Waushara County Watershed Lakes Council Meeting

P.O. Box 634
Wautoma, Wisconsin 54982

Minutes

August 12, 2024

Richard DeLisle, Pres. N2678 Bughs Lake Rd Wautoma, WI 54982 414-305-9570 rconstructive@yahoo.com	Mel Heaney, Vice Pres. N5102W.Round Lake Rd. Wild Rose, WI 54984 920-622-3863 heaneys@cemturytel.net	Bill Van Dongen, Treas. 1628 S. White River Rd. Wautoma, WI 54982 920-787-0956 bcvandwo@gmail.com	Francie Rowe, Sec. W13475 Czech Lane Coloma, WI 54930 608-345-5250 waterlorax@hotmail.com

The WCWLC May meeting was called to order at 9:03 by President Rich DeLisle. The meeting opened with the pledge of allegiance. Twenty-three individuals were present representing 10 Waushara County lakes. Andrew Senderhaut, Golden Sands RC&D and Sue Hart, Crystal Lake, Marquette County; were also in attendance.

Public Comments

Warden Ben Mott reported it has been a good summer so far on the Waushara lakes. He is grateful for being able to work with the County recreation staff.

Agenda.

Mark Theis moved the agenda be approved as written. Jim Morgenroth seconded the motion; the motion passed.

Mel Heaney moved the minutes be approved as written. Karen Reynolds seconded the motion. The WCWLC May, 2024 minutes were approved as written by unanimous vote.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report was emailed to the membership and presented by Bill VanDongen. Bill noted 13 member lakes have paid their 2025 dues.

As of Aug. 10. 2024: Total Useable Funds = $ 2,196.58
As of, Aug. 10, 2024: Total Environmental Education Funds = $ 11,005.21

Betty Martin moved that Bill be directed to pay outstanding vouchers. Joel Martin seconded the motion; the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

Guest Speaker : Chris Kolasinski, DNR Lakes Resource Specialists

Importance of Aquatic Plants in our Lakes

Chris opened his presentation by stating that aquatic plants are an important component of a lake's ecosystem as they:

- Form the base of the food chain,
- Produce dissolved oxygen in the water to support animal life,
- Serve as protection for small fish and invertebrates,
- Hold the lake sediments and shoreline soil in place.

He addressed the four different classes of aquatic plants found in Wisconsin inland lakes.

1. Shoreline plants, those that grow above the waterline. They provide erosion control, beauty, geese control (geese do not like shoreline plants, upset their view)
2. Emergent plants, those rooted in the soil under water, but the larger part of the plant is above water. They benefit the lake by providing food and shelter for animals and insects, as well as erosion control from wave action.
3. Floating Plants, those that have leaves floating at or near the water's surface with their roots either floating or in the soil at the bottom of the lake. These plants are beneficial as they provide wave dampening, food and shelter for animals and insects, plus water temperature regulation.
4. Submerged plants, live under water and have roots in the soil at the bottom of the lake. Submerged plants provide oxygen and food for fish and other animals, dissipate waves, absorb lake nutrients – they are critical for a healthy fishery,

Chris also addressed the importance of macro algae – *Charas* – Muskgrass, *Nitella* – Stoneworts, and freshwater sponges, Bryozoans. These life forms look like plants, but are not, as they have no roots, stems, or flowers.

Chris addressed the plant management issue with a "Soup or Salad" approach/choice. He noted that nutrients are present in lakes and some kind of photosynthetic organism is going to grow as a result. The choice managers have to make is whether or not they want **Soup or Salad**. "Soup" describes a lake dominated by microscopic algae; "Salad" describes a lake dominated by aquatic plants. He noted, "the nutrients are there, if you don't have one, you will have the other".

Chris noted that herbicides are available to kill aquatic plants, but may not be used/applied in a lake without a permit. This includes copper sulfate. Lawn herbicides must be kept 5 feet from the lake's high water mark.

Chris closed his presentation by noting the *Healthy Lakes & Rivers* (https://healthylakeswi.com/best-practices/) is a valuable resource to help in understanding the value of aquatic plants. Chris's presentation is available on the WCWLC web site, https://wcwlc.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/14/2024/08/Benefits-of-Aquatic-Plants.pdf .

Environmental Education Grant

Rich reported that WCWLC Board is seeking to implement changes to the WCWLC Environmental Education Grant program. The goal of this change is to bring more participants from schools and others into the pool of candidates.

Waushara County field days has been the recipient for many years. It was suggested the funds be given every year to the County. Rich noted the grant currently is designated for education.

Welcome Packets

Rich noted he is targeting October to assemble the 2025 packets. Mel announced that he has some 2024 packets here today, if anyone wants a packet please contact him.

Waushara County Land/Water/Education Committee Meetings

No one from WCWLC Land/Water/Education Committee was present at the May meeting.

2025 Nominations for New Board Members

Rich opened the 2025 nominations for the Board.

Rich DeLisle & Bill Van Dongen were nominated for Board positions and both were elected via unanimous vote.

Future Meetings

Rich asked the membership for program requests for upcoming meetings. There were none.

Upcoming meeting dates are:

November 9, 2024, 10:00 am – TBD
February 15, 2025, 10:00 am – TBD
May
August

Tom Catlin moved the meeting be adjourned; Jeff Strab seconded his motion. The meeting adjourned at 10:24.

Respectfully submitted,
Francie Rowe, Secretary

WCWLC Board Members:

Richard DeLisle	(term 2024-27)	Bill Van Dongen	(term 2024-27)
Mel Heaney	(term 2022-25)	Mark Theis	(term 2023 -26)
Francie Rowe	(term 2022-25)	Jim Peirce	(term 2023-26)
Jim Morgenroth	(term 2022-25)		