

Waushara County Watershed Lakes Council, Inc.
P.O. Box634
Wautoma, Wisconsin 54982

Minutes of November 14, 2015

Gary Wisbrocker, Pres.
E 1125 South Radley Rd.
Waupaca, WI 54981
715-258-0790
gwisbrocker@gmail.com

Dan Trudell, V. Pres.
W10708 S. Huron Rd
Plainfield, Wi 54966
608-852-5269
dant@peakperform.net

Bill Van Dongen, Treas.
N 628 S. White River Rd.
Wautoma, WI 54982
920-787-0956
bcvandwo@gmail.com

Francie Rowe, Sec.
W 13475 Czech Lane
Coloma, WI 54930
608-345-5250
frowe@edgewood.edu

The meeting was called to order at 10:02am by President Gary Wisbrocker; it opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Thirty-seven individuals were in attendance representing 18 lakes. Everett Eckstein represented the Waushara County Board; UW-Extension was represented by Patrick Nehring; Waushara County Land Conservation & Zoning was represented by Terri Dopp-Paukstat. Representative Scott Krug and Ben Van Pelt, representing Senator Julie Lasa, were also present.

Public Comments

Mel Heaney alerted those present that the DNR is currently sponsoring a "Kids Don't Float Program" to provide life jackets at selected boat landings. See: <http://www.channel3000.com/news/2-700-life-jackets-positioned-to-save-lives-in-Wisconsin/35117522> .

Agenda, Minutes, Treasure's Report

Gary requested that the agenda be modified to move the Land Conservation item from #4 to # 3 on the agenda, placing it ahead of the AIS Grant report. Paul Zimmer moved the agenda be modified as requested; Marty Wilke seconded the motion; it passed unanimously.

Two spelling corrections were offered to the August 8, 2015 minutes. The spelling of Richard DeLisle's and Debbra Kirschner's names was corrected. Skip Hansen moved the minutes be accepted with the corrections, Dan Trudell seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

Bill Van Dongen presented the treasurer's report. He noted that 20 lakes paid 2016 membership dues and five have paid their 2017 dues. Lake Napowan has paid through 2019. Account balances as of October 26, 2015 were:

Total Useable Funds Available:	\$ 1,920.36
Environmental Education Fund	\$ 9,508.55
Savings Account Balance	\$ 1,925.36

Barb Bartel moved to accept the treasurer's report as written and presented; Gary Wisbrocker seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

There was none.

New Business

Current Proposed Wisconsin Groundwater Legislation - Rep. Scott Krug and Ben Van Pelt

Representative Scott Krug reported on his efforts to construct, present, and pass new legislation regarding Wisconsin groundwater use. He noted that the goal is to regionally address groundwater management in Wisconsin. The Assembly version of the bill is AB 477; the Senate version of the bill sponsored by Senators Cowles, Olsen and Petrowski is SB 291.

Representative Krug noted that a public hearing for SB 291 was held October 13, 2015 at which a lot of testimony was presented addressing how SB 291 would impact property rights and values. Following the public hearing it was recognized that multiple changes needed to be made to the proposed bill.

He noted that three Sensitive Resources Areas (SRA) are designated in SB 291 for three Waushara County water bodies: Huron Lake, Long Lake and Pleasant Lake/Chaffee Creek. He added that the Town of Saratoga in Wood County has also been selected as a Sensitive Resource Area and that others may be added. He claimed that DNR manpower is not currently available to create more than 4 areas at the present time.

He noted the following problems that need to be addressed in the current Senate version of the bill:

- The SRA designation process is too long and complicated; he believes the process will be changed to a more efficient process, 2-3 years in the Assembly version of the bill.
- How existing law can be maintained while SRA applications are in progress is unclear.
- How water bodies will be protected while applications are in progress is unclear.
- How boundaries will be determined is unclear.
- If there is disagreement to the proposed geographic boundaries of an SRA, how the disagreement will be resolved.

He noted that once determined, the DNR has a great amount of authority within an SRA. He also stated that the Legislature is charged with approval of an SRA management plan. Rep. Krug noted that there is no guarantee that any water body will become an SRA or that a management plan will be approved by the Legislature within the bill.

Rep. Krug shared that he and Senator Cowles had been working with both Rep. Cory Mason and Senator Mark Miller as they also have authored a new groundwater bill.

Questions followed his presentation. They included:

How many legislators are behind the bill?

Why are the Dairy Business Association and Growers on board?

Why can cumulative impact analysis be done in a SRA, but not the whole of the Central Sands?

What changes are being considered in the Assembly version and Amendments to the Senate version?

Rep. Krug noted that he wanted to have a balanced bill. One that the Dairy Business Association, Wisconsin Potato and Vegetable Growers, Cranberry Growers, and other agricultural groups can support. He also hoped that minimum lake levels and stream flows can be maintained.

He asked that anyone with additional concerns call or email him at:

Email: Rep.Krug@legis.wisconsin.gov

Phone: (608) 266-0215 or (888) 529-0072

Ben Van Pelt, representing Senator Julie Lasa (who was unable to attend this meeting), presented his assessment of SB 291. He noted that Senator Lassa was in conversation with Sen. Cowles on SB 291 and Rep. Cory Mason and Sen. Mark Miller on SB72/AB105. He noted that the Miller & Mason bill is on the back burner at this point. He stated that Senator Lassa could not support or reject any amendments to SB 291 she has not seen.

Ben noted that all of Senator Richard Gudex's bill, SB239, is included in SB 291. SB 291 enables high-capacity well owners to transfer, repair, reconstruct, or replacing an existing permitted high-capacity well without additional DNR approval or review leading to a perpetual right to withdraw groundwater.

Ben asked that anyone seeking more information on any of these bills please contact Senator Lassa or him with questions at:

Email: Sen.Lassa@legis.wisconsin.gov
Phone: (608) 266-3123 or (715) 342-3806

Wisconsin DNR Requests

No one was present from the Wisconsin DNR.

AIS Grant Program - Amy Thorstenson

Amy Thorstenson introduced Dillon Epping, Golden Sands Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator for Portage, Waupaca and Waushara counties. Dillon distributed materials on purple flowering rush and Burr reed.

Amy described how White River Flowage used a rapid response grant to support their attack on purple flowering rush, an aquatic invasive species. Amy, along with the accompanying purple flowering rush vs. Burr reed handouts, explained how easily the two plants can be confused. She noted:

Purple flowering rush has a leaf that twists with a sharply pointed tip

- Small tight cellstructure
- Firm plant
- Narrow leaf blade with triangular cross section
- Stem goes to individual rootbase
- Root with bulbils that break off easily; bulbils are the source of spread
- Flowers in July-August; there is also a variety that does not flower;

Burr Reed has a leaf that is usually flat with a blunt point

- Large hollow cells, similar to celery
- Squishy, easy to crush
- Flat blade
- The plant base resembles celery, stems grow together connected to a root ball

Amy clearly stated that chemicals (*Roundup*) do not kill purple flowering rush. She stressed that hand pulling is the best way to tackle an early population problem. White River Flowage has created a three-year management plan to address their problem. They have contracted Golden Sands RC & D to conduct volunteer training, intensive hand-pulling instruction, continued monitoring, as well as annual "seek and destroy missions". A volunteer training session for flowering rush management was held Oct 8-9, 2015.

Mike Geier noted that working with the DNR has been a challenge as they have had several issues with regard to travel reimbursement, time, receipt of written grant, and others.

Land Conservation Requests-Terri Dopp-Paukstat

Terri Dopp-Paukstat reported that Waushara County received a DATCP budget allocation for 2016 of \$50,000 for construction practices and \$20,000 for nutrient management.

She reported that the Waushara County lake and stream monitoring program will be continued. She noted that the DNR is currently looking for funding to support the program. Thirteen county lakes are participating in the project this year.

Terri reported that the Waushara County Lake Management Plan Project will continue into 2016. Currently, four Lake Management Plans have been approved; eleven plans have received District/Association approval and are awaiting DNR approval; four lakes are working on District/Association approval of their plans, three lakes are working on final plan edits with UW-Stevens Point; and four lakes are in the planning stage. Patrick noted that DNR requires plans to be reviewed and updated every 5 years. His office can help Districts keep up with plan reviews.

Terri shared that she has been working with state legislators on NR 115 - shoreline zoning. She stated that it has been a battle trying to find middle ground on several very difficult issues. She thanked Ben Van Pelt and Representative Krug for their assistance in working through some very difficult issues included in the legislation.

Vouchers

Marty Wilke moved Bill Van Dongen be authorized to pay outstanding WCWLC bills. Mel Heaney seconded the motion; it passed unanimously.

Central Sands Water Action Coalition - Skip Hansen

Skip Hansen provided an update on the activities of the Central Sands Water Action Coalition regarding the groundwater legislative initiatives noted earlier in the meeting. He shared that many Waushara County residents spoke at the public hearings on October 13, 2015 (SB 291) and October 7, 2015 (SB 239). He noted that speakers spoke to their love of their Wisconsin lake, their concern for their property values, the need for certainty for riparian property owners as well as for agricultural interests. He noted that other hearing speakers included Trout Unlimited, River Alliance of Wisconsin, Clean Wisconsin, and the League of Conservation Voters. He noted that Senator Cowles reached out to CSWAC following the public hearing and as a result CSWAC responded with a letter noting concerns. Skip distributed copies of the letter.

Skip noted that Representative Krug met with the CSWAC Legislative Response Committee following the SB 291 public hearing. At that meeting multiple concerns were voiced regarding the process to construct a Sensitive Resource Area, why the Little Plover River was not included, why the bill was designed to protect only navigable water, not all the "waters of the state" as noted in previous groundwater legislation, and the failure of the bill to provide cumulative impact analysis to the entire state, not just SRAs.

Skip noted that at this time, CSWAC has not taken a position on SB 291. The group is waiting for promised amendments to determine their position. Skip provided the following handouts: Waushara County property tax map; letters sent to Senator Cowles & Representative Krug; information on high capacity wells, and a CSWAC review of SB 291.

Meeting Adjourned

Dan Trudell moved the meeting be adjourned 12:17pm. Francie Rowe seconded the motion; it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Francie Rowe, Secretary

2016 WCWLC Meetings:

**Feb 13th @ 10 :00 - Grant Opportunities for Lake Districts and Associations
- CSWAC report on legislation by Skip Hansen**

May 14th @ 9:00- Wild Rose Fish Hatchery Tour

August ?? @ 9:00 - Forests and invasive land plants

November 12th @ 10:00 - Groundwater Update- Senator Julie Lassa & Rep. Scott Krug

WCWLC Board Members

Barb Bartel (term 2013-16)
Mel Heaney (term 2013-16)
Francie Rowe (term 2013-16)
Dan Trudell (term 2014-17)

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