

Waushara County Watershed Lakes Council

P.O. Box 634

Wautoma, Wisconsin 54982

Meeting Minutes

February 9, 2019

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| Gary Wisbrocker, Pres. W4921 Wilson 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. N1628 S. White River Rd. Wautoma, WI 54982 920-787-0956 bevandwo@gmail.com | Marty Wilke, Sec. N877 Spring Lake Est. Dr. Neshkoro, WI 54960 920-566-4605 amwilke@centurylink.net |
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The February 9, 2019 WCWLC meeting was called to order at 10:02 am by Gary Wisbrocker. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Twenty-two people were in attendance, including Mike Kapp – Waushara Co. Board; Robert Sivick – Waushara Co. Administrator; Anna Cisar – Golden Sands RC&D; Todd Wahler – Waushara Co. Land Conservation & Zoning; Patrick Nehring – Waushara Co. UW-Madison; and Jeanne Scherer, DNR/UW Environmental Resources Center. The WCWLC board members present introduced themselves: Gary Wisbrocker, Dan Trudell, Bill Van Dongen, Marty Wilke, Mel Heaney and Sandy Oemichen as did the member group individuals present.

Public Comments

Marty Wilke provided brief information about two upcoming events:

1) Wisconsin Lakes Partnership Convention & Water Action Volunteers Symposium on April 10-12, 2019 in Stevens Point at the Holiday Inn Convention Center. Jeanne Scherer pointed out that a special technical session will be offered on 4/10/19 of convention, discussing Extreme Weather Events and possible preparations that water groups can consider based on experiences/lessons learned by affected residents/groups who've dealt with flooding in northern and southern Wisconsin. Details about sessions, speakers, workshops, registration:

<https://www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/UWEXLakes/Pages/programs/convention/default.aspx>

2) Wisconsin Conservation Voters' annual Lobby Day in Madison on March 27, 2019 – this year's focus will be on protecting Wisconsin's drinking water, public lands and promoting clean energy policy in state.

<https://conservationvoters.org/events/conservation-lobby-day>

Marty also passed on a request from one of the Waushara County Supervisors that he is not getting communications from a few of his assigned lake districts re: board meeting dates/times, so has not been able to attend meetings as the county representative. Marty asked that lake districts review their county board supervisor contact information and if not including the supervisor in meeting notices, to please connect with their assigned supervisor to ensure he is notified of all upcoming meeting details. A follow-up e-mail after this meeting will be sent to everyone on e-mail list with list of supervisors/assigned lake districts, and their e-mail addresses/phone numbers.

Skip Hansen/chair - Central Sands Water Action Coalition, provided copies to anyone interested, of the 2018 Wisconsin Food, Land & Water Project Groundwater Quantity Work Group summary "Groundwater quantity fundamentals in Wisconsin's central sands region", written by the 6 scientists on the project. Additional copies are available.

Mel Heaney offered 75 "Welcome Packets" (from 2005 grant project) to any interested member groups. He also brought the new "Waushara County Guide 2019" (Recreation/Tourism) provided by the *Argus*.

Robert Sivick/Waushara Co. Administrator, commented that he would like to organize an informal committee of Waushara Co citizens/interested individuals to gather concerns and problems that have been identified due to recent high-water levels following this past year's heavy rains and flooding. Contact Mr. Sivick (robert.sivick@co.waushara.wi.us / Administration office: (920) 787-0431) if you're interested.

Agenda, Minutes, Treasurer's Report

Gary asked for a motion to accept the Agenda for this meeting to be accepted as written – Mike Kapp so moved, and Skip Hansen seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

Gary asked if anyone had changes/comments re: the November 10, 2018 Minutes. There were none offered. Karen Reynolds moved that the minutes be accepted as written, and Joel Martin seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

Bill Van Dongen presented the Treasurer's Report, noting that 19 water groups have paid their dues for the current FYAug18-Jul19. A reminder notice will be sent to additional member groups to request payment of dues for the current year.

As of 2/9/19:

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| Total Useable Funds Available: | \$ 1,974.49 |
| Total Environmental Education Funds | \$ 10,218.99 |
| Total Savings Account (including Environmental Ed Funds) | \$ 1,964.49 |

Dan Trudell made a motion to pay the outstanding vouchers and accept the treasurer's report, Mel Heaney seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

Environmental Education Grant Program – Gary gave a short overview of the update/changes to the by-laws that were made for the Environmental Education Grant Program offered by WCWLC – changing all the dates to start earlier in the fall rather than in January: a) for yearly notice placed in local publications (*Resorter/Argus*) of our program and how to contact WCWLC for information if interested in applying for a grant (October 1st), deadline to submit completed application to WCWLC (January 1st), date award will be assigned and the amount awarded (March 1), date selected recipient(s) notified of grant/funds awarded (March 15th) and date funds will be distributed (March 31st). All the dates were moved up to hopefully interest students and citizens in beginning of school year so that more candidates will apply. Gary asked if there were any comments/changes requested – there were none. Mel Heaney made a motion to accept the revised Environmental Education Grant Program bylaws, Mike Geier seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously. Gary clarified that the new dates/bylaws would go into effect in 2020.

Welcome Packets (DNR-funded grant) - Gary Wisbrocker reported that the DNR will notify us soon (?2/15/19) as to whether we have been awarded the grant. Todd Wahler commented that he talked to Ted Johnson before the meeting and he didn't have any news. If grant is awarded, all the packet's materials will be ordered and compiled to get ready to assemble into packets this spring if possible. Volunteers will be needed for this task (approximately 2 hours on a Saturday in the Courthouse Demonstration Room).

New Business

Community-Based Social Marketing – speaker: Jeanne Scherer, DNR AIS Outreach Specialist/UW Environmental Resources Center, presented how lake/water groups can use social science and social marketing to achieve behavioral changes to solve specific problems/concerns in our lake management. In other words - for WCWLC member groups that may have difficulty finding volunteers for projects,

members to volunteer for positions on lake group boards, more members to attend meetings, neighbors to be willing to practice healthy lake activities - What are some strategies that we can use to successfully meet our group's priorities and energize our group or even our community around us?

Key tools are: a) Direct Communications with people are more likely to change their behavior in response; b) Social Norming – “if they're doing it, then I guess I should too”; c) Commitments – we're more likely to take action if we told someone we will; d) Prompts – a good prompt is visible and does double duty (1- reminds you of the desired behavior and your commitment; 2- when visible, shows others your commitment=social norms).

Example using Clean Boats-Clean Waters program: Volunteers talk to people at the landing; Prompts used are Drain Campaign ice packs offered and Landing Blitz boat towels; key chains with CB-CW logo; boat trailer stickers given out during an inspection; Boot Brush station provided to anglers at landing; - all the messaging/logos identifying the Clean Boats-Clean Waters program.

Desired Behavior: Clean off their boat/trailer/gear. Strategies: Provide tools where people need them; Offer the prompts/reminders noted above, provide consistent messaging thru person to person conversation.

Also – having Bait Shops' staff talk with anglers at store, put stickers on bait buckets, remind them of the steps – Inspect, Remove, Drain, Never Move; reinforces social norming, and visual/verbal reminders of program steps in use. (People typically respect the bait shop staff, trust their information).

Conclusion: You have a problem you want to solve – 1) Determine a behavior that you can influence to reduce/solve the problem; 2) Identify the benefits/barriers to choosing that behavior (could use surveys, focus groups, observations in preparation); 3) Develop a strategy - which could include which tools can be tailored to the barriers/benefits you've identified, pilot your strategy, evaluate/revise as needed, implement strategy, and continue to evaluate. To access Jeanne's full presentation:

<https://uwmadison.app.box.com/s/jml38dhjllwpydebwd1m1asn61rcy6f>

and an additional reference: http://media.cbsm.com/uploads/1/CBSM_Overview.pdf

Environmental Education Grant Program update – one 2019 application has been received to date.

DNR Requests - No one from the DNR (besides our invited speaker) was present.

AIS Grant Program - Anna Cisar, from Golden Sands RC&D, identified their new Executive Director, Josh Benes, and noted Amy Thorstensen will help during transition as she reduces to part-time. They are awaiting news from the DNR re: their 2019 multi-county AIS grant application and will let WCWLC know status when possible. She reminded us that besides their AIS services, they offer additional support (fee for service work). Golden Sands will also review when Waushara Co. lakes last had an aquatic plant survey done, and contact those lake groups that have the oldest surveys on record this coming year. Anna reported the DNR removed Zebra Mussels as an invasive from Gilbert Lake AIS data in 2018 after a multi-year early detection monitoring approach, using 3 sets of zebra monitoring plates was completed. In 2019, she plans to help Porters Lake with their invasive cattails, and White River/Western Branch with their EWM removal plan and grant writing.

Land Conservation & Zoning -Todd Wahler and his staff have completed updating zoning codes to both eliminate inconsistencies, and also to meet current needs. The updated codes cover travel trailers, conditional uses, accessory structures and shoreland requirements. LC&Z Department is hoping to obtain DNR certification for Waushara County's shoreland zoning codes (to meet state regulations).

Todd reported that the Fox-Wolf Watersheds committee is working on the Winnebago Lakes Management Plan, with a focus on improving water quality. A 9-Key Element Plan is also moving

forward towards completion that includes addressing farm practices, septic systems, run-off issues.

The **Waushara County Lakes List** that is used by water/lake groups in our county is in need of updates. We were reminded that lake groups should contact Laura Johnson, Land Conservation Administrative Specialist, with updates to their lake group contacts now if applicable, and as board members change. Please call Laura at (920) 787-0453, or send updates via e-mail: lcdzoning.courthouse@co.waushara.wi.us. The Lakes List is available on website: <https://wclwlc.org/> on the “Members Only” tab, password/login to view. If you’ve forgotten the password, can send WCWLC an e-mail request via website’s “Contact Us” form. (A few lake groups are still getting phishing e-mails asking for bogus money payments supposedly from the group’s chair/president to treasurer but is a scam).

UW-Extension - Patrick Nehring said the Waushara County’s 3-year private well-water testing program is in its second of three years and awaiting notification if they will receive additional grant funding that would enable them to combine the remaining 12 townships to obtain well-water samples in 2019 (most likely in the fall) rather than central Waushara’s 6 counties this year, the western 6 counties in 2020. The results will document the status of the county’s groundwater quality.

Additional programs are offered thru UW-Madison in Waushara – the next program in their “Lunch & Learn” Series of public programs is “Writing a Grant Proposal” on February 26, 2019 Noon-1:00 pm, Demonstration Room-County Courthouse. Additional topics include Strategic Planning, Mission & Vision; Recruiting & Managing Volunteers, Staff & Board Members; Leadership Development; Planning Special Events; Team Building; these are a sampling of 14 possible programs being offered. Further information/to register - call UW-Ext. office (920) 787-0416. Everyone is welcome.

Patrick also offered their services to provide support to lake district functions.

Huron Lake – Dan Trudell gave an overview of their DNR grant-funded *Healthy Lakes* 2018 project that 5 property owners participated in. He noted that Lisa Reas, (LJ Reas Environmental Consulting Corporation in Green Lake), visited property owners at lake, designed custom landscape plans and then worked with the property owners to install (types of projects are rain garden, fish stix, run-off water diversion, rock infiltration, native plantings/hill-side erosion-shoreline buffer). Three projects are completed, the other two will be done in 2019 with approved extension of grant timeline. They have some funds left over and will decide if additional project(s) may be included. Cost share 75% DNR/ 25% property owner (\$1000 maximum limit of DNR’s share/project). Additional information about the program is found at: <https://healthylakeswi.com/>. The program is expanding to include rivers. Todd Wahler noted that John Olsen in their LCDept. can help with re-vegetation plans/consultation. He also noted shoreline buffer plant choices such as grasses/small-sized plants can be selected for their low-lying impact but still have deep roots, yet allow a good viewing corridor for the property owner.

Future Agenda Item Suggestions – Marty Wilke asked if members would be interested in inviting the DNR to present an update re: the Central Sands Lakes Study now that the first year is completed and they are offering a presentation to interested groups. Members present today were interested in this topic, so will send invitation to DNR/Jeffrey Helmuth to speak at the next meeting – May 11, 2019. This is the modeling study authorized by 2017 Wisconsin Act 10 studying groundwater withdrawal impacts to Pleasant Lake, Long Lake/Oasis & Plainfield Lake in Waushara County.

Skip Hansen made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Karen Reynolds seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:47 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marty Wilke, Secretary

WCWLC 2018-2019 Meeting Dates:

May 11, 2019 – 9:00 am – DNR presentation on “Central Sands Lakes Study”; Silver Lake group talk
– Mark Magnusson

August 10, 2019 – 9:00 am (annual meeting)

WCWLC Board Members/Terms:

Mel Heaney (term 2016-19)

Sandy Oemichen (term 2016-19)

Francie Rowe (term 2016-19)

Dan Trudell (term 2017-20)

Bill Van Dongen (term 2018-21)

Marty Wilke (term 2018-21)

Gary Wisbrocker (term 2017-20)