

**Waushara County Watershed Lakes Council
P.O. Box 634
Wautoma, Wisconsin 54982**

**Minutes
February 17, 2018**

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 1628 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
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The WCWLC meeting was called to order at 9:00 am on February 17, 2018 by President Gary Wisbrocker. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Seventeen individuals were in attendance representing ten lakes and flowages. County Board members present included Everett Eckstein, Michael Kapp, and Bernadette Krantz. Patrick Nerhing, UW-Extension and Todd Wahler, Waushara County Zoning & Land Conservation were also in attendance.

Gary began the meeting by introducing the WCWLC Board members

Public Comments

Marty Wilke shared with those present that the Wisconsin Lakes Convention will be held in Stevens Point April 18-20 (<https://www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/UWEXLakes/Pages/programs/convention/default.aspx>). She also noted that this year Wisconsin's Conservation Conference will be held April 9, 2018. See <https://dnr.wi.gov/about/wcc/meetings.html> . Links to both events can be found on the WCWLC web page, <https://wewlc.org> .

Mel Heaney announced that 2018 newcomer packets are now available free to new members.

Skip Hansen announced that Central Sands Water Action Coalition steering committee will be meeting the last week in April, date, time and place to be announced.

Agenda, Minutes, Treasure's Report

Marty Wilke moved and Mel Heaney seconded the motion that the meeting agenda be approved as written. The motion was approved. Dan Trudell moved November 11, 2017 WCWLC minutes be approved as written; Mel Heaney seconded and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report– Bill Van Dongen

Bill Van Dongen presented the treasurer's report. As of today, 24 lakes have paid dues for 2018; three for 2019, and one for 2010. Dues can be sent to the WCWLC, PO. Box 634, Wautoma, Wisconsin or paid at the meeting. A donation of \$100.00 was made in January to Golden Sands, RC&D.

Current Balances:

Total Useable Funds Available:	\$ 1,983.62
Total Environmental Education Funds	\$ 9,976.03
Savings <u>not</u> including Environmental Education	\$ 1,883.62

Skip Hansen moved that the outstanding vouchers be paid. Arnie Wilke seconded the motion; the motion passed.

Old Business

WCWLC Social Media

Marty provided an updated on the WCWLC web site. She noted that there have been over 1000 hits to-date. She also reported that the web site will host one year of past records: minutes, agendas, plus an archived tab for older minutes & agendas.

New Business

Protecting Water Gardens - Paul Shawinski

Paul Shawinski shared with the group how using native plants for landscaping, can promote water quality and quantity

He noted water pollution comes primarily from driveways, lawns, rooftops, decks, lawnmowers, septic systems, fertilizers, pesticides, lawn clippings, agriculture, etc. The goal is to build a landscape barrier between the pollutants and the lake. He identified prairie plants as having a particular robust root structure to hold soil and conduct water.

Paul described several pollution prevention strategies:

- Rain gardens
- Plant prairie plants
- Shoreline plantings
- Buying land adjunct to the lake and take it out of agriculture

He stated that humans have brought invasives to Wisconsin's lakes, streams, and landscapes. He encouraged planting of native plants, strongly pointing out that bringing Asian, European, etc. plants to Wisconsin is a bad idea. They become Wisconsin's aquatic invasive species.

Paul described the Health Lakes Program – a collaboration between the Wisconsin DNR and Wisconsin Lakes. <http://healthylakeswi.com>. The program's goal is to improve water quality in our lakes. Initiatives include:

1. Diversions
2. Rock Infiltration
3. Fish Sticks
4. 350 ft. Native Plantings
5. Rain Gardens

He encouraged WCWLC members to landscape with the intent to save our lakes.

For more information you may contact Paul at UW-Extension Lakes Program ; 715-346-4853 ; Pskawins@uwsp.edu .

Environmental Education Grant – Dan Trudell

Dan reported that the 2018 Environmental Education Grant application has been placed in the *Waushara Argus*. He noted that one application has been received to-date. The maximum award per year is \$250.00.

DNR Request

No DNR representative was present at today's meeting. Ted Johnson has promised to come in May.

AIS Grant

No Golden Sands representative was present at today's meeting.

Land Conservation Request – Todd Wahler

Todd shared that Waushara County is currently engaged in three water projects:

- 14-Mile Creek Watershed project with Adams County.
- Winnebago Waterways Project – shoreline restoration,
- Conservation Field Days - May 3rd & 4th.

He also announced that the Waushara County lakes list on the county site will be updated shortly.

Todd reported a new Property Rights Bill has been passed by Wisconsin Senate and Assembly that makes new and significant changes to the non-conforming structures rules. The bill enables property owners to rebuild or repair a non-conforming structure without a permit. It removes the concept of a minimum lot size, but still requires buildings meet minimum setback requirements. Todd will send Bill a summary of the changes to send to the membership.

UW-Extension – Patrick Nehring

Patrick described a new Waushara County initiative addressing water quality. The plan is to test drinking water wells in the county over the next three years beginning on the east end of the county and moving west. Samples will be tested for nitrates and chlorides. September 25, 2018 has been reserved for UW-Stevens Point to process 125 well tests around Waushara County. Property owners or lake districts will have to pay for the processing. UW – Stevens Point will analyze the samples and prepare the data analysis.

Patrick announced a Lake District Board of Commissioners training will be held at May 18th at 11:00 am to 3:00 pm in Wautoma. Eric Olson, UW-Extension, will sponsor and present the training.

Conservation Field Days, May 3rd & 4th, is again looking for help. If you are able to help contact Ed Hernandez.

WCLWC Lake Group Report – Round Lake – Paul Pejsa & Mel Heaney

Round Lake is a 74 acre lake located north east of Wautoma. The lakes main concern is its high phosphorous and nitrate levels. The Lake Association monitors ice in/ice out, wild-life populations – they have trapped 138 muskrats as of last week, and fish populations. In 1994 a slot-size limit was implemented on the lake to promote a healthy fishery. The Round Lake fishing club works with the DNR to stock fish in the lake. The Association alternates with the DNR each stocking fish in alternate years.

The lake association sponsors a block watch program on the lake. The program helps monitors properties in the winter when most residents have gone south.

The lake association also sponsors *Kids Don't Float*. This program provides life preservers via a lending program for lake visitors or residents.

Meeting Adjourned

Everett Eckstein noted the County supports the work of WCWLC and is grateful their contributions.

Everett Eckstein moved the meeting be adjourned; Fred Koch seconded, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Francie Rowe, Secretary

2017-18 WCWLC Meetings:

May 12, 2018 9:00 am
August 11, 2018 9:00 am
November 10, 2018 10:00 am

WCWLC Board Members

Sandy Oemichen (term 2016-19)
Mel Heaney (term 2016-19)
Francie Rowe (term 2016-19)
Dan Trudell (term 2018 -20)

Bill Van Dongen (term 2015-18)
Gary Wisbrocker (term 2018 -20)
Marty Wilke (term 2015-18)