

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

September 25, 2023

Location: Pike Lake Fire Hall

Meeting called to order:

6:00 pm by President, Mike Ida

Statement of Quorum:

Board Members Present (11)

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

Absent

Thor Gunderson

Members in Attendance: 8

Community Member Comments:

An Association member commented that the Town of Fifield and those at the recent listening session both wanted to extend the waterski hours. He was concerned that the membership vote would not pass to extend the hours. What difference does it make if waterskiing or just boating, the same wake is produced but waterskiing is singled out.

An additional member commented why not set the waterski hours from sunup to sundown like the majority is in Wisconsin. Who governs our lake? Why do we need control over tubers and skiers? Why any restrictions? She believes the fish passage vote should be no.

This member does not waterski currently but has in the past. Opening the lakes up to skiing from sunup to sundown may be annoying. He does not want to do this. Extending hours is okay.

A member stated that more people are working from home but would not be able to ski. Extending hours is a valid point. She does not want to see a Lake Minocqua here.

This member stated that she needs to concentrate on fishing boats while pulling her skier. The Ordinance should be eliminated. She sees boats going very fast after 5 pm.

A member has a brother-in-law who lives on Minong lake and it is an absolute zoo. There is so much waterskiing and waves causing erosion, it is like a battlefield.

Another member stated that fishing should be banned between 10 am and 5 pm. As it is, those waterskiing are discriminated against. Spread out the time and share the lake. Only two lakes in Price County have restrictions. What about buoy coordinates and DNR approval?

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the August 5, 2023 Board meeting were reviewed. Motion by Steve Ave'Lallement/ 2nd by Lynne Clemens to approve. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Lynne Clemens presented the September financials and membership report. There are currently 172 members. Motion by Jim Clemmons/2nd by Jack Wierzba to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried unanimously.

Committee Reports

Fisheries: Dave Ebert – Dave will be meeting Jeff Scheier with the DNR on September 26th. A permit to stock the lakes can be obtained online from the DNR. We can purchase both game and bait fish. The DNR has been opposed to stocking the Chain in the past. If the lake has natural reproducing fish, it should not be stocked. Dave recommends that the Association place information on the website to educate people on this subject.

There were fish management plans done in both 2012 and 2015. In 2012 a private contractor, Blue Water Science, recommended that cribs be placed. A subsequent report prepared by Jeff Scheier recommended that sticks (woody material) be placed to create habitat. The sticks are trees that are cut and remain in the water. This solution lasted 1-2 years. Dave will also be allowed to observe electrofishing. This will be discussed at a future meeting.

Aquatic/Invasive Species: Steve Ave'Lallement – Steve performed a complete survey of the shoreline on all four lakes for invasive species in August 2023. Loosestrife remains the only aquatic invasive species on the Chain. There was less loose strife than previously found. The two bays just north of the logging dam contained the most loosestrife. It is the only area on the Chain where density and accessibility make hand digging and removal problematic. Still the density of plants is relatively low. Owners seem to be removing loosestrife. This species blooms the end of August. Plants take several years to mature. A question was asked whether we should show a juvenile plant on the Association's website. It was decided that based on changes in appearance due to the age of the plant, this was not recommended.

Water Quality: Jack Wierzba – Lakes remain the same year after year. Clarity at 4 ft. in the spring on Round Lake while last month (August) the clarity was 3 ft. on Round Lake. Clarity was less than 3 ft. on other lakes. Jack reported that no oxygen level report was available from the DNR at this time. Further observations will be made two weeks after ice out and again in June.

Newsletter/Public Relations: Lynne Clemens on behalf of Derek Dieringer – Lynne reported that our web hosting remained with the Wisconsin Association of Lakes. Google Workspace is set up and ready to use for Board members.

Old Business

Thorofare Buoy Coordinates – Before asking the Town of Fifield to move two existing buoys north on Round Lake and east on Pike Lake, the Board wanted to post the coordinates of the new buoy placement and ask for comments to be made to the Association Board. President Ida has not heard anything relative to comment on the buoy placement although the coordinates appeared on both the Association's Facebook page and website as part of the August 5, 2023 minutes.

Although DNR input was sought on this subject, it was determined that the DNR supports placement of buoys but not the location of them. The recommended location of the buoys by the Association is:

Round Lake N4554.940, W090.04.128

Pike Lake N4554.841, W090.03.985

Should President Ida send a letter now to the Town of Fifield Board regarding buoy placement at the new coordinates as no comment was made on their placement? The Association Board felt more input is needed and that a map visual should be provided in addition to the coordinates. Dave Ebert will provide a contour map and ensure it is posted on our Facebook page and website. The document could also be posted in the glass enclosed bulletin board located outside of the Pike Lake Fire Hall. The Association's recommendation must be to the Town of Fifield Board no later than late winter or early spring. This decision will be made at the Association's Board meeting on November 6th.

Lake Shore Erosion – there is nothing new on this subject per Lynne Clemens. It was suggested that there could be an educational forum on this topic. This would include providing education on the DNR's erosion study that was conducted on all four lakes. The focus of the education could be on shoreline restoration. Board member Hunter indicated that he is working with the DNR on his property's restoration design. His shoreline has decreased by three feet. He indicated that ice out was a big problem in his case. He suggested that owners could join together for restoration projects to save dollars. Sand and filler was disapproved while matting and stone were okayed along with shrubbery in his case per the DNR.

Financial Records Audit – Lynne has spoken to Larry Zimmer, a retired CPA. She will be contacting him in October.

By-Law Subcommittee & Walleye Stocking Update – Dave Ebert, Russ Schroeder and Mike Ida recommended that the By-Laws be updated. An updated version with suggested changes and comments was distributed to the Board for their review. Comments on the updates should be forwarded to Peggy Kuss and further discussion will be held at the November 6th meeting. It was discussed that the changes be prioritized. The Board discussed wanting to change the By-Laws regarding absentee voting on important issues.

The stocking update can be found earlier under the Fisheries topic.

Update on Zoom/Website Hosting/Equipment – Lynne reported that Zoom use is not feasible at the Fire Hall as the current internet speed will not support its use. Lynne indicated she would take a look at the equipment including the modem, etc.

New Business

Evaluation of Fish Passage Presentation & Next Steps: - The fish passage presentation on August 12th was well attended and good information was provided. Mike Ida has been forwarding questions that he receives to Nick Berndt with the USFS. Nick provides answers to these questions to be passed along. Mr. Berndt may be available in January for a listening session. A special meeting could also be called to discuss the fish passage. The Board could also take up the By-Law discussion at that time with the membership.

President Ida talked about five fish passages that were installed in Minnesota. Mike has spoken to one of the lake associations that was involved with this so far and is attempting to obtain pictures. Steve Ave'Lallement clarified the DNR is talking about a series of rocks being placed in a structured fashion in the northwest corner of the weir. This fish passage is not something that the Association could install on their own due to permitting and engineering requirements. Ed Hunter would like to look at the original weir. Steve committed to making contacts to find the engineering drawings, etc. The Association will make a recommendation on the fish passage although the USFS can proceed with or without the Association's endorsement.

Dave Ebert brought to the attention of the Association that a dam had been installed on Foulds Creek and that the flow into the Chain had been stopped. This was DNR approved. Mike will inform Nick Berndt of this development.

Feedback from the Town of Fifield Board Meeting – The Town of Fifield Board meetings have been attended by a Board member of the Association. This will continue to ensure better communication between the Lake Association Board and the Town of Fifield Board. At a recent meeting, only the buoy by the logging dam was discussed and the permit forwarded to the DNR.

Listening Session Ordinance 28 – The listening session conducted on Ordinance 28 went well. People who ski are in the minority. Quite a few attending supported extending ski hours. It was suggested that a survey be done using Survey Monkey or other on-line survey tool. Russ Schroeder felt the meeting went good and there was support for extending the ski hours. Board member Wilton indicated that he had spent time on Lake Minocqua and does not want our Chain to be that way. It was asked if the Board should proceed to a vote now. Steve Ave'Lallement felt a vote should be taken at the meeting. Since there was a large number of people who haven't weighed in on the Ordinance, the Board decided to select an option and communicate this recommendation to members as a starting point.

A motion was made by Lynne Clemens/2nd by Dave Ebert that the Board communicate that they are considering recommending a change to the waterskiing hours from 10 am to 7 pm and to eliminate the 12 mph speed limit. Prior to the motion being seconded, Russ Schroeder asked to modify the motion indicating a 9 am to 7 pm waterskiing period. Motion carried unanimously.

The recommendation the Board is considering will be placed on the Association's Facebook page and website as well as emailed to members with email addresses. Those without email addresses are to receive a USPS mailing. Questions can be directed to president@pikelakechain.net or secretary@pikelakechain.net Feedback will be due two weeks from the date this communication goes out.

Establishing a Baseline – President Ida would like to establish a committee that will research how the Pike Lake community is changing. The committee would be charged with establishing metrics on this. An example of some changes include the number of VRBO/Airbnb and rentals that are now available on the Chain, new building, motor sizes, etc. This committee will include Steve Ave'Lallement, Mike Ida, Everett Sammis and Ed Hunter.

Fish Line Project – Jim Clemmons reported he had contacted the BoatUS Foundation regarding signage for his line recovery receptacle. Jim showed an actual model of the receptacle he built. It was made from four inch PVC pipe at a cost of around \$30. Jim is to obtain approval from the USFS and DNR to place these at the State and Federal boat landings. A motion was made to approve building the fish line recovery receptacle to be placed at both the State and Federal boat landings by Jim Clemmons/2nd by Russ Schroeder. The motion received unanimous approval.

November/December Newsletter – The Board decided to publish two newsletters annually in January and in July following the Annual Meeting. Mike Ida is to let Derek Dieringer know this. Topics could include Kids Don't Float, the fish passage, line recovery, etc. A motion was made by Ed Hunter/2nd by Jim Clemmons to proceed in this fashion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Other New Business – Dave Ebert inquired with the Board if they would consider placing loon boxes on the lake. The purpose of the loon boxes is to provide better nesting to increase the loon baby survival rate on the lake. Dave will look at the cost of doing this and report back to the Board.

Beginning with the November 6th Board meeting, the Board will recite the Pledge of Allegiance at the beginning of each meeting. President Ida will add this to his Agendas.

The next Board meeting will take place at 6:00 pm on November 6th, 2023 at the Pike Lake Fire Hall.

Motion to Adjourn by Lynne Clemens/2nd by Jack Wierzba. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Peggy Kuss, Secretary