

Lakes Committee - Town of Plum Lake
September 11, 2024, 9:00 am
Town of Plum Lake Town Hall, Sayner WI

Present: Wayne Ax, Cheryl Carper, Jim Haberle, Joe Heitz, Bob Jackson, George Lannert, Doug Pinney, Mike Stroh, John Richter, Jamie VandenLangenberg “Van” (North Lakeland Discovery Center Water Program Director), Cathy Higley (Vilas County Lake Conservation Specialist)

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 August 14, 2024 – Upon a **motion** by Cheryl Carper and seconded by Doug Pinney, the minutes of the August 14, 2024 meeting were unanimously approved.
3. Treasurer’s Report – Doug reported that donations from lake organizations and individuals of \$10,565 have been received; this compares with \$11,295 for all of 2023 and exceeds the bills issued to lake organizations of \$10,100. Some additional contributions are expected for this year. No payments were made by the Town for Lakes Committee projects since our last meeting.

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

4. Vilas County Update –Cathy reported that no spiny water flea had been identified in the lakes Vilas County staff had sampled: Razorback Lake, Lake Laura, Big Muskellunge Lake, and Ballard Lake in the Town of Plum Lake. She observed that the wild rice looks good this year on Aurora Lake.

The Voluntary Boat Decontamination at boat landings has wrapped up. Cathy said she will be writing a report on the effectiveness of the program.

Cathy stated that Vilas County will be updating this year its 10-year plan that includes the work of the Conservation Committee. She said to watch for more information from the County.

The Vilas County Lakes Conservation Partners Meeting will be held on October 24, 2024. Cathy said the meeting will be virtual this year.

5. New Business –

A. Status of 2024 Programs –

- i. BLIMS –
 1. Maintenance – John Richter reported a problem with the sound from the unit at the landing at State House Point.
 2. Enforcement and Video Monitoring – There have been at least three additional suspected violations since the last meeting that are being reported to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR).
 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 – Bob Jackson reported that Aquatic Plant Management hand-pulled Eurasian Water Milfoil on August 26 from locations on Little Star Lake that had been identified by a survey performed by Onterra LLC; this was the second session of hand-pulling for the lake this year.
- iii. Clean Boats/Clean Waters (CBCW)
 1. Monitoring Coverage
 - a. Bob Jackson reported that the Oshkosh interns have completed their work. We will receive a report from UW-Oshkosh on their work.
 - b. Paid Volunteers – Bob Munsen has identified several volunteers for our fall monitoring on Town landings.
 - 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 – John Richter plans to hold a meeting this fall with volunteers planning to work on the installations in January, 2025.

Cathy Higley will work on securing the work permit for the Star Lake installation.

- v. Rapid Response Lake Surveys – Jamie Van reported on the AIS surveys on Star, Plum, Razorback, Laura, Ballard, Irving and White Birch Lakes.
 1. No spiny water fleas were found on these lakes based on the sampling they performed except for Star Lake. Spiny water fleas had previously been identified on Plum Lake. This good news was a surprise.
 2. Purple loose strife was noted on Star Lake.
 3. Jamie reported that Eurasian Water Milfoil plants were identified on Plum Lake. Jamie said no matting was observed and that colonies of plants were identified at the locations. Jamie suggested that an early detection and response grant from the DNR would be available to

cover 75% of the cost of hand-pulling or device assisted suction of plants. [This work has been done on Little Star Lake by Aquatic Plant Management.] Jamie said there is no due date for these grant applications.

Mike Stroh moved that we apply for an Early Detection and Response Grant to treat Eurasian Water Milfoil in Plum Lake. Doug Pinney seconded and the motion passed.

Jamie Van said she would draft the grant application on behalf of the Town.

Bob Jackson asked whether we should ask Aquatic Plant Management to hand-pull the plants on Plum Lake as soon as possible. Jamie Van said the risk is that plants can be somewhat fragile this time of year and auto fragmentation (plant breakup) can occur. Auto fragmentation spreads Eurasian Water Milfoil.

After further discussion, Mike Stroh moved that we use Aquatic Plant Management to hand-pull the identified Eurasian Water Milfoil in Plum Lake using proper precautions to deal with auto fragmentation. Joe Heitz seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Bob Jackson hopes we can get this work done in the next two weeks.

Jamie Van reported that the Northland Lakes and Water Conference will be held next year on April 25, 2025. Bob Jackson encouraged everyone to attend.

vi. Enhanced Wake Ordinance – Bob Jackson reported that the Town’s Wake Ordinance was unanimously approved by the Supervisors at the Town Board Meeting on August 27, 2024.

1. Bob Klager has ordered the required signs for placement at the public landings (15 public landings).
2. Bob Jackson said the Town maintenance crew has reserved Tuesday, September 17, 2024 to install the signs and will rent an auger to dig the post holes. Joe Heitz has ordered the posts to be used.
3. Doug Pinney noted that these expenses will be paid for out of prior donations to the Lakes Committee.

vii. Lake Management Plan – Nothing new to report.

B. Preliminary 2025 Budget—A discussion took place on the Preliminary 2025 budget that had been sent out prior to the meeting by Doug Pinney. The following changes were made:

- i. The expense for small lakes monitoring was increased from \$5,000 to \$8,000. The revised amount was provided by Jamie Van to perform the work planned in 2025.

- ii. A net expense of \$8,500 was established for the Town's share of an early detection and response grant to treat Eurasian Water Milfoil in Plum Lake. The total project will cost approximately \$33,500. An exact amount will be developed as part of the grant application.
- iii. John Richter moved that the Preliminary 2025 budget as adjusted be approved by the Committee and forwarded to the Town Supervisors. Cheryl Carper seconded and the motion passed.

6. Other New Business and Citizens' Comments –

- A. Quagga Mussel – John Richter stated that quagga mussels had been identified in Geneva Lake in Southeast Wisconsin. This is the first occurrence of this invasive species in an inland lake. John described some of the problems the invasive species create for fish.
- B. Wayne Ax stated that one lake property owner who had donated to the Lakes Committee in the past said he would no longer do so because of the way the Town had handled the issue of ATVs on Town roads.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:07 am.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Douglas L. Pinney, Secretary Pro Tem

Approved 10.9.2024