

**Pike Lake Chain Lakes Association, Inc.  
Board Meeting  
Unapproved Board Meeting Minutes**

**August 5, 2023**

**Location: Pike Lake Fire Hall**

**Meeting called to order:**

10:00 am by President, Mike Ida

**Statement of Quorum:**

Board Members Present (9)

President – Mike Ida, VP – Russ Schroeder, Secretary – Peggy Kuss, Treasurer – Lynne Clemens  
Jeff Wilton, Steve Ave’Lallement, Everett Sammis, Jim Clemmons, Ed Hunter

**Absent**

David Ebert, Thor Gunderson, Jack Wierzba

**Members in Attendance: 6**

President, Mike Ida, shared with the Board information regarding Ann Sloane’s resignation as Secretary from the PLCLA. Mike introduced Peggy Kuss who has interest in filling the open Board position as Secretary. Mike and Peggy have discussed the responsibilities required for this position and Mike reported to the Board that Peggy currently serves as Secretary for the Fifield Sno Drivers. Hearing this, Jim Clemmons inquired with Peggy about her capacity to take on the Secretary responsibilities for the Association. Peggy indicated the additional responsibilities would not be a problem. Motion by Russ Schroeder/2<sup>nd</sup> by Lynne Clemens. Motion carried unanimously.

**Community Member Comments:**

A lake Association member discussed Ordinance 28. This is a Town of Fifield Ordinance and dates back to 1988. Beyond the hours designated for “skiing” it also includes a 12mph speed limit enforceable prior to 10 am and after 5 pm. He recommended that the entire Ordinance be posted at the two boat landings and not at the Thorofare bridge so all are aware of the entire Ordinance. He would like to see the Ordinance removed from the Pike Lake Chain and normal DNR regulations followed.

Another lake Association member mentioned that Amik Lake is located outside of the Town of Fifield. He questioned whether Amik was included in Ordinance 28. Although the Board’s response was yes at the time, further research indicated that Ordinance 28 does not mention Amik as being included.

Ordinance 28 will be the topic of the September 23, 2023 listening session which begins at 10 am.

## **Secretary's Report**

The minutes of the June 26, 2023 Board meeting were reviewed. Motion by Lynne Clemens/2<sup>nd</sup> by Everett Sammis to approve. Motion carried unanimously.

It was confirmed that the Board would follow the existing practice of posting the unapproved Minutes for the sake of timeliness in their communication. Minutes would also be taken at the listening sessions and posted in the same manner.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Lynne Clemens presented the June financial and membership report. There are currently 168 members. Motion by Jim Clemmons/2<sup>nd</sup> by Jeff Witon to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried unanimously.

Lynne has added some additional Excel reports to track income and expenditures. Some Board members would like to receive a copy of the detailed Report.

## **Old Business**

**Buoy Request:** President Ida has prepared a letter to the Town of Fifield Board which includes a recommendation on the placement of the Round and Pike Lake buoys. The Board instructed Mike Ida not to forward this letter until sometime later to allow time for boaters to view the suggested placement of the buoys and provide feedback. It was indicated that earlier minutes contained verbiage that a recommendation from the DNR be made on the placement. Mike indicated that he had contacted Warden Tom Heisler regarding buoy placement. Warden Heisler informed him that the DNR does not set buoy placement and therefore would not assist in a recommendation. The Board has asked that minutes from the meeting indicating the DNR involvement be pulled to clarify what was recorded. The following GPS coordinates reflect the recommended placement of the buoys:

Round Lake N4554.940, W090.04.128

Pike Lake N4554.841, W090.03.985

If you have any questions or concerns about the GPS coordinates, feel free to contact Mike Ida at [trakwali@gmail.com](mailto:trakwali@gmail.com)

**Kids Don't Float Update:** Everitt Sammis indicated this project is going well. All donated life vests are tested. Not all have been usable. Everitt has been updating the storage area to protect the vests from varmints. It was also reported that Warden Heisler has observed people using the vests. A letter was sent to the Jake Peglow Legacy Limited Foundation for their generous \$300 donation to this project.

**Lakeshore Project:** Lynne Clemens reported on a seminar she attended recently in Manitowish Waters regarding how to protect your shoreline. She shared with the Board the materials she collected at the seminar. The Board decided that one of the booklets "Shoreline Stabilization" be provided to all

lakeshore owners. A motion was made by Jim Clemmons/2<sup>nd</sup> by Everitt Sammis to obtain and distribute the “Shoreline Stabilization” booklet at a cost not to exceed \$200. Motion carried unanimously. The booklet will be distributed at Fun Day with the remaining booklets being dropped off or mailed to those lakeshore owners who did not pick the booklet up at Fun Day. Price County also distributes a brochure called “Caring for Our Shores” to new lakeshore owners.

Lynne also indicated that the DNR is offering cost-share grants for those who qualify for Healthy Lakes & Rivers practices through their lake and river organizations and local governments. For more information see [www.healthylakeswi.com](http://www.healthylakeswi.com)

Lynne Clemons suggested that the Board hold an educational session on protecting your shoreline for the Association’s members.

Steve Ave’Lllement reported he had spoken to Kevin Gauthier of the DNR regarding the services his team could provide. Although not engineers, their support for creating rain gardens, water diversions and vegetative management could be very helpful in mitigating shore erosion. Kevin provided referrals to others in the DNR that could provide help. Kevin mentioned three contractors that are experienced in larger scale projects. These included Nova Ecological Services based in Boulder Junction, Flambeau Engineering of Park Falls and Harmony Environmental of Hayward.

Jim Clemmons reported that he also had been attempting to contact the DNR regarding shoreline erosion both locally and in Madison. He referenced materials that he located at [www.dnr.wisconsin.gov](http://www.dnr.wisconsin.gov) by searching shoreline erosion. There is a list of contractors that perform this type of work who are familiar with the DNR requirements. Jim would be happy to speak with individuals regarding his findings.

The Board discussed having a demonstration area where other lakefront owners could view an actual restoration project. The south end of Round Lake has been identified as an area of significant erosion according to DNR reports. Lynne Clemens also indicated that the north end of Pike Lake also experiences significant winds.

**Stocking Walleyes:** no report.

#### **2022 Financial Records Audit:**

Treasurer, Lynne Clemens, has consulted with Ryan Gehrig, CPA regarding an audit. A full audit would cost the Association \$20,000 while a compilation audit would cost \$1,600 to \$1,800. The Board inquired whether an Association member could perform the audit based on the simplicity of the transactions. Although Russ Schroeder’s son is no longer a practicing CPA, perhaps he would be willing to take on this responsibility. Russ will pass on Lynne’s contact information and they will discuss the project and any cost involved. The Board agreed to this initial approach.

**By-Law Subcommittee:** This Committee has met and plans to provide more information at the next meeting.

**Community Member Comments:**

Another Association member thanked the Lakeshore Committee for their good work. The information available seems complicated and may involve the DNR and DOT. Contractors would have the answers on what is needed but perhaps the Board should provide options as part of the Lakeshore project.

**New Business**

**Board Member Presence at Fifield Township Board Meetings:** Mike Ida would like to have an Association Board member at each Town meeting to provide feedback to the town if requested and to also to provide the Board with information from the Town Board meeting. Lynne Clemens will be attending the August 15, 2023 meeting. Jeff Witon is also interested in attending and Dave Ebert has also been attending.

**Fish Ladder Presentation:** The fish ladder presentation will take place on August 12, 2023 at 10:00 am. The meeting place has been reserved (Pike Lake Fire Department Hall) and speakers provided by Mike Ida. The presentation will be limited to 45 minutes and followed by a question and answer period. Nick Berndt, of the Federal Forest Services would like the Association to render a yes or no decision on the fish ladder by October 1, 2023. The success of the DNR grant request for the Fish Ladder is greatly improved with the backing of the Association. A Board discussion took place regarding the timing of the requested decision. Mike will inform the DNR that a vote will take place at the PLCLA annual meeting in June 2024. A motion was made by Jim Clemmons/2<sup>nd</sup> by Lynne Clemens to extend this deadline as indicated. Motion carried unanimously. Only Association members will be able to vote. The Board will further discuss how the votes are tabulated. Is the voting done by a simple majority or must a percentage of the votes be met in order to determine the outcome. A ballot for the voting will be designed.

**September 23, 2023 Listening Session:** Mike will facilitate the listening session for Ordinance 28.

**Website Hosting:** Derek Dieringer, Communications Liaison for the Association, informed the Board of his recommendation to change the host for our website. The PLCLA website host is the Wisconsin Lakes Association at a cost of \$75 per year. Because of technical issues last year the Association was not billed. Derek recommends we change our hosting company to the same host as the Fifield Sno Drovers and the Pike Lake Chain Firefighters Inc. The cost would increase to \$119.88 annually. Derek also recommends that Board email addresses are established. This would offer continuity for maintaining email history for future Board changes. Google offers this option at no cost to the Association. A motion was made by Jim Clemmons/2<sup>nd</sup> by Jeff Witon to proceed with a new website host and the creation of Board email addresses. Motion carried unanimously. The addresses would include generic email addresses for the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer and personalized email addresses for the remaining eight Board Members At Large.

Derek also spoke to the Board regarding researching whether on-line meetings using Zoom could be utilized. Doing so would require sufficient internet access which would need to be approved by the Fifield Town Board. Lynne will attempt to get this on their agenda for the August 15, 2023 meeting. Following internet approval, the project would require the software (Zoom), a laptop and TV and a microphone/camera. Derek recommends a microphone/camera system called the Owl with the cost being \$1,049. This unit would provide a 360-degree view of the meeting room and recognize the individual speaking to ensure the microphone is closest to them. The cost of Zoom is \$150 dollars annually which includes 100 hours of meetings and 5 gigabytes of cloud storage. Derek's recommendation is to test Zoom, the process, etc. for one meeting. On-line meetings may also allow the Association to hold meetings on days other than Saturdays and meets the Board's goal of being more inclusive. It may also be possible to cost share or rent this unit/software to other local organizations.

A motion was made by Russ Schroeder/2<sup>nd</sup> by Jim Clemmons to pursue on-line meetings using Zoom and the purchase of an Owl pending internet use approval by the Fifield Town Board. Cost not to exceed \$1,050 with an annual Zoom subscription of \$150. Motion carried unanimously.

**Clothing Sale:** Derek brought to the attention of the Board that he had a few individuals contact him regarding a PLCLA clothing sale. This would include sweatshirts and long sleeve t-shirts. This sale would be conducted on line. A motion was made by Lynne Clemens/2<sup>nd</sup> by Peggy Kuss to hand out clothing information at Fun Day and sell the items at cost. Motion carried unanimously.

**Next Board Meeting Date: September 25, 2023 at 6 pm**

**Adjournment at 12:22 pm with a motion by Jim Clemmons/2<sup>nd</sup> by Lynne Clemens. Motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Kuss