

# Waushara County Watershed Lakes Council

P.O. Box 634

Wautoma, Wisconsin 54982

## Minutes

May 13, 2017

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The WCWLC meeting was called to order at 9:05 am by Gary Wisbrocker. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Twenty-one individuals were in attendance representing 16 lakes and flowages. WCWLC officers present were Gary Wisbrocker/President, Dan Trudell/V-President, Bill Van Dongen/Treasurer, Sandy Oemichen/board and Marty Wilke/board. Also present were: Bernadette Krentz, Everett Eckstein, and Mike Kapp representing the Waushara County Board; Ed Hernandez representing the Land Conservation Department; Patrick Nehring representing the UW-Extension; and Anna Cisar representing Golden Sands RC&D.

The WCWLC officers introduced themselves.

### Public Comments

Skip Hansen, Chair - Central Sands Water Action Coalition, (Porters Lake Management District) gave an overview of the status of SB76/groundwater legislation, that passed the Wisconsin Senate in April, and the Assembly in May, and is now awaiting the governor's signature into law. Skip noted that despite scientific consensus on high-capacity well cumulative impacts on groundwater resources in parts of the central sands region, data that was both included in the annual Groundwater Report to the Governor (2016): <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/groundwater/GCC/>, and the "Whitepaper" consensus by the six scientists on "*Groundwater quantity fundamentals in Wisconsin's central sands region*" through the Wisconsin Food, Land, & Water Project Groundwater Quantity Work Group, dated March 13, 2017: [http://centralsandswater.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Central-Sands-Hydrogeology-key-points-final-version-3\\_13\\_17.pdf](http://centralsandswater.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Central-Sands-Hydrogeology-key-points-final-version-3_13_17.pdf), this legislation was supported by the majority party legislators unanimously in the Senate, and in the Assembly one majority party legislator voted against the bill (represents Kewaunee County) while all the other majority party legislators voted for the legislation. SB76 allows owners of high-capacity wells to repair, replace, reconstruct their wells without DNR periodic review (the only time after initial approval that the DNR had to assess impacts of groundwater usage and any need for possible conditions/limits if appropriate). SB76 also allows owners to transfer their well permit to a new owner – again without any periodic review allowed, thus making the permit permanent. If periodic review was still done by the DNR, the repair, replacement, reconstruction and transfer of wells would not be a problem, but removing any ability to periodically review groundwater pumping's affects by high-capacity wells results in no protections to assess/manage groundwater sustainability in surrounding watersheds UNLESS the permit owner violates the conditions of their initial permit approval. Two other aspects of the bill were noted – the groundwater modeling study while revised from original designated areas, still would exclude 83% of high-capacity wells, 98.3% of the Outstanding and Exceptional Resource Waters and 94.6% of the trout streams in the central sands area. Lastly, the legislation removes a citizen's ability to contest a DNR decision regarding a high-capacity well or an average seasonal water level on a lake, or any other groundwater-related problem. Skip also noted a DNR prepared document summarizing high capacity wells status that was provided to legislators in response to questions at the 3/15/17 SB76 public hearing: <http://centralsandswater.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Leg-Hicap-Summary-032217.pdf>.

Richard DeLisle informed the members that Bugh's Lake will be conducting a public landing restoration project (grant funded) this summer. The landing will still be open, but boat size and space available to launch will need to be assessed by boaters.

### **Agenda, Minutes, Treasure's Report**

Denis Sutton moved the agenda be accepted as written, Mark Theis seconded the motion, and the motion was passed.

The following changes to the 2/18/17 minutes were made:

- page 1, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph – Mike Geier last name corrected
- page 2, Environmental Ed Grant Program – 2<sup>nd</sup> line, 3<sup>rd</sup> sentence “work” corrected to “word”
- page 4, 2016 WCWLC meetings – year corrected to 2017, August meeting corrected to 8/12/17, November meeting corrected to 11/11/17

Fred Koch moved the agenda be accepted as modified. Arnie Wilke seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Bill Van Dongen presented the Treasurer's Report. Bill reported that 30 lakes and flowages have paid their 2017 membership dues. Six lakes have paid their 2018 dues and two lakes have paid 2019 dues. The CD was renewed for one year, and the petty cash account was closed due to non-use. The fiscal year will end on July 31, 2017. Account balances reported as of May 12, 2017 are:

Total Useable Funds Available:	\$ 1,942.91
Total Environmental Education Funds	\$ 9,811.43
Savings, including Environmental Education	\$ 1,847.91

### **Old Business**

None

### **New Business**

#### **Websites Using WordPress for Lake Organizations**

Karen Reynolds/Gilbert Lake Advancement Association explained that in 2016, she took a WordPress Workshop at the UW-Ex Lakes Convention which provided help for lake groups that wanted a simple platform to use that let them design their own website to fit their group's needs, with minimal support needed after the workshop. This gave her the ability/tools to create the Gilbert Lake webpages she presented to their group in 2016 and demonstrated today. The website has tabs for Home, Officers & Directors, Lake Safety, Lake Management Plan (LMP), Events, Store (online catalog), Gallery, Contact Us, Members Only. The group primarily wanted a method to provide information in a timely, convenient place for their members, with some sections protected by login. They provide additional details in their LMP tab for Aquatic Inventory, Habitat & Fisheries, Shoreland, Water Quality which is updated as new reports, survey data is completed. They think member engagement has improved due to the convenience of information now available in a timely manner.

Richard DeLisle/Bugh's Lake Management District stated that their website provides a great communication tool to get members involved and aware of lake activities, issues and allows them to update quickly when needed as well as providing a known resource for their members even when not present at the lake. Richard also took the WordPress Workshop in 2016 and created their website, which currently is not public due to members' request to allow a 2-year period of protected viewing and will be “live” at this year's annual meeting. Bugh's Lake's website has tabs for Home, About Us, Upcoming Events/What's Happening on our Lake, Pictures, Reports/Records, Management Plan, Contact Us.

Marty Wilke/Spring Lake Management District created a WCWLC website sample after taking the WordPress workshop in 2016. The websites shown today are part of a multi-site lake organization network “Optidat” supported by a retired lake property owner in Polk County, Wisconsin who is the network administrator and provides technical support. He sets up templates for each lake group, and provides e-mail and phone support.

Costs for 1-year membership in this network with support is \$50, and if a group wants a specific domain name, that is an additional \$10/year. The WCWLC website has tabs for Home, About Us, Events, WCWLC Member Groups Projects, Gallery, Records & Resources, Members Only login page (Lakes List), Contact Us.

Sandy Oemichen/Witters Lake Property Owners Association discussed the benefits/advantages of lake organizations using Facebook to increase awareness, interest and engagement in their lake – whether they live around the lake or are in the community that enjoys water activities. Sandy’s background in IT/webpage designs helped her understand that if a social-media venue attracts people’s interest and keeps them following updates about events, pictures, postings about their lake, they’ll more likely want to participate in that group’s activities and projects, post their own comments, share pictures to be able to be part of the experiences around waterfront life. Figuring out the pros/cons in setting up a Facebook page will help group be successful – knowing who you want to reach, who will administer page, how you’ll attract followers, how often updates/news/photos are posted, what information you provide about your lake/contact info/address, whether you offer events, a fun contest/question to increase ability to respond/be part of the social platform. Look at other lake groups’ Facebook pages to get ideas.

Whether WCWLC members are interested in having a website or Facebook page will be discussed at an upcoming meeting. No increase in WCWLC membership dues is anticipated at this time. Tom Catlin made a motion to support this idea and place topic on the next agenda, Denis Sutton seconded the motion, and motion passed.

### **Environmental Education Grant Program**

Dan stated one Environmental Education Grant application was received from the Waushara County Land Conservation Department for their Conservation Field Days program 2017. He will check with his committee and a check will be issued once the committee’s review is completed.

### **DNR Request**

No DNR representative was present; no requests were made.

### **AIS Grant Program**

Anna Cisar, Golden Sands RC & D, is the Regional Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator for Waushara, Waupaca, Marquette and Green Lake Counties. Anna has a degree in Environmental Science and has experience helping lake groups with lake management planning, AIS prevention/education. She will be working with Waushara County lake groups and announced events at Stratton/Waupaca, Long, Pearl, Silver lake on Clean Boats-Clean Waters; Flowering Rush workshops on White River Flowage, Little Silver; Zebra Mussels on Little Hills; EWM/Aquatic plants on Spring. She asked that lake groups contact her with their requests, and also noted that they will support EWM hand-pulling by divers (help train local divers, offer their snorkelers’ help as applicable). Anna also noted that one more person will be working with her as a LTE for the season, starting the end of May.

Bill Van Dongen will e-mail Anna’s contact information and the current list of dive teams, Golden Sands’ snorkelers/supporter information to members after this meeting.

### **Land Conservation Request – Ed Hernandez**

Ed noted that due to concerns re: phishing e-mails sent to some lake groups’ treasurers, the Lakes List was removed from the Land Conservation’s website and is now secure, with access available to lake group members by contacting Land Conservation Dept. office and providing lake group role/board information. Further process improvements to be determined, such as ability for lake group contact via an internal link to send e-mail message to a lake group that hides lake group contact’s actual e-mail address as with the UW-Ex Lakes website Lakes List posted through UW-SP staff.

The grant for the third year of DASH pilot program for 2017 was denied by the DNR, and Ed stated his department will hopefully re-apply for funding for 2018. Healthy Lakes grant projects will be done on

Gilbert and Bughes; additional funding may be available from department's annual \$25,000 allotted for lake projects in their budget – interested groups should contact department to determine needs, whether funding remains in Sep/Aug. 2017, or may be planned for 2018 funding projects. Ed also reported that the DNR has requested 2 additional monitoring wells be placed – Witters and Curtis Lakes were selected, plus 4 “staff gauges” will also be placed to gather needed water level monitoring data.

Conservation Field Days 2017 were held on May 4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> at Lake Lucerne and were successful. Ed thanked all those who donated funds and/or volunteered to help make the event a success. Interested volunteers for next year's event can contact the Land Conservation office to discuss further.

The Pine Breeze CAFO had two “overtopping” episodes of liquid manure and DNR is now involved in enforcement review/actions, per Ed's comments.

### **UW-Extension – Patrick Nehring**

Patrick will follow-up on alternative methods that lake groups can be contacted, yet still have their lake group contact info available for other lake groups/support services reference. Lake group boards also need to provide the two departments (Waushara Co Land Conservation Dept., UW-Ex Lakes/UW-SP staff) that maintain these lists with current contact information, so that staff can update the lake group lists to be useful. When lake group boards change – please remember to also notify these two departments with any new contact information.

**Bill Van Dongen will e-mail WCWLC members with information on how to update your lake group's contact information through these two departments – Waushara Co Land Conservation office; UW-Ex Lakes/UW-SP Watershed Science staff who maintain Wisconsin and Waushara County lake groups lists.**

Patrick handed out a Lake Management Plan (LMP) guide tool that lake groups can use when updating their LMP. He also reminded members that if you modify your LMP, you then need to send your LMP with changes detailed to the DNR for review to check that the needed content is there, especially if using data for a grant application; and also notify the local municipality AND the county/provide copy of what is changed to help them review new information. E-mail the updated LMP to Land Conservation as a Word .doc file and they will save as a .pdf file and post the new LMP off their website (and remove the old LMP for your lake group). Each lake group can determine what changes are needed based on grant applications, new surveys, fishing reports, water quality issues – focus should be on your goals/action items that have been identified as your key issues. At least every five years your LMP should be reviewed for currency, if no other changes were made earlier.

### **WCLWC Lake Group Report – Mt. Morris Lake Management District**

Denis Sutton presented the history about Mt. Morris Lake and the dam that was built in 1860, creating 5 lakes (A,B,C,D,E) and a millpond. Initially the dam generated public power, until 1949 when the dam was sold to owners who kept the dam, but stopped providing power. In 1969 the Mt. Morris Association was formed by lake owners to deal with weeds, water level problems. In 1975 the lake group became a district and tried to buy the dam with a \$250 loan fee/owner assessed. The DNR determined where the lake level should be set, conditions required to maintain the dam in 1977. AIS issues have been a consistent concern since the 1960's, primarily with Curly-leaf pondweed which is now “gone,” and currently Eurasian watermilfoil and Milfoil hybrid are the main invasives in the lake. Additional problems occurred when the deteriorating dam needed to be rebuilt and Hwy. 152 was being built over the lake. A 7” rainfall caused a construction crane to flip over and the lake's dam ended up needing substantial repairs, resulting in more financial costs to the district's members. Currently the district must inspect the lake level daily, employ engineers to provide dam maintenance, and continue AIS work to maintain navigation. The district created an Endowment Fund in 2014 through the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation, to provide sustaining ability to manage their lakes, and the district adds funding yearly towards a \$600,000 goal. Denis also noted that their large volume of records must be maintained per “open records” regulations and so they've switched to digitized records stored thru a vendor using “Dropbox” to allow district's access to their files. Mt. Morris Lake Management District has 189 residents, a website, and is seeing a change in age demographics in their members as the next generation is now active in lake activities.

## **Vouchers**

Bill reported that all vouchers are paid to date. Denis Sutton moved that Bill be authorized to pay any new bills that arrive, Skip Hansen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **Meeting Adjourned**

Arnie Wilke moved that the meeting be adjourned; Fred Koch seconded the motion, and motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Marty Wilke

## **2017 WCWLC Meetings:**

**Aug 12<sup>th</sup>** 9:00 - Ted Johnson – update on revised DNR grant applications  
- Wes Klages/Karen Reynolds - Gilbert Lake Advancement Assoc.

**Nov 11<sup>th</sup>** 10:00 -  
- John Sierk - Fish Lake Management District

## **Possible Presentation topics:**

1. Grant opportunities
2. Overview of Waushara County Lakes (condition and quality)
3. Legislative Update on Water
4. Waushara County Tourism Commission
5. We Really Care Fishing Club

## **WCWLC Board Members**

Mel Heaney (term 2016-19)  
Sandy Oemichen (term 2016-19)  
Francie Rowe (term 2016-19)  
Dan Trudell (term 2014-17)

Bill Van Dongen (term 2015-18)  
Gary Wisbrocker (term 2014-17)  
Marty Wilke (term 2015-18)