

Pike Lake Chain Lakes Association, Inc.
23JAN2023
Unapproved – Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Pike Lake Fire Department Hall

Meeting called to order at 6:01 PM by Russ Schroeder, Vice President

Statement of Quorum:

Board Members Present: 10 board members + Web Administrator

Russ Schroeder – Vice President, Lynne Clemens – Treasurer, Ed Hunter, Jack Wierzba, Everett Sammis, Jim Clemmons, Thor Gunderson, Steve AveLallemant, Mike Ida, Jennifer Morris, Derek Dieringer (Web Administrator)

Absent: Dick Mace – President, Ann Sloane – Secretary

Guests: 3 guests were present

David Ebert, John Schroeder, Ed Clemens

Secretary's Report:

Ann Sloane (absent but provided minutes)

The Board minutes of 24OCT2022 were reviewed. Motion to approve by Mike Ida. Second by Jack Wierzba. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

Lynne Clemens

Three deposits have been made: a \$25 donation and \$100 in memberships. Paid expenses include \$25 to the Wisconsin Department of Finance for our Non Profit status and \$395 to the Wisconsin Lakes Association for our annual dues. We ended the year with 158 members. The current checking balance was reported. Lynne did mention that some of the membership renewals have been coming with comments. The Board agrees that we should respond to people that provide comments to let them know that we've received them and they'll be reviewed at the next Board meeting. Motion to approve by Steve AveLallemant. Second by Jim Clemmons. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments:

Dave Ebert – Dave lives on Round Lake and has been coming to the area for 30+ years. He would like to see the fishing improved and specifically would like to see the lakes stocked. He would be willing to help with this effort and even be the point person on investigating what it would take to stock the lakes.

John Schroder – John is present to hear about the Fish Ladder project.

DNR Fish Ladder Update:

Jeff Schreirer, DNR Fish Biologist

Jeff was not able to be present at the meeting so his presentation was tabled. A discussion regarding the Fish Ladder project ensued. The person with the Forest Service heading the project has retired. Any revival of the project must start with the Forest Service. We have heard overwhelmingly that residents do not want the lake levels affected. The researcher that originally worked on the project thinks the ladder can be built without affecting lake levels. It would need to be built up to the current sheet piling at the dam. The PLCLA Board would be supportive of keeping lake levels the same. The Forest Service process is a long one. If they decide to pick this back up, it would result in a list of options to choose from (one of which would be not doing the project). It's likely at least 4-5 years out to even get the list of options to choose from. The Forest Service will not move forward with the

project without the blessing of this Board. The dam cannot be altered due to its historical status. The effect of the fish ladder on fishing on the chain is unknown.

Discussion of Chain Lake Fish Stocking proposal from public comment at 24OCT2022 meeting:

It is possible to do a fish stocking but the question is whether we should. The Minocqua chain has not been successful with their stocking efforts. If we decide to stock, we would need to stock with larger fish if we want them to survive. We would need to get a permit from the DNR but would need to purchase the fish from a private entity. Thor Gunderson and Dave Ebert agreed to head up a committee to look into the cost and process of stocking the lakes to be considered at a future Board meeting.

Committee Reports:

Fisheries:

Russ Schroeder

Email from Scheirer, Jeffrey W – DNR

Earlier this month we did receive the final reports of our fall 2022 electrofishing surveys to gauge walleye recruitment in Pike, Round, and Turner lakes. The summaries are attached and the updated charts of the complete walleye recruitment history are pasted below. Looks like each lake produced a modest year class of walleyes in 2022. For Round Lake's 2022 cohort, our catch rate of 30 fingerlings per mile was near the historical average among walleye populations in the Ceded Territory that are sustained by natural reproduction. Feel free to share this information in the newsletter. Other than that, we don't have much new for fisheries on the Pike Chain.

Oh yes, maybe we do. Last January we received the mid-term results for the 10-year evaluation of the experimental panfish harvest restrictions. Those early findings suggest that only the most restrictive treatment (a year-round daily bag limit of 15 panfish, but only 5 of any one species) was effective to increase the average length of bluegill and crappies. The summary report is also attached if you're interested in the details. WDNR's statewide Panfish Team would like to complete the entire 10-year study to see whether either of the other two experimental panfish harvest restrictions might eventually work to improve average panfish length, if given some more time. We'll have an option to change the current panfish regulation (a year-round daily bag limit of 25 panfish, but only 10 of any one species) before it reverts back to the 25-fish daily bag limit in 2026. More details about the study are posted at Draft plan for AMPP (wistate.us).

Aquatic Invasive Species

Steve AveLallemant

The report for this area was submitted to Derek Dieringer for inclusion in the upcoming newsletter.

Water (Testing) Quality:

Jack Wierzba

The report for this area was submitted to Derek Dieringer for inclusion in the upcoming newsletter.

Newsletter/Facebook/Website:

Derek Dieringer (Web Administrator)

The newsletter is in progress. It is nearly ready to be sent to the printer and should be printed and mailed in the next few weeks. The process to collect dues electronically has been available on the website since mid-summer but we haven't advertised it. Now that it's renewal season, we'll push people to the website for renewals via the newsletter and Facebook postings.

Trail Maintenance:

Jennifer Morris

The report for this area was submitted to Derek for inclusion in the upcoming newsletter. There has been a change in attitude with the Forest Service. They are very willing to work with us on this topic. They will be holding a one-day class in Park Falls later this winter/early spring to cover topics like chainsaw safety, CPR, and proper dress. People that want to help with the trails must be certified before they can help. Contact Jennifer Morris if you want more information.

Update and Report Regarding “Buoy” & “No Wake” Concerns (Town Ord. 23 & 99):

Ann Sloane will be meeting with WI DNR Recreational Officer, Robin Miller, who is responsible for Price, Vilas, Iron, and Bayfield Counties. The Town of Fifield Board is scheduled to meet in March to discuss permits for buoy placement and ‘no wake’ permits, ordinances, and protocols for the Pike Lake Chain of Lakes. This topic is tabled until after the meeting with the Town of Fifield.

Proposed Project “Kids Don’t Float”:

Mike Ida

The Price County Recreational Sheriff, Seth, brought us a possible project. The project is known as “Kids Don’t Float” and involves us building a container to house loaner lifejackets. The blueprints for the container have been provided to us. We could partner with Phillips or Park Falls High School to have them build it if we provide the materials. This would be placed at the Federal boat landing. Phillips High School is currently building one for another lake association. We would need to stock it with lifejackets and probably have someone monitor it to make sure there are always jackets there and that they are clean, dry, etc. There will likely be some attrition with these jackets. We could ask for donated lifejackets as well. The approximate cost for the materials would be \$1,119.54 (estimate from the Forest Service). We would also need approval from the Forest Service to place the container but we don’t anticipate issues because this is a federal initiative. There was a question about liability. As long as we use life jackets that are USCG approved, we should be ok. We should label the jackets (in large print) to discourage people from taking them. There was discussion about placing a second one at the State boat landing. Mike Ida will investigate this. Motion that the PLCLA pay for the costs of the container with building to be done by either Phillips or Park Falls High School and that the PLCLA stock the lifejackets and provide oversight of the project with the container being placed at the Federal boat landing by Mike Ida. Second by Everett Sammis. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion of other potential lake projects:

Erosion Issues – Mike Ida and Steve AveLallemant presented data about erosion around the chain. As an example, they looked at the shorelines of Board members. They looked at numerous factors including canopy cover, bank erosion, and shrub cover. There is a website to view all the detailed information. Contact Mike Ida for instructions on how to access the website. There is a potential for us to sit down with landowners that have erosion issues and work with them on ways to remediate them. The DNR can assist as well and there may be grants available to assist with costs. If we can work on a few of the hotspots on the chain and we’re successful, the Board may want to commit to working on a certain number of spots or spending a certain amount of money each year on shoreline erosion remediation. Mike and Steve will continue to investigate to see how to proceed.

Rock Buoys – There was discussion around marking hazardous rocks on the chain (there is one by the Thorofare bridge). The Town won’t allow marking rocks due to liability issues because if you mark one, you need to mark them all and if you miss a rock that opens us up to liability issues.

Discussion of Future Lake Information and Promotion Ideas to Improve Communication:

The Board will start publishing agendas for Board meetings. We currently post minutes but have not been posting agendas. We will start posting agendas a minimum of one week prior to the meeting so the public has an opportunity to see what will be discussed and decide if they want to attend. There was also a discussion about making meetings accessible via video or teleconference. Video is

impractical at this time due to the availability of equipment that would be needed to capture the meeting as well as wifi availability in the building. Another alternative would be to have a phone bridge that people could call into to attend the meetings via phone. Derek Dieringer will look into costs to obtain a phone conference unit as well as options for calling in for meetings and present options and costs at the next meeting.

Nominations for Board of Directors at Annual Meeting:

Email from President Dick Mace:

I am not seeking re-election to President so you need to be thinking about who would be willing to assume that position as well as nominations for Vice President and 4 at-large Board Members. Those members show term expires in 2023 (odd years) are Steve, Mike, Thor, and Jennifer. Even year members which are not under this year's consideration include Ann (Secretary), Lynne (Treasurer), Jack, Ed, Jim, and Everett. The bylaws provide for 2 year terms. Thor & Jennifer were appointed to assume a member who resigned during their term.

- President
 - _____
- Vice President
 - _____
- 4 At-Large Members
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____

We will want to put a notice in the newsletter as well as a post on Facebook that if anyone has an interest in serving in any of the Board positions that they should contact Russ Schroeder or any other board member to submit their name for consideration.

Confirmation of Annual Meeting:

The date of the Annual Meeting was confirmed at June 3, 2023 at 10:00 AM at the Pike Lake Fire & Rescue Annex. Ann Sloane will reserve the Pike Lake Fire & Rescue Annex.

Schedule next Board Meeting:

The next Board meeting will be held on Monday, April 17, 2023 at the Pike Lake Fire Department Hall at 6:00 PM.

Any other items requiring Board action:

None

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn made by Thor Gunderson at 7:37PM. Second by Jim Clemmons. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by:
Derek Dieringer