed this week. John is continuing to speak to surrounding townships about instituting ordinances.
- iii. Legal Challenges – The current legal challenge to the ordinance in Wisconsin has been removed to federal court due to the out of state location of the plaintiffs. Several additional challenges have been threatened but not filed.

6. Vilas County Update – In her absence, Cathy sent a written report to the Committee.

- A. Phragmites – June report of phragmite removals on Razorback lake: Two shoots were found and removed. A repeat evaluation will be done in July.
- B. Decontamination Units – Decontamination units are up and running as scheduled at the four landings (Big Muskie, Trout North, Star, and Plum).

7. Other New Business and Citizens’ Comments – None

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:36 am.

The next meeting of the Lakes Committee for the Town of Plum Lake will be held on Wednesday, August 20, 2025 at 9:00 am in the Town of Plum Lake Town Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynn Wiggins  
Secretary

Approved 8.20.2025.