

Lakes Committee - Town of Plum Lake
August 16, 2023, 9:00 am
Town of Plum Lake Town Hall, Sayner WI

Present: Wayne Ax, Cheryl Carper, Jim Haberle, Joe Heitz, Tim Hoyman, Bob Jackson, Bob Munsen, Doug Pinney, Jackey Postuchow, Chuck Rasmussen, John Richter, Scott Thompson, Tracy Wallace, Lynn Wiggins

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m. by Bob Jackson, Chair.

1. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of July 19, 2023 – Upon a **motion** by Jim Haberle and seconded by John Richter, the minutes of the July 19, 2023 meeting were unanimously approved.
2. Recognition of Past Volunteers – A certificate of commendation honoring the efforts of Lakes Committee volunteers signed by the Governor has been received. A framed copy will be placed in the Town Hall during the next Town Lakes Committee meeting on September 6. The Town Board is invited to attend; press will be notified of the event.
3. Lake Management Plan - Tim Hoyman presented key points for further implementation of the Lake Management Plan.

A. Periodic Quantitative Vegetation Monitoring – One of the management actions of the Lake Management Plan is to perform periodic vegetation assessment of the Town lakes through whole-lake point intercept and emergent plant community mapping surveys. This should be completed every 8 to 10 years for the larger lakes with public access and every 20 years for the smaller lakes. Initial surveys of the Plan’s Phase 1 lakes, i.e. Star, Little Star, Plum and West Plum, were completed in 2017 and are due for reassessment in 2025. Surveys of the Phase 2 and Phase 3 lakes should be performed during the subsequent two years. Surface Water Planning Grants are available to help cover the costs of these studies; grant applications for Phase 1 lakes should be completed in the fall of 2024.

Tim presented a budget outline for the Surface Water Planning Grant to study the Phase 1 lakes. The total project cost is estimated to be \$37,455. Of this, 67% is eligible for a Wisconsin DNR grant and some will be covered by volunteer and in-kind match opportunities. “Out of pocket” cash cost to the Town is estimated to be \$11,835.

B. Little Star Remediation – Onterra, LLC completed surveys for Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) in June and August of this year. The August survey which followed EWM hand harvesting by Aquatic Plant Management revealed nine EWM plants remaining. Therefore, the process of early and late season mapping with interim hand harvesting has been successful. The grant covering these activities on Little Star extends through the end of calendar year 2024.

Treatment of Little Star EWM using an herbicide is not optimal due to the logistics of timing, the area of treatment, and the herbicide’s negative effect on native vegetation and fish.

4. Treasurer's Report – Doug reported on the Year to Date Project Analysis for 2023 which includes estimated remaining 2023 expenses for each project.

- Project Analysis

- General – The Committee remains within budget for each of its projects.
- CBCW – Funding is available for 550 hours of fall monitoring by the paid volunteers.
- Preliminary budget has been developed for 2024 (discussed under New Business below)
- I-LIDS –
 - A check for \$9750 has been received from the Wisconsin DNR to cover ILIDs expenses on Lake Laura, Irving Lake and Razorback Lake. Grant funding of \$1500 remains for receipt in 2026.
 - An amendment of the I-LIDS Acquisition Grant submitted by Town Chair Jackey Postuchow to increase funding by \$2250 for 2024 and 2025 video review has been approved by the State.

Upon a **motion** by John Richter and seconded by Wayne Ax the Treasurer's report was unanimously accepted.

5. Vilas County Update – Cathy Higley sent a written report to the Committee prior to the meeting.

A. Boat Decontamination Program –Cathy is investigating resuming the boat decontamination program in the Sayner/Star Lake area, potentially enlisting the Committee's aid in advertising the decontamination schedule.

B. Fish Sticks (Star Lake) – Cathy, Jim Haberle and Eric Wegleitner visited Star Lake in July to plan future fish sticks sites. Several sites were approved. Draft plans are pending.

6. Old Business

A. Lake Management Plan – See 3. above.

B. Status of 2023 Programs –

i. BLIMS –

1. Maintenance – No problems with equipment have been reported. Removal of equipment is planned for the second week of October.
2. Enforcement and Video Monitoring – There have been four violations confirmed on Ballard, two on Irving and one on Razorback this summer. DNR conservation officers are sending letters to the individuals involved.

- ii. Little Star Remediation- Aquatic Plant management removed 4 cubic feet of EWM during hand harvesting on August 7. Only nine plants were found on the post-harvesting survey indicating that the program is successful.
- iii. Clean Boats/Clean Waters (CBCW)
 - 1. Monitoring Coverage
 - a. Interns – complete their work within the next one to two weeks.
 - b. Paid Volunteers – The paid volunteers will start soon. There are currently two volunteers who have completed CBCW training.
 - c. Coverage – Occasional gaps in coverage by the interns, particularly on weekends early in the season were noted. This will be addressed next year when the intern schedule is published and may be supplemented by the paid volunteers.
- iv. Small Lakes Program/North Lakeland Discovery Center- Point intercept studies on Jean and Dorothy Dunn are complete. Access to Nineweb has been a problem; Wharton Lake has been substituted in its place. The Discovery Center is interested in developing projects to eliminate the purple loosestrife and studying crayfish on Star Lake. Project proposals for next year are being discussed.
- v. Fish Sticks –
 - 1. Plum Lake – On schedule. Additional sites are being investigated.
 - 2. Lake Laura – On schedule to have work done this winter.
 - 3. Star Lake – Jim Haberle, Eric Wegleitner and Cathy Higley visited the lake in July and identified three future fish stick sites as noted in 5.B. above. Personnel to perform the work are being sought.

C. Lake Sweeps for Aquatic Invasive Species –

- i. Milfoil – Definitive identification by the State of Milfoil samples collected from Plum Lake are still pending.

7. New Business –

- A. Preliminary 2024 Budget – Doug presented a preliminary 2024 budget for the Lakes Committee.
 - i. General – The preliminary budget is based on actual and remaining 2023 expenses. Total projected 2024 cost to the Town is \$42,431.
 - ii. CBCW – unchanged from 2023
 - iii. Other Lakes – includes an estimate of \$5000 for the North Lakeland Discovery Center to work on Star Lake crayfish study and purple loosestrife treatment. A specific proposal and project cost is pending.
 - iv. I-LIDs – annual expense is based on 2023 actuals.

- v. Little Star Remediation – includes one early season survey by Onterra LLC and one hand harvesting. (Although part of these costs are expected to be paid by the extension of the DNR Quick Response Grant, the full expense is budgeted in case that grant is not received in 2024.)
- vi. Fish Sticks – Fish sticks installation is for Lake Laura in early 2024; funded by a Vilas County Healthy Lakes grant received by the Town.

8. Other New Business and Citizen Comments and Concerns - None

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:03 am.

The next meeting of the Lakes Committee for the Town of Plum Lake will be held on Wednesday, September 6 at 9:00 am in the Town of Plum Lake Town Hall. The October meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 4 at 9:00 am. All are welcome to attend.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynn Wiggins, Secretary

Approved 9.6.23