

Lakes Committee - Town of Plum Lake
August 14, 2024, 9:00 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, Lynn Wiggins

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. by Bob Jackson, Chair.

1. Open Meeting Verification – Notice of the meeting was appropriately posted at the Sayner United States Post Office and on the Town of Plum Lake website.
2. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of July 17, 2024 – Upon a **motion** by Jim Haberle and seconded by Joe Heitz, the minutes of the July 17, 2024 meeting were unanimously approved.

Lynn Wiggins thanked Doug Pinney, Secretary Pro-Tem, for preparing the meeting minutes for the last three meetings.

3. Treasurer's Report – Doug reported on the Year-to-Date Project Analysis for 2024 focusing on the two projects which had financial activity during the past month, Clean Boats/Clean Waters and I-LIDS Acquisition and Monitoring. Worksheets on both programs had been sent to Committee members prior to the meeting.
 - Clean Boats/Clean Waters - Additional donations totaling \$3150 have been received from lake organizations and individuals. The second payment of \$10,453 was made to the University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh for providing intern coverage and services for the program. The project remains well within budget.
 - I-LIDS Acquisition and Monitoring – A payment of \$14,176 was made to Environmental Sentry for video monitoring and other costs associated with the project.

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

Doug Pinney will prepare the 2025 annual Lakes Committee budget for discussion and potential approval at the September 11 meeting.

4. Vilas County Update – No report.
5. New Business –
 - A. Status of 2024 Programs –
 - i. BLIMS –
 1. Maintenance – No new issues.
 2. Enforcement and Video Monitoring – There have been eight violations this year which are being reported to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) with citations issued in some cases.
 3. John Richter has been asked about the cost of I-LIDS by an interested party. Doug stated that the overall annual budget for the program is

\$17,500 which includes equipment installation and repair, upgraded video monitoring and insurance.

- ii. Little Star Remediation – Onterra is surveying Little Star Lake for Eurasian milfoil this week. Based on survey results a decision regarding the need for additional hand pulling of the milfoil by Aquatic Plant Management this summer will be made.

Tim Hoyman of Onterra LLC has noted that mild weather conditions during the past winter contributed to additional milfoil and other aquatic plant growth in area lakes.

- iii. Clean Boats/Clean Waters (CBCW)

- 1. Grant – The submission deadline for the 2025 CBCW grant is November 15, 2024.

- 2. Monitoring Coverage

- a. Interns – complete their work within the next one to two weeks.

- b. Paid Volunteers – paid volunteers will provide additional coverage of the landings when the interns leave. There are currently one trained volunteer and two individuals who have expressed interest in the position. The training status of these two individuals is pending.

- c. Coverage - Bob Jackson and Bob Munsen will meet to discuss 2025 coverage to ensure that scheduled volunteer coverage is adequate to supplement intern coverage to satisfy grant requirements on several of the lakes.

- iv. Fish Sticks – No recent activity.

- v. Rapid Response Lake Surveys – Interns are currently performing AIS surveys on Star, Plum, Razorback, Laura, Ballard, Irving and White Birch Lakes. An intern will attend the September 11 Committee meeting to discuss progress.

- vi. Enhanced Wake Ordinance – The Town’s proposed Wake Ordinance will be discussed and voted upon at the Town Board Meeting on Tuesday, August 27 at 9:00 am.

Obtaining signage for placement at the public landings is in progress. The need for additional notice to the public of the ordinance, if approved by the Supervisors, was discussed. Enforcement of the ordinance will be by Town Supervisors and Town employees.

- vii. Lake Management Plan – One of the ongoing Management Actions of the Lake Management Plan is to perform quantitative vegetation monitoring on the Town’s lakes, with point intercept surveys and community mapping of the larger, public access lakes beginning in 2025. Tim Hoyman of Onterra, LLC has prepared a Surface Water Planning Grant proposal to perform these surveys on Phase One lakes (Plum, West Plum, Star and Little Star) in 2025. The total cost of the project is \$37,455.00. Actual cash cost to the Town after WDNR grant funding, volunteer and in-kind match opportunities are deducted

is \$11,835.15. Grant submission deadline is September 16. Similar surveys are planned for Phase 2 and Phase 3 lakes in subsequent years.

A **motion** made by Doug Pinney and seconded by Bob Jackson to submit the grant proposal to the Town Supervisors for approval passed unanimously.

Including testing for the presence of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in the surveys was discussed at the last meeting. Bob Jackson has discussed the proposal with Tim Hoyman of Onterra LLC. PFAS monitoring is not being performed on other area lakes and there is limited data on the reliability and significance of this testing.

A **motion** made by John Richter and seconded by Cheryl Carper to not include PFAS testing as part of the surface water survey passed unanimously.

- B. Aerator System on Ballard Lake – In the late 1990s an aerator system was placed at the Ballard Landing to reduce the risk of fish kill in Ballard and White Birch Lakes. The Ballard-Irving-White Birch Lakes Association (BIWBLA) has paid the costs of maintenance and repairs of the aerator and the Town has historically reimbursed BIWBLA for up to half of these costs, depending upon the availability of budgeted funds. In addition, the Town has typically paid up to \$800 of the electric bill; if there is a balance, BIWBLA has paid the remainder. These expenses have not, in the past, been included in the Lakes Committee budget. The Committee discussed the advantages and disadvantages of placing expenses associated with the Ballard aerator within the Lakes Committee budget.

A **motion** was made by Doug Pinney and seconded by Lynn Wiggins to include the expenses for the Ballard Lake aerator in the Lakes Committee budget. The motion passed with six Committee members voting in favor of the motion, two not in favor and one abstaining.

- C. Lakes Committee Recruitment – Adding new members to the Committee to ensure ongoing and future representation from all the larger Town lakes was discussed. Potential new members were suggested and may be approached by current Committee members to assess interest.

6. Other New Business and Citizens' Comments –

- A. Salt Demonstration – Wayne Ax noted a display at a recent Trout Lake event regarding the impact of road salt on surface water. Education of the public regarding shoveling or the use of sand rather than salt during the winter and the use of sand versus salt by the Town were discussed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:25 am.

The next meeting of the Lakes Committee for the Town of Plum Lake will be held on Wednesday, September 11, 2024 at 9:00 am in the Town of Plum Lake Town Hall. The October meeting will be held October 9.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynn Wiggins, Secretary