

**Lakes Committee – Town of Plum Lake**  
**July 17, 2024**  
**Town of Plum Lake Town Hall, Sayner WI**

Present: Bob Jackson, Chair  
Bob Munsen, Jim Haberle, Mike Stroh, John Richter, Joe Heitz, Tracy Wallace,  
Wayne Ax, and Doug Pinney.

- 1) The meeting was called to order at 9:05 am by Bob Jackson.
- 2) Bob Jackson noted that he and Kim Lechner, Town Clerk, had properly posted and noticed the meeting at the Sayner US Post Office and on the Town of Plum Lake website.
- 3) Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of June 12, 2024. The draft minutes were presented for approval. Mike Stroh moved and Jim Haberle seconded, and the motion was approved.
- 4) Treasurer’s Report—Doug Pinney had previously sent an email with worksheets showing receipts and disbursements for calendar year 2024 for the Lakes Committee projects Clean Boats Clean Water and I-LIDS. Doug stated that year-to-date the Committee has received \$7,125 in donations from lake organizations and individuals. Bills have been received for Clean Boats Clean Water for T-shirts and the second payment for UW-Oshkosh. Sam Patterson has submitted his bill for the installation of the landing cameras.  
Doug stated that we have a sufficient budget to complete the planned projects for this year. Mike Stroh moved that the Treasurer’s Report be accepted; Jim Haberle seconded, and the motion was approved.
- 5) Vilas County Update – Cathy Higley, Vilas County Lake Conservation Specialist, previously had provided an email update: Jacob Worden continues to decontaminate boats at Big Muskellunge, Plum, Star, and Trout boat landings every other weekend. Spiny water flea dredge samples have been taken on Razorback, Laura, and Muskellunge so far. Ballard Lake will be sampled. Vilas County technicians will monitor Razorback, Aurora, Little Star, and Lone Tree lakes for Phragmites and knotweeds.  
Clean Boats Clean Water inspectors now have an online training option: [https://www.vilascountywi.gov/departments/services/land\\_water\\_conservation/clean\\_boats\\_clean\\_waters.php](https://www.vilascountywi.gov/departments/services/land_water_conservation/clean_boats_clean_waters.php). Cathy also offered to do in-person training, if needed.
- 6) New Business – Status of 2024 Programs
  - a) BLIMS -John Richter reported that the camera at the Town dock was fixed remotely by Eric Lindberg of Environmental Sentry and all cameras are currently working. A violation was noted at the Ballard Lake landing. Water was drained from a boat before launching. Eric Lindberg will notify the DNR Warden. Wayne Ax reported that a suspected violation was observed at the Razorback landing. The boat was a fishing Kayak with no boat registration and no way to identify the owner. A general discussion took place about the need for boat registration for any watercraft that needs a trailer; this would require a change in state law.
  - b) Little Star Remediation – Bob Jackson reported that he had received a preliminary report from Aquatic Plant Management. On July 11, 2023, they

hand-pull Eurasian Water Milfoil. Unfortunately, they pulled 12 cubic feet of material this year versus only 4 cubic feet last year. Bob Munsen stated that conditions on Little Star Lake on that day were very good for observation. Onterra LLC will be mapping Eurasian Water Milfoil later this summer. Doug Pinney moved that we hire Aquatic Plan Management to perform a second removal after Onterra LLC has completed mapping; John Richter seconded and the motion passed. Doug noted that we should have sufficient budget for this additional work.

- c) Clean Boats, Clean Waters (CBCW)– Bob Jackson has distributed hats and T-shirts to landing inspectors. Additional hats and T-shirts are available for fall inspectors.
- d) Fish Sticks – John Richter stated that fish sticks could be installed this summer at the Town fishing pier. A general discussion was held regarding the installation process for the pier.  
John stated that cement blocks should be ordered to secure the trees to the lake bottom and additional blocks will be needed for the winter installations on Plum Lake, Lake Laura, and Star Lake.  
Bob Jackson reported that Beth Feind, State Forest Property Manager for Wisconsin DNR, has indicated that fish sticks can not be secured to the shore using a tree as an anchor and a post should be used instead. John Richter suggested that we contact Beth to get clarification of the reason for this change and how we might proceed for our projects.
- e) Rapid Response Lake Surveys – Bob Jackson said he expects the North Lakeland Discovery Center to conduct early detection of aquatic invasive species (AIS) on Star, Plum, Razorback, Laura, Ballard, Irving, and White Birch lakes beginning in the second week of August. Bob will ask an intern from the North Lakeland Discovery Center to attend our August meeting to brief us on their work.
- f) Enhanced Wake Ordinance – Bob Jackson reported that the Town Supervisors had approved sending the draft ordinance to the DNR at their meeting on June 25, 2024. A response dated July 14, 2024 from Robin Miller, Recreation Warden, has been received by Kim Lechner, Town Clerk. Several changes to the ordinance were suggested and these suggestions appear reasonable. Bob Jackson and John Richter will follow-up with Jackey Postuchow (Town Supervisor Chair). An ordinance cannot be adopted until a 60-day waiting period has expired. Bob said the 60-day waiting period expires on August 24, 2024.

A discussion of the enforcement provisions took place. One option would be for the Town to work with other towns to hire a constable to patrol lakes in each of the towns. No statewide legislation is expected due to politics. The boat industry has contributed to various political action corporations (PACs) over the years.

John Richter said that other towns had signs ready to go when their ordinances were passed. Signs will be needed for public boat landings including landings at

campgrounds. Doug Pinney moved that the Committee order signs acceptable to the DNR for all required landings in the County; Joe Heitz seconded and the motion passed. The cost of the signs will be paid from prior donations to the Lakes Committee. John Richter will take responsibility for identifying the landings and ordering the signs.

g) Lake Management Plan – Bob Jackson said Tim Hoyman of Onterra LLC will attend the September 11 meeting to make a proposal. Mike Stroh suggested that Tim include a survey of town lakes for PFAS (perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances) in the new plan.

7) Other New Business and Citizen Comments and Concerns – No comments were made.

8) Next Meeting – August 14, 2024 at 9:00 am.

9) The meeting was adjourned by Bob Jackson at 9:59 am

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas L. Pinney, Secretary pro tem

Planned meeting dates:

All on Wednesdays and starting at 9:00 am  
August 14  
September 11