

2024 Annual Meeting Minutes

Unapproved Meeting Minutes

Location: Pike Lake Fire Barn

Meeting called to order: 9:05 am by President, Mike Ida.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Statement of Quorum:

Board Members Present (11 people)

President – Mike Ida, Vice President – Russ Schroeder, Secretary – Peggy Kuss, Treasurer – Lynne Clemens, Thor Gunderson, Jeff Witon, Jim Clemmons, Dave Ebert, Steve Ave’Lallemant, Jack Wierzba, Everett Sammis

Absent: Derek Dieringer

Members in attendance: 45

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Secretary’s Report

Peggy Kuss briefly reviewed the June 10, 2023 Annual Meeting minutes (copy also contained in each individual’s agenda packet). Motion made by Ed Clemens/2<sup>nd</sup> by Pete Anderson to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer’s Report

Lynne Clemens reviewed the Treasurer’s report ending May 31, 2024. Motion made by Pete Anderson/2<sup>nd</sup> by Ed Clemens to approve the Report. Motion passed unanimously.

Fire Station #2 (Pike Lake) Department Update

Dan Metz, Assistant Fire Chief, provided a brief update of calls that had occurred over the last several months as well as major training that had taken place on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of each month (EMS training occurs on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month).

Additional volunteers are needed to act as support personnel for Fire Station #2. These are individuals that assist in ways that do not include actual firefighting. If you are interested in joining the team as a support person, contact any member of Fire Station #2.

An EMS van for off-road use has been purchased using grant dollars. Also, a mini pumper was just ordered. This is a 4-wheel drive vehicle that can be used to access locations which are wooded. The mini pumper was entirely paid for by Fun Day donations and a grant. The Department is selling its squad vehicle.

Jim Nelson officially retired on May 31, 2024. Rick Sironi retired a few months ago after many years of service. Thank you for your service, Jim and Rick.

## Educational Presentation

Jason Tegen, Price County Land Conservation Technician, and Stacy Dehne, professional engineer, attended the meeting. Jason has nine years of experience in the environmental field while Stacy has been working in the Northwoods for 24 years and supports Jason and 12 other county technicians. They were introduced by Jim Clemmons who along with Lynne Clemens and Steve Ave'Lallemant comprise an Association committee to research shoreline restoration.

Stacy Dehne's presentation showed numerous ways in which shoreline restoration can take place depending on the situation occurring. She showed slides of properties she has worked on and explained the various techniques and materials used.

There were several resources discussed during the presentation including a packet provided by the Association containing a listing of Wisconsin native plant nurseries, a shoreline restoration contractor list, a booklet regarding shoreline stabilization which contains an assessment questionnaire you can complete for your property, Healthy Lakes & Rivers materials and a DNR publication entitled Self-Evaluation Checklist for Waterfront Runoff. Other resources included a publication entitled Shoreline Living. The University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point website can provide recommendations regarding which plants are best to use for your type of restoration.

Lakefront owners will need to initiate any projects related to restoring their waterfront with Mr. Tegen at 715-339-2550. Jason confirmed that Price County will cost share up to 50% of your restoration project up to a maximum of \$12,000 per year.

Ms. Dehne was asked for her opinion regarding the fish ladder and the use of rocks to build a ladder behind the weir. Stacy and Jason were not able to assist with this question, stating this was not their area of expertise.

## Approval of 2024 Annual Budget

Lynne Clemens presented the Association's 2024 annual budget. A motion was made by Pete Anderson/2<sup>nd</sup> by Terry Mantor to approve the budget as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

## Association Election

President Ida introduced all of the candidates and thanked them for their willingness to serve on the Board if elected. An election was held per the Association's By-Laws to elect a Vice President, Treasurer and four Board Members at Large. As a reminder, absentee voting was also allowed per the revised By-Laws this year. Votes were tabulated by Larry Talbott and Steve Ave'Lallemant in view of all members present at a side table. The results included:

**Vice President** – Russ Schroeder

**Treasurer** – Lynne Clemens

**Member at Large** – Duane Baer

**Member at Large** – Tom Birchell

**Member at Large** – Jim Clemmons (incumbent)

**Member at Large** – Everett Sammis (incumbent)

## Committee Reports

**Fisheries** – Dave Ebert: Dave explained that the Association does not have permission to stock walleyes. The DNR is currently running a study on our walleye population which will be completed in 2026. This subject can be further discussed once the study is complete. The DNR will be conducting a musky netting survey next Spring. Depending on the

survey outcome, we may be able to stock muskys. The musky population should range between .2 to .3 adults per acre of water.

Regarding fish structures, Dave reported that the DNR no longer recommends fish cribs as at some point they degrade and fall to the lake bottom. The Chain's cribs were put in place in the 1990s and are deteriorating. Rather, the DNR recommends fish sticks which are trees fallen into the water to provide the needed cover for fish.

Dave also reported on loon nesting platforms. Dave is looking to gather data on the loon population of our Chain. Please report to him your loon citations including the number of loons and their location.

**Water Quality** – Russ Schroeder: Water quality is tested four times per year. Once at ice out and in June, July and August. It is tested for clarity and oxygen content at varying depths. The report is not available yet for the ice out testing but overall reports indicate that our water is very healthy.

**Public Relations** – Lynne Clemens: Reported on the OWL on behalf of Derek Dieringer. The OWL is a camera and speaker device which allows Zoom meetings to take place so that those not able to attend an Association meeting can access the meeting remotely via the internet.

**Aquatic/Invasive Species** – Steve Ave'Lallemant: Steve reported that he has found less purple loosestrife on the Chain than in the past. Landowners are encouraged to continue removing this invasive species from their properties, containing it in a plastic bag and disposing of it at the transfer station.

### **Question & Answer Period**

Mike Ida reported that the fish passage is on hold. Members will be receiving a 10-12 question survey via Survey Monkey regarding the fish passage. It is projected that this survey will be available during the month of July. Mike and Steve Ave'Lallemant are working on the survey which will also be reviewed by the Board before proceeding. This is a non-binding, cursory survey. Results will be shared with Nick Berndt of the USFS and Ranger Dan Eklund also of the USFS.

A member asked if the membership will have a formal vote regarding the fish passage if the project is taken off of hold. Mike Ida confirmed a formal vote will be taken at the appropriate time which will be in the distant future.

A member asked if we could obtain permission to set the USFS fish passage aside and use rocks to build a gradual ladder allowing fish to gain access to the Chain? Mike Ida responded that this is not possible based on his conversations with the USFS and knowledge of the project.

The USFS recognizes that we need more information before a vote can be taken. There will need to be additional listening sessions as well as important discussions with the hydrologist.

A member asked if the fish passages built in Minnesota have mandated flows? Mike responded that he thought that these passages did not have mandated flows.

Thor Gunderson addressed the membership indicating that the Board has many questions regarding the fish passage and he and the entire Board wants to obtain more facts which are not available at this time.

A member asked about the buoy that used to be near the Logging Dam. Could we get it back there as a safety marker? Mike Ida believes that the buoy is there currently.

A member commented that the Logging Dam is an historic site. What will the fish passage do to the Dam? Mike Ida responded that the historic Logging Dam, which is on the Register, must remain as is.

A member asked If we had lost control. Can the USFS build the fish passage without the Association's support? Mike responded that yes, the fish passage could be built without the Association's support. However, the USFS has stated that they will not push this project through if the members of our Association do not want it as there is the potential for lawsuits which could originate within or outside the State of Wisconsin.

### **Special Recognition**

In 1998 four individuals organized a community gathering to talk about forming a lake association. These individuals became the founding fathers of what we now recognize as the Pike Lake Chain Lakes Association, Inc. These individuals included Bill Ave'Lallemant and Charlie Granger who are now deceased as well as Jack Wierzba and Manny Stein. Jack is retiring from the PLCLA now and Manny retired a few years ago. Jack and Manny were presented with the first of two gifts to recognize their contributions to our Lake Association. Both will receive a second gift once they have been built. Mike Ida asked Jack and Manny for their comments about their years of service. Jack commented how much he enjoyed working in the Lakes Association over the years while Manny commented that we must maintain the Lakes Association. It is very important. After recognizing Jack and Manny, Mike asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion to Adjourn by Terry Mantor/2nd by George Gunderson. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 10:55 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Kuss, Secretary