

Lakes Committee - Town of Plum Lake
May 24, 2023, 10:00 am
Town of Plum Lake Town Hall, Sayner WI

Present: Wayne Ax, Cheryl Carper, Jona Eliason, Jim Haberle, Cathy Higley, Joe Heitz, Bob Jackson, Bob Munsen, Doug Pinney, Jackey Postuchow, Mike Stroh, Lynn Wiggins

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. by Bob Jackson, Chair.

1. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of October 13, 2022 – Upon a **motion** by Mike Stroh and seconded by Doug Pinney the minutes of the October 13, 2022 meeting were unanimously approved.

Committee meeting minutes are now posted on the Town web site. The Committee agreed that draft or unapproved minutes, so noted, may be posted on the web site and then replaced with the approved minutes when available.

2. Treasurer's Report – Doug reported on the Final Analysis of Project Income and Expenses for 2022, the Year to Date Project Analysis for 2023 and the Summary of Lake Management Plan Receipts and Disbursements 2018-2023.

Final Analysis of 2022 as of December 31, 2022

- All transactions have been reconciled with Town records.
- Clean Boats/Clean Waters Program (CBCW)
 - \$5,235.27 is shown as the Year to Date Balance in 2022 and as “carryover” in the 2023 CBCW analysis. This represents donations received in excess of expenses.
 - This amount is expected to increase to approximately \$20,000 in 2023 after additional DNR grant money for 2022 work is received.
 - These funds represent monies the Committee can spend on future projects.

Year to Date Analysis 2023 (through May 15, 2023) –

- Funding
 - All Committee projects are on track to be completed with available funding.
 - Funding comes from DNR grants, Town tax revenues as budgeted by the Town Supervisors and private donations.
- Multi-year Remediation Fund –
 - Purpose –Town money set aside to provide funding for a rapid response to the management of aquatic invasive species (AIS) if discovered in any of the Town's lakes. Although grant funding may be available for long term management of AIS, the Remediation Fund provides immediate funding for prompt management until additional resources can be obtained. This avoids a large “one-time hit” to the Town's budget when AIS is discovered.
 - At the end of 2023 the balance in the fund will be approximately \$45,000 if no additional expenses arise.

- CBCW –
 - Press Release – Bob Jackson and Doug prepared a press release about CBCW for the Vilas County News Review (VCNR). This was in response to questions about the CBCW grant from VCNR editor Michelle Drew.
 - Invoices - Traditionally invoices have been sent to individual lakes annually to cover their portion of CBCW program expenses.
Upon a **motion** by Mike Stroh and seconded by Bob Munsen, CBCW invoices in amounts identical to those of 2022 will be sent to the lakes. The motion passed unanimously.
- I-LIDS – Pending an analysis of expenses from Doug, Bob Klager, Town Treasurer, plans to request reimbursement from the DNR for the final grant payment (\$11,250) for the acquisition of I-LIDS equipment and services for Lake Laura, Irving and Razorback Lakes.

Summary of Receipts and Disbursement of the Lake Management Plan (2018-2023) – The Lake Management Plan is the largest project ever undertaken by the Committee with a grant budget of approximately \$180,000 covering six years of work. The six year project ended with expenses \$4650 under budget.

Upon a **motion** by Jim Haberle and seconded by Joe Heitz, the Treasurer’s report was unanimously accepted.

3. Vilas County Update

- A. Fish Sticks – see 4.B.v. below
- B. Purple Loosestrife – Grant funding has been obtained by the County for beetles to control Purple Loosestrife. Beetles may be used for control in specific areas of high growth where environmental conditions are suitable.
- C. Wake Boats – The County is no longer attempting to evaluate and manage wake boats. Other groups are planning educational sessions this summer to inform the public of their effects. Cathy Higley, Lake Conservation Specialist with Vilas County, noted that wake boats are expected to be a topic at the 2023 6-County Lakes Conference hosted by Vilas County Lakes & Rivers Association at Nicolet College on July 14, 2023 beginning at 8:30 am.
- D. Lights Out Events – Several weekends this summer have been designated as “lights out” nights. Residents are encouraged to turn lights off to enjoy and benefit nocturnal species. June 17 and 18 is “Firefly Watch;” August 12 and 13 coincides with the Perseid meteor shower.
- E. Control of Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM)
 - i. Weevils – Vilas County is investigating the use of weevils for the control but not total eradication of EWM. Weevils have been successful in reducing heavy matting of EWM on the surface of water.
 - ii. Chemicals - The effect of chemicals used to control EWM on various fish species and their stages of development is being studied.

4. Old Business

A. Lake Management Plan –

- i. Summary of Receipts and Disbursements – see Treasurer’s Report above
- ii. Implementation Plan – A final hard copy of the Plan is available in the Town Offices and Town Library as well as a digital copy on the Town web site. Appropriate lake specific sections have been distributed to each lake association or representative.
- iii. Future Direction – The plan is essentially complete and contains management goals and actions for the Town and specific lakes where appropriate. Tim Hoyman, Ecologist with Onterra LLC, will be invited to a Lakes Committee meeting to further discuss future implementation

B. Status of 2022 Programs –

- i. BLIMS –
 1. Maintenance – The seasonal installation of I-LIDS cameras and equipment was done earlier this month. Three of the cameras are undergoing repair and are expected to be installed this weekend.
 2. Enforcement and Video Monitoring –
 - a. Beth Feind has replaced Craig Dalton as Property Manager of the Northern Highland American Legion State Forest. Beth is very supportive of the Committee’s work.
 - b. In 2022, 45,644 videos captured 3764 boat launches; two violations of state law were noted.
- ii. Little Star Remediation – An extension of the current grant has provided funding for a resurvey of the lake by Onterra with hand harvesting of EWM anticipated to be performed in August. Future grant funding is being investigated.
- iii. Clean Boats/Clean Waters (CBCW)
 1. 2023 Grant – A grant for \$22,545 was approved and provides funding for 890 hours of monitoring through the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh (UW-Osh) and approximately 500 hours through paid volunteers. Each of the six landings included in the project will be staffed for at least 200 hours.
Paid volunteer Mac Johnson is leaving the state. Several people have expressed interest in the volunteer positions. Several training sessions are available during the next month. The schedule is available from Cathy Higley.
 2. Monitoring – As in prior years UW-Osh interns will monitor the six landings: Razorback, Lake Laura, Ballard/Irving, Star Lake East Campground, Plum Lake Public Pier and Plum Lake Statehouse Point. A copy of the UW-Osh monitoring schedule for each landing was distributed to the Committee.
Coverage for each of the landings will be supplemented during busy periods and special events by paid volunteers. Bob Munsen will continue to coordinate coverage by the paid volunteers.

- iv. Small Lakes Program/North Lakeland Discovery Center –The Center will perform point intercept (PI) studies on the three remaining small lakes, Dorothy Dunn, Jean and Nineweb. The cost of the PI studies was approved by the Town Supervisors as part of the 2023 Lakes Committee budget. Prior PI studies on the other small lakes has not identified any AIS.
- v. Fish Sticks –
 1. Plum Lake – The placement of one bundle of Fish Sticks in Reddy Bay was completed in February. Cathy Higley has requested reimbursement for work done. Two more sites are planned for Plum Lake with anticipated completion in January/February 2024.
 2. Lake Laura – Grant funding was approved for Fish Sticks on Lake Laura with anticipated placement of bundles in January/February 2024. Permitting needs to be completed by November. John Richter and Bob Jackson will coordinate the work on Lake Laura.
 3. Star Lake – Potential sites on Star Lake will be investigated this summer by Jim Haberle and Cathy Higley.
- vi. Recognizing Past Committee Volunteers – Mike Stroh has been investigating the possibility of recognizing past volunteers of the Lakes Committee. Permanent signage at landings honoring their contributions may not be advisable due to regulations regarding signage and additional volunteers deserving recognition. Adding a notation on temporary signage such as that of I-LIDS or placing a plaque in the Town Offices may be feasible. Investigation is ongoing.

5. New Business – None

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:44 am.

The next meeting of the Lakes Committee for the Town of Plum Lake will be held on Wednesday June 21, 2023 at 10:00 am in the Town of Plum Lake Town Hall. Subsequent meetings will be held on Wednesday, July 19 and Wednesday, August 16 at 10:00 am in the Town of Plum Lake Town Hall. All are welcome to attend.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynn Wiggins, Secretary

Approved 6.21.23