

Waushara County Watershed Lakes Council

P.O. Box 634

Wautoma, Wisconsin 54982

Meeting Minutes

May 11, 2019

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
---	---	--	--

The May 11, 2019 WCWLC meeting was called to order at 9:02 am by Francie Rowe. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Twenty-nine people were in attendance, including Mark Piechowski, Mike Kapp – Waushara Co. Board; Robert Sivick – Waushara Co. Administrator; Patrick Nehring – Waushara Co. UW-Wisconsin; and Jeffrey Helmuth, DNR Hydrogeologist/Bureau of Drinking Water & Groundwater. The WCWLC board members present introduced themselves: Francie Rowe, Bill Van Dongen, and Marty Wilke as did member group individuals and guests present.

Public Comments

Norm Duesterhoeft, EMS Director, provided information re: EMS response activities during recent flooding conditions in Waushara County. Sandbags were provided to a number of property owners to help protect shoreline, boat houses in specific flood-prone areas. Those sandbags have since been removed and no further action is planned at this time. Norm stated that homeowners that have their own sandbags and now want to dispose of the sand, will need to consider safely disposing foreign sand in a non-shoreline area to prevent AIS introduction. He also noted that environmentally-friendly private purchase of “aqua bags” or “hydro bags” can be found online which allow water to fill bags, and will deflate for re-use if so desired:

- a) “Hydrabarrier”: www.hydrabarrier.com
- b) “Floodsax”: <https://www.floodsax.us.com/>

Agenda, Minutes, Treasurer’s Report

Francie asked for a motion to accept the Agenda for this meeting to be accepted as written – Karen Reynolds so moved, and Arnie Wilke seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

Francie asked if anyone had changes/comments re: the February 9, 2019 Minutes. There were none offered. Richard DeLisle moved that the minutes be accepted as written, and Skip Hansen seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

Bill Van Dongen presented the Treasurer’s Report, noting that 23 water groups have paid their dues for the current FYAug18-Jul19. An additional 8 water groups have already paid their FYAug19-Jul20 dues.

As of 5/9/19:

Total Useable Funds Available:	\$ 1,561.11
Total Environmental Education Funds	\$ 10,269.23
Total Savings Account (including Environmental Ed Funds)	\$ 1,564.29
DNR project: SPL40319 grant – all invoices paid	\$ 231.27

Marty Wilke made a motion to pay the outstanding vouchers, Mike Geier seconded the motion; the

motion passed unanimously. The treasurer's report was accepted into the record.

Old Business

None

New Business

Since our speaker had not arrived, the "updates" were discussed first:

Environmental Education Grant Program update – The 2019 grant was awarded and check issued to the Waushara County Land Conservation Department for their 2019 Conservation Field Days held 5/2-5/3/19. Bill Van Dongen noted that starting this fall, the 2020 educational grant cycle begins in October 2019 to allow more opportunity to students, interested citizens with Waushara environmental projects.

DNR Requests - None

AIS Grant Program – No updates

Land Conservation & Zoning – No updates

UW-Madison Extension - Patrick Nehring provided a handout re: customized educational programs UW-Madison Extension offers. Interested groups, citizens should contact the Waushara Co. UW-Extension office (920) 787-0416. Patrick also noted that the county's 3-year private well-water testing program is in the second year, so this fall 2019 homeowners will be randomly selected in the middle third of the county to have their private well-water tested for Nitrates and Chlorides using grant funding. The goal is to collect water samples from areas on the map where well-water testing has not been done within a 30-year period. The final western third of the county will be tested in Spring 2020. The results will provide a baseline of the county's groundwater quality status.

Patrick is also planning to hold a free **public informational event re: Groundwater and Well-Water Testing** in early June at the Courthouse, to explain to citizens why it's important to test homeowner private well-water, answer any questions, encourage citizens randomly selected to be in the project to respond/obtain samples, and for any county citizen that would like to test their well-water - where they can obtain testing kits, and what tests are available/costs. This will all help the county to collect sampling results to evaluate the status of Waushara's water quality, identify where there are issues, where water quality is good and if best management practices are warranted.

Skip Hansen asked if the county will share the Waushara Co. well-water testing results with Speaker Vos' Water Quality Task Force/WQTF. Patrick said that the results would be available if they requested the information. Marty Wilke asked if the county would definitely provide the county's results to the WQTF so that the information could be reviewed and used prior to the WQTF making their final recommendations. Robert Sivick stated that this could be done and will follow-up with WCWLC in the future. Francie Rowe asked if the county was considering placing monitoring wells – Patrick replied that the county was not, since first step is to gather the county's well-water samples.

To access the UW-SP "Wisconsin Well Water Viewer: Private Well Data for Wisconsin:

Webpage: <https://www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/watershed/Pages/wellwaterviewer.aspx>

Interactive Well Water Quality Viewer: https://gissrv3.uwsp.edu/webapps/gwc/pri_wells/

WCWLC website/Home page for additional well-water resources: <https://wewlc.org/>

Patrick also reported that Waushara Co. LC&Z Dept., Public Health Dept., and several County Board Supervisors are participating in a central sands regional approach to understanding water quality issues.

The Central Sands Lakes Study: Quantifying the Connection Between Groundwater Withdrawals and Lake Levels – Guest Speaker: Jeffrey Helmuth, DNR Hydrogeologist, Bureau of Drinking Water and Groundwater, Division of Environmental Management - presented an update on 2017 Wisconsin Act 10, which authorized/funded a 3-year study by the DNR to evaluate and model the hydrology of three lakes (Plainfield Lake, Long Lake/Oasis, Pleasant Lake in Waushara County) “to determine whether existing and potential groundwater withdrawals are causing or are likely to cause a significant reduction of the lake's water level below its average seasonal levels.”

The study will:

- Use groundwater flow modeling to determine if there are cumulative impacts of current and potential pumping.
- Conduct a field study to verify the connection and causal relationship between lake levels and pumping.
- Define average seasonal water levels for each of the three lakes and what a significant reduction below those levels means. This will include assessment of impacts to fish/wildlife habitat, groundwater and lake chemistry, navigation and recreational activities.
- If significant reductions are predicted, then additional measures will include an economic impact analysis, public hearings and review of comments received, and DNR’s recommendations of special measures/mitigation to prevent significant reductions below the average seasonal level/mitigation.
- Summary reports will be submitted by the DNR to the Wisconsin State Legislature (June 2021).

The principal partners in the CSLS are:

- Wisconsin Geological Natural History Survey/WGNHS
- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources/DNR
- U.S. Geological Survey/USGS
- University of Wisconsin/UW

To follow CSLS progress and information, or to subscribe to receive updates:

Website: <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Wells/HighCap/CSLStudy.html>

Subscribe to updates: hyperlink found on right side of above webpage

To view Jeffrey Helmuth’s presentation from 5/11/19 WCWLC meeting: https://wcwlc.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/14/2019/05/DNR_Helmuth_WausharaCtyLakes_CSLS_resized.pdf

Silver Lake – Mark Magnusson presented the Silver Lake Management District’s/SLMD Hybrid Water Milfoil Management Plan that is now in the third year of treatment activities. Their initial mapping identified 14 native aquatic plant species and 4 AIS - Banded Mystery Snail, Zebra Mussel, Curly-leaf pondweed/CLP, and Eurasian watermilfoil/EWM which morphed into Hybrid watermilfoil/HWM. Sonar 2, 4-D became ineffective for EWM/HWM in 2013, so in 2014, SLMD developed an Aquatic Plant Management Plan to treat the whole lake using granular Triclopyr which was used in June 2014. By August 2014, they had a 75% decline in HWM, but HWM “rebounded”, and the next spring/summer 2015 both EWM and HWM were back to prior levels (25% or 80 of 360 acres), so Triclopyr only provided a 1-yr seasonal reduction, not helped by weather impacts causing unequal mixing/absorption of Triclopyr. In 2016 pelletized Flouridone was used for whole lake treatment. In 2017-2018 diver surveys were completed and 621 cubic ft. EWM/HWM harvested at 33 sites/80 hrs. dive time, with a farmer accepting the EWM/HWM to apply on his fields. During 2018, DASH method was used/contracted for 12 days in August at \$2700-3300/day. For 2019, SLMD plans to again use DASH for 4+ weeks to spot treat areas preferably in mid-June. Their HWM is now at 2% and goal is to control EWM/HWM status. In 2020 SLMD hopes to cost-share 1 week of DASH expense with individual property owner(s) based on property’s lake frontage, for service around their pier/swimming area. Silver Lake now has 12-13 healthy native aquatic plants, slight increase in CLP.

Recommendation: Use one vendor for AIS plant survey, a second vendor for chemical treatments if needed, and a third vendor to provide DASH/experienced diver - uses rakes to collect escaped milfoil fragments that float to the surface as DASH collects plants below (prevent new milfoil from growing).

Future Agenda Item Suggestions

- Marty Wilke asked if members would be interested in inviting the Land Conservation & Zoning Dept./Todd Wahler, Ed Hernandez to present information about Waushara County’s high-water levels impacting many lakes and rivers. Specifically an overview of what resources the county staff can offer, any preliminary surface water measurements available from Spring 2019 (to compare with previous data), review of the roles of the LC&Z Dept, County Board, local municipalities, DNR, and lake/river/water group boards to deal with concerns re: shoreline erosion, flooding, possible slow/no wake restrictions. Anecdotal discussion by member groups dealing with this issue will be included in discussion.

Members present today were interested in this topic, so will confirm an invitation to LC&Z/Todd Wahler, Ed Hernandez to speak at the next meeting – August 10, 2019.

Additional topics:

- Roger Volden asked that Todd Wahler/LC&Z clarify the changes in recent shoreline zoning ordinances dealing with non-conforming structures for riparian property owners. More details/explanations would be helpful to help lake/water group boards provide information to property owners. Todd will be asked to cover this issue at next WCWLC meeting during the regular LC&Z Dept. update.

- Richard DeLisle asked that we invite Ted Johnson/DNR to discuss DNR’s experience, resulting effects and success with recent “Drawdowns” in central sands region and state (e.g. Wautoma Millpond, Lake Weyauwega, Amherst Millpond, Lake Winnebago drawdown).

Arnie Wilke made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Bill Kehl seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:07 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marty Wilke, Secretary

WCWLC 2018-2019 Meeting Dates:

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)