

Lakes Committee - Town of Plum Lake
October 4, 2023, 9:00 am
Town of Plum Lake Town Hall, Sayner WI

Present: Cheryl Carper, Jim Haberle, Joe Heitz, Cathy Higley, Bob Jackson, Bob Munsen, Mike Stroh, Tracy Wallace, Lynn Wiggins.

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m. by Bob Jackson, Chair.

1. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of September 6, 2023 – Upon a **motion** by Bob Munsen and seconded by Joe Heitz the minutes of the September 6, 2023 meeting were unanimously approved.
2. Treasurer's Report – Doug Pinney sent an email report in his absence.
 - Project Analysis
 - o The Committee remains within budget for each of its projects.
 - o A donation of \$815 was received from the west side of Lake Laura. Otherwise there has been no significant activity in any of the projects since the September 6 meeting. Project analyses will be updated after the fishing season concludes.
3. Vilas County Update – Cathy Higley presented the following report.
 - A. Plum Lake Golf Club Shoreline Restoration Project/Healthy Lakes – Plans for the second phase of the project are in progress and a grant proposal will be submitted this fall.
 - B. Fish Sticks/Healthy Lakes – Cathy presented the draft agreement and site plans for fish sticks on Star Lake. Final documents need to be signed by the Town Chair and returned to Cathy by October 31 to be covered under the next grant cycle. See 4.B.v.3. below.
 - C. Wake Boats – Vilas County is not currently developing any documents or guidance on this issue.
 - D. Phragmites and Spiny Water Flea - Vilas County is preparing grants to study and control phragmites and spiny water flea in lakes throughout the county. Public education efforts are also planned.
 - E. Decontamination Program - The County believes that one decontamination unit is available from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh (UW-Osh). The County is applying for a Surface Water Grant through the Wisconsin DNR to use the unit from late May through August on Big Muskellunge, Trout, Star and Plum Lakes. Cathy asked for the Committee's and Town's support in coordinating scheduling as well as providing advertising and public education for decontamination. The use of Lake Association newsletters, handouts and signage for the program were suggested. A letter of support for the program from the Town will be needed.
A **motion** to support the Vilas County decontamination program was made by Mike Stroh, seconded by Bob Munsen and approved unanimously by the Committee.

- F. Phragmites and Purple Loosestrife on Razorback – Cathy and Steve Garski of the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) have again pulled phragmites on Razorback Lake.
Purple Loosestrife was also noted on the lake. The plants appear to be harboring a weevil that feeds on the plant and may provide a natural biocontrol agent for the loosestrife.
- G. Healthy Lakes - Several representatives from the Vilas County Healthy Lakes Program visited the filtration system on Ballard Lake and the Plum Lake Golf Course Shoreline Restoration area. They were impressed with the status of the programs.
- H. Plum Lake Milfoil – Three experienced conservationists at Vilas County have examined the milfoil found on Plum Lake earlier this summer and believe it to be Northern watermilfoil. Final identification by the State is pending.

4. Old Business

A. Lake Management Plan – no update

B. Status of 2023 Programs –

i. BLIMS –

- 1. Maintenance – Cameras and equipment will be removed from landings and placed in storage on October 12.
- 2. Enforcement and Video Monitoring – No additional violations have been reported since the Committee’s September 6 meeting.

ii. Little Star Remediation – Final report is pending.

iii. Clean Boats/Clean Waters (CBCW)

1. Monitoring Coverage

- a. Paid Volunteers – Paid volunteers have been monitoring the landings since the interns completed their work in September. The Committee agreed that coverage should continue until mid-October. Current coverage is concentrated on the lakes with significant fishing activity such as Razorback and Star.
- b. Coverage – The CBCW program from UW-Osh may not be viable next year due to staffing issues and statewide budget cuts affecting the University. Cathy Higley will discuss the issue at the Lake Partnership conference in Boulder Junction on October 26. The Committee agreed to proceed with a grant request for the CBCW program and work on arranging coverage through other sources including the paid volunteers. It was noted that at least 200 hours of coverage per lake annually are required for the three lakes covered under the BLIMS grant for Laura, Irving and Razorback Lakes. Using Plum Ski-ter participants and the Lion’s Club for CBCW personnel was suggested.

iv. Small Lakes Program/North Lakeland Discovery Center-

- 1. Point intercept studies - on Jean, Dorothy Dunn and Wharton Lake are complete. A final report is pending.

2. Early Detection Rapid Response Proposal – see 4.C below.

v. Fish Sticks –

1. Plum Lake – Project is on schedule.
2. Lake Laura – Permitting is in progress. Cathy Higley will work with Town Chair Jackey Postuchow on permitting and signing.
3. Star Lake – Cathy distributed detailed site plans and a draft of the Healthy Lakes grant agreement to the Committee via email last week. Cathy reviewed the details of the proposal. Placement of seven fish stick clusters in three sites in Star Lake are proposed. Total cost of the project is \$7,007.55. Of this, \$5,255.66s will be requested through the grant. The Town will contribute \$551.89 plus an additional \$1200 of volunteer labor.

Permission for tree access through Northern Highlands will be obtained by the Committee. Property owned by the Town within Sayner may provide an additional source of trees for the project. The Committee agreed to proceed with the plans as presented. Cathy will finalize the grant agreement for signature by Town Chair, Jackey Postuchow prior to submission.

C. Rapid Response Lake Surveys – A budgeted proposal for Early Detection and Rapid Response Lake Surveys of the seven larger town lakes was received from the North Lakeland Discovery Center. The surveys include those for aquatic invasive species as well as spiny water flea.

Total cost of the project is \$12,000. The Town will provide \$6000 of funding and the Lakes Committee will contribute \$6000 raised through donations.

A **motion** to proceed with the project was made by Mike Stroh, seconded by Bob Munsen and approved unanimously by the Committee.

Cathy reported that Vilas County is applying for grant monies to provide similar surveys of several smaller lakes.

D. Plum Lake Shoreline Restoration – Erosion of a section of the north shoreline of Plum Lake near Statehouse Point in an area used by the Plum Ski-ers has become a concern. Plans for restoration of the area are in progress. Quita Sheehan, Conservation Specialist for the Vilas County Land and Water Department and an engineer employed by Vilas County have visited the site. They are developing a proposal for a several year plan for restoration. Several sources of donations for funding the proposal were suggested. The issue will be presented at the next Town Board Meeting.

E. 2024 Budget – The Committee’s 2024 proposed budget has been submitted and accepted by the Town Treasurer.

F. 2024 Grants

- i. CBCW – Cathy Higley and Bob Jackson will work on the grant to be submitted this fall.

ii. Healthy Lakes

1. Fish Sticks (Star Lake) - see 4.B.v.3 above.
2. Golf Course Shoreline Restoration – Plans for the second phase of the project are in progress and a grant proposal will be submitted this fall.

5. New Business –

- A. Wake Boats – Vilas County is not currently developing any documents or guidance on this issue.
- B. Boater Behavior – informing boaters of best practices to prevent AIS and gaining information about boater behavior including efforts to prevent AIS and mapping travel between lakes was discussed.

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:18 am.

The next meeting of the Lakes Committee for the Town of Plum Lake will be held in May 2024, specific date and time pending. Committee work in the interim will be accomplished through email and phone.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynn Wiggins, Secretary