

Lakes Committee - Town of Plum Lake
June 21, 2023, 10:00 am
Town of Plum Lake Town Hall, Sayner WI

Present: Wayne Ax, Cheryl Carper, Jim Haberle, Joe Heitz, Bob Jackson, Bob Munsen, Doug Pinney, John Richter, Mike Stroh, Tracy Wallace, Lynn Wiggins

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m. by Bob Jackson, Chair.

1. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of May 24, 2023 – Upon a **motion** by John Richter and seconded by Joe Heitz the minutes of the May 24, 2023 meeting were unanimously approved.
2. Treasurer's Report – Doug reported on the Year to Date Project Analysis for 2023.
 - CBCW –
 - Invoices – Invoices to cover each lake's portion of the CBCW program expenses were sent to each lake association or lake representative at the end of May.
 - Donations – To date a total of \$4,325 in donations has been received. Of this \$2,225 has been received from individuals on Razorback Lake and \$2,100 from the Ballard-Irving-White Birch Lake Association.
 - I-LIDS – Bob Klager, Town Treasurer, has filed for the remainder of the I-LIDS acquisition grant related to equipment and services for Lake Laura, Irving and Razorback Lakes. The DNR will pay \$9750 now and withhold \$1500 until the end of the grant period, December 31, 2025.
 - Fish Sticks – The Town has received a check from the DNR for 75% (\$2285.21) of the expenses to date for the Fish Sticks project on Plum Lake.

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

3. Old Business

A. Lake Management Plan –Tim Hoyman, Ecologist with Onterra LLC, will attend the Lakes Committee meeting in August. He will give a proposal for future point intercept study grants. Preliminary grant information for this project is due September 15, 2023; a final grant proposal is due November 15, 2023.

B. Status of 2023 Programs –

i. BLIMS –

1. Maintenance –All cameras are functioning. Eric Lindberg. President of Environmental Sentry Protection LLC, and John Richter reviewed monitoring performance at the seven landings. A few small changes for improvement were suggested.
Bob Munsen questioned whether the video on Lake Laura is functioning. John Richter will investigate.
2. Enforcement and Video Monitoring – No issues reported to date.

- ii. Little Star Remediation – Onterra LLC will survey Little Star for Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) shortly. The contract with Aquatic Lake Management to provide hand harvesting of EWM will follow.
- iii. Clean Boats/Clean Waters (CBCW)
 - 1. Monitoring Coverage
 - a. Interns - Jackie Barrons, an intern with the CBCW program in 2021, has replaced Becca Klemm as the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh (UW-Osh) intern coordinator for the CBCW program.
Several reports of intern performance at the landings this summer have been positive.
 - b. Paid Volunteers - Dave Olmstead, a new paid volunteer, has completed training. Two other individuals are interested in the position and will be contacted by Bob Munsen.
 - c. Coverage – Several gaps in coverage at specific landings were noted by Committee members. These are in part due to increased hourly pay for interns and paid volunteers and that Discovery Center interns are no longer providing 160 hours of coverage as they have the past two years. It is anticipated that coverage by the paid volunteers will fill in these gaps while remaining within the project budget.
 - 2. Press Release - An article describing efforts and grant funding to maintain healthy lakes and combat aquatic invasive species (AIS) in Vilas and Oneida Counties was published in the Vilas County News Review on June 1. Comments by Bob Jackson and Doug Pinney describing the Town of Plum Lake’s activities and grant acquisitions for the CBCW and BLIMs programs were included. A copy of the article was distributed to the Committee.
- iv. Small Lakes Program/North Lakeland Discovery Center – The work on the point intercept studies on Dorothy Dunn, Jean and Nineweb Lakes will begin in a couple of weeks.
- v. Fish Sticks –
 - 1. Plum Lake – Several smaller projects for the summer are planned, including filling several areas of the lake with brush, including the Public pier, the Campground pier and several of the prior tree drops. Eric Wegleitner has reviewed the sites.
 - 2. Lake Laura – permitting is in progress.
 - 3. Star Lake – Jim Haberle, Eric Wegleitner and Cathy Higley will visit Star Lake on July 26 to determine possible sites for future Fish Sticks projects.
- vi. Recognizing Past Committee Volunteers –
 - 1. Due to the logistical problems of posting signs at the landings to recognize past volunteers, it was decided to write a letter recognizing the formation and early work of the Committee and the volunteers

associated with that effort. The letter will be signed by the Governor and posted in the Town Hall and other locations

2. A letter from the Committee recognizing the past work of paid volunteer Mac McCoy who is retiring will be prepared and sent to Mac.
 3. A document “On the “Genesis of the Plum Lake Township Lakes Committee” was prepared by Frank Splitt and will be distributed to the Committee.
4. Going “Deep in the Weeds” on Plum Lake - John Richter presented an in-depth review of the evolution of lake health and habitat including plant life, woody habitat, fish, and invasive species including rusty cray fish. A long term plan for restoring the ecosystem of Plum Lake, beginning with the planting and replenishment of declining native vegetation in key areas of the lake was presented and will be implemented by the Plum Lake Association this year. Expanding the program to other lakes in the Town if successful was discussed.
 5. Vilas County Update – included in the above
 6. New Business –
 - A. Lake Sweeps for Aquatic Invasive Species – Cheryl Carper presented the Plum Lake Association’s program of annual lake sweeps for aquatic invasive species (AIS) performed by volunteers from the Association. Cheryl offered the Association’s help in expanding this program to other lakes.
 - B. Rusty Cray Fish – Involving the Northland Discovery Center in the future assessment of rusty cray fish populations was discussed.
 7. Other New Business and Citizen Comments and Concerns - None

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:17 am.

The next meeting of the Lakes Committee for the Town of Plum Lake will be held on Wednesday, July 19 at 10:00 am in the Town of Plum Lake Town Hall. All are welcome to attend.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynn Wiggins, Secretary

Approved 7.19.23