

Lakes Committee - Town of Plum Lake
September 17, 2025, 9:00 am
Town of Plum Lake Town Hall, Sayner WI

Present: Wayne Ax, Jim Haberle, Joe Heitz, Cathy Higley, Bob Jackson, Bob Marsh, Bob Munsen, Doug Pinney, John Richter, Tracy Wallace, Lynn Wiggins, Jona Eliason (Supervisor, Town of Plum Lake), 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. Minutes of the August 20, 2025 Meeting – Upon a **motion** by Bob Marsh and seconded by Jim Haberle, the minutes of the August 20, 2025 meeting were unanimously approved.
3. Treasurer's Report – Doug Pinney sent a copy of the 2025 Year to Date Project Analysis to the Committee prior to the meeting. The worksheets show the income and expense for the following Town Lakes Committee projects:
 - Clean Boats/Clean Waters (CBCW)
 - Large Lake Surveying (Onterra, LLC Contract)

CBCW shows additional income received in late August. Total 2025 income exceeds budgeted income by \$2,650. The Large Lake Surveying project report shows expenses related to Phase I point intercept and Plum Lake AIS surveys.

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

4. New Business – Status of 2025 Programs –
 - A. Lake Management Plan Update Surveys – At the August Lakes Committee meeting Tim Hoyman reviewed the results and status of the Lake Management Plan and proposed six grant applications for 2026. Tim has completed the preapplication process for the six grants identified at that meeting. Following the expected preapplication approval, full applications will be submitted and are due November 15.
 - B. BLIMS
 - i. Maintenance – All cameras are operational. Evaluation and repair of the sound at Statehouse Point in pending. Camera and equipment removal and storage is planned for the second week of October.
 - ii. Enforcement and Video Monitoring – No suspected violations have been reported this year to date.
 - iii. Grant – The current grant covering I-LIDS concludes this year. Final I-LIDS acquisition grant reimbursement covering the three additional cameras is expected from the DNR in 2026. After the conclusion of the current grant, the Town may be eligible for additional grant funding. Newer and more efficient

cameras are being developed, and their purchase may be eligible for grant monies. The consensus of the Committee was to further evaluate the benefits of the new cameras before deciding on an investment.

C. Clean Boats/Clean Waters (CBCW)

- i. Monitoring Coverage –Intern coverage at the landings concluded in August. Currently there is one paid volunteer staffing all the landings. He is working up to 10 hours per day and has completed 160 hours of coverage at the various landings since late August. Bob Munsen and Bob Jackson will review scheduling to ensure that volunteer coverage is adequate to satisfy grant requirements on several of the lakes.
- ii. Grant – Cathy Higley and Bob Jackson will prepare the 2026 grant for CBCW.

A **motion** to approve the 2026 CBCW grant application process was made by John Richter, seconded by Doug Pinney and approved unanimously by the Committee.

D. Little Star Remediation – Aquatic Plant Management has completed this year's second hand harvesting of Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) on Little Star Lake. A report is pending.

Chemical treatment of the lake rather than hand harvesting is being considered and is reportedly acceptable to the residents of Little Star. John Richter reported that a chemical now being used, ProcellaCOR, does not enter the water table and may not have the negative impact on fish and other aquatic life that prior chemical treatments did. Additional information on the agent will be obtained and Onterra consulted regarding its use.

A **motion** to have Bob Jackson pursue the use of chemical treatment of EWM on Little Star Lake was made by Bob Munsen, seconded by John Richter and approved unanimously by the Committee.

E. Rapid Response Lake Surveys – The final report on the AIS early detection and spiny water flea surveys is pending. Bricks for Quagga and Zebra Mussel monitoring are being collected. To date no organisms have been observed.

F. Fish Sticks – see Cathy Higley's report in 5.A. below.

G. Boat Decontamination – This year's program concluded Labor Day weekend. See 5.B. below.

H. Wake Boat Ordinance –The coalition of Wisconsin organizations formed to protect Wisconsin waters from the negative effects of wake-enhanced boating is developing a position statement regarding the statewide legislation being proposed. Recommendations include retaining existing local control over wake boat ordinances and establishing general minimums for the use of wake boats, such as restricting the

use of enhanced ballast to waters at least 700 feet from shore in waters with a lake depth of at least 30 feet covering over 100 contiguous acres.

John Richter stated that based on the proposed minimums and his own measurements, no lakes in the Town of Plum Lake would be large enough to allow enhanced wakes.

5. Vilas County Update – Cathy Higley reported

- A. Fish Sticks – An updated grant has been submitted to continue the Star Lake Fish Sticks project which was not completed last year due to weather conditions. Permitting for the project should remain valid for several years. Anticipated project completion is February 28, 2026 after which another grant extension will be necessary.
- B. Decontamination Units - The program concluded Labor Day weekend. Although there were multiple in person contacts at the various landings, only 30 boaters opted for decontamination. A grant for 2026 is planned.
- C. Phragmites – Monitoring for phragmites will continue into the fall and be performed on multiple lakes including several lakes in Conover as well as Razorback and Dorothy Dunn Lakes.
- D. Clean Boats/Clean Waters – Cathy Higley and Bob Jackson will prepare the 2026 CBCW grant due in October.

6. 2026 Budget - Doug Pinney sent a draft of the 2026 budget to the Committee prior to the meeting. The 2026 budget includes funding for ongoing and recurring 2025 projects as well as new AIS and EWM surveys on Little Star and Plum Lakes, respectively. I-LIDS funding is based on actual 2025 expenses. Expected expenses related to the Lake Management Plan and related survey grants will be confirmed with Tim Hoyman prior to budget submission. Funding for the ongoing maintenance and operation expenses of the Ballard Lake aerator was discussed and will be finalized prior to budget submission. The Committee anticipates using \$6000.00 of AIS/CBCW donations to reduce the Town budget for North Lakeland Discovery Center lake surveys.

The budgeting process is similar to last year. Bob Klager, Town Treasurer, will enter the Committee's funding requests into the Town's proposed budget with subsequent review and approval by the Town Supervisors.

Bob Marsh made and Joe Heitz seconded a **motion** to approve the proposed 2026 budget as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Other New Business and Citizens' Comments – None

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:55 am.

The next meeting of the Lakes Committee for the Town of Plum Lake will be held in May 2026, specific date and time pending. Committee work in the interim will be accomplished through email and phone.

Jona Eliason thanked the Committee for its work during this and prior years.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynn Wiggins
Secretary

DRAFT