

Lakes Committee - Town of Plum Lake
September 6, 2023, 9:00 am
Town of Plum Lake Town Hall, Sayner WI

Present: Cheryl Carper, Jona Eliason, Joe Heitz, Bob Jackson, Bob Munsen, Doug Pinney, Jackey Postuchow, Kevin Rasmussen, John Richter, Mike Stroh, Tracy Wallace, Lynn Wiggins. Kim Lechner and Jackie Gabel attended the Certificate of Commendation presentation.

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

1. Recognition of Past Volunteers – A framed certificate of commendation signed by the Governor honoring the efforts of Lakes Committee volunteers and the Town’s support was presented to the Town Supervisors for placement in the Town Hall. A plaque naming the early founders of the Committee will be attached to the certificate. Jackey Postuchow thanked the Committee for their ongoing work. John Richter thanked Bob Jackson for his work as chair and work with the State on behalf of the Committee.
2. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of August 16, 2023 – Upon a **motion** by Doug Pinney and seconded by Joe Heitz the minutes of the August 16, 2023 meeting were unanimously approved.
3. Treasurer’s Report – Doug Pinney presented a verbal treasurer’s report.
 - Project Analysis
 - o General – The Committee remains within budget for each of its projects.
 - o Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW) –Doug estimates that as of December 31, 2023 the total aquatic invasive species (AIS) donations in excess of expenses will be approximately \$24,600. This assumes that remaining DNR grant funds of \$15,864 are received in 2023 and remaining CBCW expenses are as projected. Town Treasurer Bob Klager intends to move this amount into a separate Town bank account as these are donor restricted funds.
 - o I-LIDS – Since the last meeting, an invoice from Environmental Sentry Protection LLC for video monitoring was received and paid by the Town.
 - o Remediation Fund – No expenses are expected to be charged against the Remediation Fund in 2023. The balance in the fund as of December 31, 2023 is expected to be \$45,149.30. This represents funds budgeted by the Town Supervisors and set aside to pay for future aquatic invasive species remediation (clean-up) in a major town lake. By budgeting an expense amount every year, the cost of a major lake remediation can be spread over multiple property tax years.

Upon a **motion** by Mike Stroh and seconded by John Richter the Treasurer’s report was unanimously accepted.

4. Vilas County Update – Cathy Higley sent a written report in her absence.
 - A. Plum Lake Golf Club Shoreline Restoration Project – Cathy and Quita Sheehan are meeting with John Richter, Julie Smart and another Golf Club representative on September 8 to plan Phase 2 of the golf course native planting.

- B. Fish Sticks – Cathy is preparing site plans for Fish Sticks on Star Lake.
- C. Phragmites and Purple Loosestrife on Razorback – Cathy and Steve Garski of the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) again hand pulled phragmites on Razorback Lake a couple of weeks ago and hope to perform one more weeding this summer.
During the weeding they found scattered purple loosestrife which were harboring an insect that feeds on purple loosestrife flowers, *Nanophyes marmoratus*. This is a natural biocontrol agent in addition to the more typically used Galerucella beetles.
- D. Healthy Lakes Site Plans and Agreements – Cathy will send these items prior to the Committee’s October meeting for placement on the agenda. Documents signed by the Town Chair are due November 10.

5. Old Business

- A. Lake Management Plan –
 - i. Grants - for work scheduled to begin in 2025 will be prepared in 2024.
 - ii. Phase 2 of Golf Course Shoreline Restoration – meeting as noted in 4.A. above.
- B. Status of 2023 Programs –
 - i. BLIMS –
 - 1. Maintenance – Cameras will be removed on October 12. The power source at Plum Lake Statehouse point has been reconfigured to improve clock accuracy.
 - 2. Enforcement and Video Monitoring – An additional violation has been reported on Ballard since the last report, resulting in five confirmed violations on Ballard, two on Irving and one on Razorback this summer.
Violations are reported to the Wisconsin DNR which issues a warning letter to the offender.
 - ii. Little Star Remediation – This summer’s work is complete. Final report is pending.
 - iii. Clean Boats/Clean Waters (CBCW)
 - 1. Monitoring Coverage
 - a. Interns – completed their work the first week of September.
 - b. Paid Volunteers – The two paid volunteers have begun monitoring on Ballard, Star and Plum Lakes. Coverage of the other lakes will occur as the volunteers become more experienced.
 - c. Coverage – Responsibility and work by the interns was discussed and will be addressed next year when the program resumes. Mike Stroh suggested instituting a check list for the interns. Sending that or a similar list to the owners of rental property through the Town and asking owners to post the list in their rental properties was suggested in an effort to ensure that non-resident users of the lake are aware of the hazards and means of transmission of aquatic invasive species. This is

particularly relevant for wake boats and bilges which can hide spiny water flea and other invasives.

iv. Small Lakes Program/North Lakeland Discovery Center-

1. Point intercept studies on Jean, Dorothy Dunn and Wharton Lake are complete. Reports are pending.
2. Proposal – The North Lakeland Discovery Center submitted a detailed proposal for future work with the Town of Plum Lake with the goals of 1) preventing AIS infestations, 2) managing AIS infestations, and 3) supporting healthy shorelines and watersheds. Bob Jackson suggested that the Town adopt two of the prevention objectives for the six primary Town Lakes for 2024, i.e. Objective 3 - Early Detection Rapid Response Survey and Objective 4 – Spiny Waterflea Survey. The Committee agreed that the proposed objectives should be adopted. A cost estimate from the Center is pending.
Strengthening the Town’s relationship with the Discovery Center and the benefits of having the Center monitor our lakes each year was discussed.

v. Fish Sticks –

1. Plum Lake – There is a plan to add balsam and red pine to existing fish sticks sites on the north shore of Plum Lake. A meeting to obtain Town approval for the project is set for September 12.
2. Lake Laura – On schedule to have work done this winter. Details for construction are in progress.
3. Star Lake – A site plan for work and data for grant submission is pending.

C. Lake Sweeps for Aquatic Invasive Species –

- i. Milfoil – Definitive identification by the State of milfoil samples collected from Plum Lake is still pending.
- ii. Purple Loosestrife – John Richter reported that purple loosestrife has been reported near the West Plum Landing. The Committee will discuss remediation at a subsequent meeting.
- iii. Per-and polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) – PFAS have been reported on Wisconsin lakes and streams. Cathy Higley will be asked for input from the County at the next Committee meeting. The possibility of future grant opportunities was discussed.

D. 2024 Budget – The Committee’s 2024 preliminary budget will be modified to accommodate work proposed by the North Lakeland Discovery Center noted in 5.B.iv.2 above.

6. New Business –

A. 2024 Grants

- i. CBCW – grant for 2024 will be submitted this fall. Cathy Higley and Bob Jackson will coordinate effort.

ii. Healthy Lakes Grants

1. Fish Sticks –

a. Star Lake - Cathy Higley is preparing a site plan and data for grant submission for Star Lake installation work planned for January/February 2025.

b. Lake Laura – Permitting in progress.

2. Plum Lake Golf Course Shoreline Restoration (Phase 2) – Planning meeting as noted in 4.A. above.

B. Plum Ski-ters' Site – Cheryl Carper reported that erosion of a section of the north shore of Plum Lake in an area used by the Ski-ters has become a concern. Renewal of the land use agreements with the Town and DNR are pending and will appear on a future Town Board meeting agenda. Quita Sheehan, Conservation Specialist for the Vilas County Land and Water Department, has evaluated the site and believes that phased restoration of the shoreline is possible. A budget is pending. Exploring grant options through the Town, Wisconsin DNR and Ski-ters as well as involving the Discovery Center in a shoreline restoration project were suggested.

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:01am.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynn Wiggins, Secretary

Approved 10.4.23