

Waushara County Watershed Lakes Council

P.O. Box 634

Wautoma, Wisconsin 54982

Annual Meeting Minutes

August 10, 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
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The August 10, 2019 WCWLC annual meeting was called to order at 9:02 am by Gary Wisbrocker. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Thirty-nine people were in attendance, including Everett Eckstein - Township of Springwater/Waushara Co. Board; Mike Kapp - Waushara Co. Board; Anna Cisar, AIS Coordinator - Golden Sands RC&D; Todd Wahler, Director - Land Conservation & Zoning Dept; and Patrick Nehring - Waushara Co. UW-Madison. The WCWLC board members introduced themselves: Gary Wisbrocker, Dan Trudell, Bill Van Dongen, Mel Heaney, Sandra Oemichen and Marty Wilke. (Francie Rowe arrived after introductions).

Public Comments

Marty Wilke updated the members re: new proposed state legislation for lake districts – SB335 which provides a process in the event of a recount request during district meeting where more than one candidate is nominated for an elected position: <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2019/proposals/sb335> . Mel Heaney reminded members present that the new “Welcome to Waterfront Living” packets are available to member groups (5 folders to start with), and to pick them up after the meeting.

Agenda, Minutes, Treasurer’s Report

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

Gary asked if anyone had changes/comments re: the May 11, 2019 Minutes. There were none offered. Arnie Wilke 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 16 water groups have paid their dues for the new current FYAug19-Jul20. One additional water group has already paid their FYAug20-Jul21 dues.

As of 8/10/19:

Total Useable Funds Available:	\$ 1,701.65
Total Environmental Education Funds	\$ 10,347.11
Total Savings Account (including Environmental Ed Funds)	\$ 1,669.83

Marty Wilke made a motion to pay the outstanding vouchers, Dan Trudell seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously. The treasurer’s report was accepted into the record.

Old Business

None

New Business

High Water Levels: Issues & Concerns- Guest Speaker: Todd Wahler, Director, Waushara County Land Conservation & Zoning Department; and discussion with Everett Eckstein, Chair, Town of Springwater/Waushara County Board; Ed Kissinger, Chair, Silver Lake Management District; Roger Volden, Chair, Pearl Lake Protection & Management District.

Todd initially provided an update on Waushara's Shoreland Zoning changes re: non-conforming surfaces, impervious surfaces in response to member requests for further clarification. Todd stated the changes were needed to comply with Wisconsin's NR115 regulations which protect a) our lakes and streams, b) prevent and control water pollution, c) protect spawning grounds, fish and aquatic life, and d) reserve shore cover and natural beauty. Shoreland zoning regulations cover 1000 feet around lakes, 300 feet alongside rivers, and identified floodplains, and are required in unincorporated areas, but are optional in cities/villages. His PowerPoint presentation can be viewed at: <https://wewlc.org/resources/> - Waushara Co LC&Z, Todd Wahler-Shoreline Zoning 8-10-19.

Todd then discussed the current high water levels occurring at many Waushara County lakes and the work his department has been involved in, helping lake groups identify their current Ordinary High Water Mark/OHWM as groups/townships deal with shoreline erosion issues and possible management actions. Todd provided a summary of 30 lakes and their lake elevations on record to 2019 using graph charts. Data can be viewed at: <https://wewlc.org/resources/> - Waushara Co LC&Z, Waushara Co Lakes' Levels graphic_toddw_2019-08-12-08-05-45.

Todd explained that a number of measurements are taken at different locations around a lake, signs of historic markings looking at trees/vegetation, existing water level values are all observed. A benchmark is then set up, typically at public landing, for lake group to monitor and use for any intervention plan based on subsequent readings. Todd was asked how lake group members had responded to high water level measurements, possible group actions/no-action to deal with shoreline issues. He noted that it seemed to be pretty evenly split between members who were in favor of protective actions and those who opposed them.

Ed Kissinger/Silver Lake commented that his district sent out a survey to 300 members, and 80% were in favor of a temporary slow-no wake ordinance using water level measurements to start/stop ordinance, and 20% were opposed to action.

Todd noted that immediate actions by property owners could include sandbags to hold the water from damaging properties, and when water levels have receded adequately, then possible use of rip-rap could be installed by landscaper using proper technique to ensure firm base for materials to hold.

Everett Eckstein/Springwater explained that his and the town board's role is to preserve/protect our water resources so that future generations will also enjoy and benefit from healthy lakes. Springwater's board along with specific lake groups, approved slow-no wake temporary ordinances for 5 of the 9 lakes in their township. One lake has since removed the temporary ordinance, and the board will consider a temporary slow-no wake ordinance for one more lake that is partially in Springwater at the next township meeting.

Roger Volden/Pearl Lake stated that initially their lake had a voluntary slow-no wake ordinance and when members were asked to change to non-voluntary – 80% of the members voted to not change from a voluntary action. By Memorial Day, the members voted again and this time 80% voted to enact a temporary slow-no wake ordinance. Roger noted that people needed to realize that this action protected their properties and it is important to be open to measures that protect the lake during natural effect variations. Members also were worried that boaters would come to Pearl Lake for recreational activities and damage shorelines.

Other member comments were made – Alpine Lake property owners are concerned that with excess water being pumped towards their lake, increased sediment and possible AIS will cause problems for them. Many comments were made noting that economic impacts are being felt by our local businesses, tourism as well as

by property owners in our county. Storm management plans should be re-evaluated/updated as well as what drainage plans are needed to deal with potential occurrences of high water levels, increased precipitation.

Environmental Education Grant Program update – The 2020 grant process will start in October with media publications (*Argus* and *Resorter*) announcing the available grant, and information will also be provided to area high schools that have Waushara County students enrolled. It is hoped that more candidates will apply since the start date coincides with the beginning of the school year. The environmental education grant is open to organizations/individuals that benefit Waushara residents.

Election of Three Board Members – Sandy Oemichen, Mel Heaney and Francie Rowe’s terms on the board are done, and Mel and Francie stated their willingness to serve on the board for another term if the members approve. Sandy will not seek another term. Gary Wisbrocker thanked Sandy for her efforts and contributions during her term. Gary also informed the members that Karen Reynolds expressed interest in serving on the WCWLC board and on behalf of the board, Karen’s nomination was offered three times for any discussion. Richard DeLisle made a motion to elect Karen to the WCWLC board for a 3-yr. term, and Mark Theis seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously. Sandy Oemichen made a motion for Mel Heaney, Francie Rowe and Karen Reynolds to all be elected to the board, Mark Theis seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

DNR Requests - None

AIS Grant Program – Anna Cisar reported that she presented an AIS session during the Waushara Co. Field Conservation Days in May, conducted AIS workshops for the West Branch millpond, one at Deer Lake and one at Johns Lake; managed/trained DNR grant-funded staff at Silver Lake, Pearl Lake and Big Hills Lake for Clean Boats-Clean Waters boat landing AIS monitoring; oversaw/managed the White River Flowage district’s hand-pulling of Purple Flowering Rush by volunteers (cleaned all identified areas remaining, now just collecting floating debris from pulling); surveyed Gilbert Lake for purple loosestrife plants – removed flowering heads at inaccessible location by the boat landing; completed plant survey at Pearl Lake; surveyed Long Lake-Springwater/Saxeville for AIS and didn’t find any; and will survey Porters Lake for invasive cattails.

Anna asked that lake/river groups contact her this fall for any 2020 projects since she typically has her schedule filled by January for upcoming summer projects. She also asked that she be notified of: any possible AIS educational school programs desired; if a group is interested in creating an Aquatic Plant Management or Lake Management Plan that Golden Sands staff could assist them with, or updating their Lake Management Plans (contracted work/fee schedule). Lastly, Golden Sands RC&D will be applying for an AIS DNR grant and will need both letters of support and donated funds (just note pledged amount, no payment due until grant awarded in 2020). Both letters and donations now provide competing total points that are needed to be successful in receiving grants to cover Golden Sands’ ability to work with their eight counties. Please send your group’s or personal letters of support/pledged donation to Golden Sands by 11/15/19 to include in their December DNR grant application/submittal.

Land Conservation & Zoning – Todd Wahler reported that his department has amended the manure storage codes and submitted the changes to Waushara County townships for comment. The changes impact waste programs, Best Management Practices/BMP, discuss matching funds available to farmers to implement improvements and allow LC&Z more ability to manage/enforce these practices.

Todd also said that Waushara County is working with neighboring counties in regional approaches to our groundwater/surface water problems. The Winnebago Waterways board is looking at ways to improve the watershed health and address identified issues thru community, water groups, counties and state involvement. The other collaborative (Central Sands Groundwater County Collaborative/CSGCC) involves 7 counties primarily in the central sands (Waushara Co. representatives are Ed Hernandez/LC&Z, Patrick Nehring/UW-Ext., Mike Kapp, George Peterman, John Jarvis/County Board) and they are looking at water quality issues and hoping that funding could be provided to allow counties to work on their own priorities as well as share information and data that would benefit all the counties involved.

UW-Madison Extension - Patrick Nehring provided a handout re: the upcoming “Waushara County Well Water Study” Information Meeting on 8/27/19 at 6:30 pm in the Wild Rose Community Room of the Patterson Memorial Library, 500 Division Street, Wild Rose, WI 54984. This event will explain the second phase of a 3-yr. private well-water testing program, this time covering the middle 6 townships of Waushara County starting in October, offering no-cost testing to selected residents to help the county identify groundwater quality patterns in the county. Patrick also offered workshops for interested water groups on organizational operations, (e.g. - how to set up a water group organization, who would be eligible to vote, how to set up elections, etc.). Contact the UW-Ext office at the courthouse (920) 787-0416 for further details.

Witters Lake – Sandy Oemichen provided an overview of Witters Lake, located in the Township of Dakota – near the Wautoma Airport. Witters Lake is 61 acres, has an average depth of 4 ft. with a sandy-muck bottom, has a slow-no wake lake speed limit, one public landing, and primary fish found are blue gill (15/5 bag limit/day, 5 of one species). There are two home divisions that were created in the 1920’s with 5 public courts with deeded access to the lake. The Witters Lake Association meets once a year, members pay \$20/yr. dues and association promotes an annual boat parade. One effect from the current high water levels is that Clear Water Road has been under water, with some property owners reporting water levels over their door sills, and that they could fish from their windows just as family lore from older generations reported doing. Challenges are the two main roads around lake are “dead end” roads, so they don’t connect; and communications between property owners have been unsatisfactory at times. There are approximately 100 residents around the lake area, with about 20 year-round residents. Witters Lake is treasured by property owners who appreciate the low visibility of their lake from everyone else.

WCWLC 2019-2020 Meeting Dates:

Gary Wisbrocker suggested FY2019-2020 meeting dates:

November 9, 2019 at 10:00 am

February 8, 2020 at 10:00 am

May 9, 2020 at 9:00 am

August 8, 2020 at 9:00 am

Richard DeLisle made a motion to accept the meeting dates as offered, Francie Rowe seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

Future Agenda Item Suggestions

- Invite Todd Wahler/LC&Z back with Robert Sivick/County Administrator, to provide the county’s plans and actions dealing with current drainage issues due to high water levels and resulting problems affecting county residents/businesses, particularly around the Wautoma area. More information about plans, discussions, suggested management solutions that could be used now and as needed in the future would be appreciated since public information about solutions is not readily available. Members present agreed this would be a very timely and needed topic to learn more about our county’s plans.

- Golden Sands RC&D representative to address water quality issues/nitrate contamination problems and what their council and board are working on, recommendations identified.
- Central Sands Groundwater County Collaborative/CSGCC – report/update on 7-county collaborative’s work/funding by Waushara Co representatives

Previous agenda items suggested:

- Ted Johnson/DNR - 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).
- Golden Sands – EWM beetle project – Amy
- DASH - vendor presentation, lake group(s) experiences/comments
- Healthy Lakes grant projects
- Ask Patrick Nehring to expand on previous topic of Community-Based Social Marketing and use two WCWLC lake groups/their projects to show how groups could use strategies.

Mel Heaney made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Mark Theis seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:57 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marty Wilke, Secretary

WCWLC Board Members/Terms:

Mel Heaney	(term 2019-22)
Karen Reynolds	(term 2019-22)
Francie Rowe	(term 2019-22)
Dan Trudell	(term 2017-20)
Bill Van Dongen	(term 2018-21)
Marty Wilke	(term 2018-21)
Gary Wisbrocker	(term 2017-20)