



## **Meeting Minutes**

Meeting date: Wednesday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012

The second 2012 meeting of the Polk County Association of Lakes and Rivers (PCALR) was held Wednesday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at the Polk County Justice Center in Balsam Lake. Polk County Board Supervisors were invited for presentations and discussions. Polk County Lake organizations shared their management and protection work and answered questions.

### **Attending:**

Jim and Joan Maxwell, Big Blake Lake; Sam Rivers, Big Blake Lake; Ford Elliot, Big Blake Lake; Lois Weber, Big Blake Lake; Nancy Knutsen, Lotus Lake; Pamela Toshner, WDNR; Alex Smith, WDNR; Ray Schmidt, Wild Goose Lake; Curtis Schmidt, Board of Adjustments; Bob Goodlad, Cedar Lake; Phil Foster, Bone Lake; Dan Bergeron, Big Round Lake; Gordon Kill, Big Round Lake; Dick Hollar, Pipe Lakes; Larry and Bev Bresina, Pipe Lake; Tim Ritten, Polk County LWRD; Katelin Holm, Polk County LWRD; Carl Holmgren, Balsam Lake; Ken Peterson, Big Butternut Lake; Joseph Ziglinski, Wapogasset/Bear Trap; Lee Rickard, Wapogasset/Bear Trap; Rick Scoglio, Apple River Association and County Board Supervisor; William Johnson IV, County Board Supervisor; Dean Johansen, County Board Supervisor; Herschel Brown, County Board Supervisor; Pat Schmidt, County Board Supervisor; Kathryn Kienholz, County Board Supervisor; Marvin Caspersen, County Board Supervisor; Jay Luke, County Board Supervisor

### **Agenda:**

#### **Welcome and Introductions**

#### **Treasurers Report and Membership**

Current balance is \$1,099. PCALR recently purchased a quantity of Top Ten Native Shrubs for Wildlife brochures which are available for purchase for \$1.80/brochure. The brochures encourage the use of native plants to sustain birds and wildlife.

The new membership year began on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Thank you to everyone who has already renewed their membership.

## **Updates and Business**

Everyone is encouraged to visit the PCALR website (<http://pcalr.org/>) which has an extensive library of lake management plans and aquatic plant management plans for download. If you would like the documents for your lake changed or updated please let Karen or Larry know.

Thank you to Larry Bresina who maintains the PCALR website and PCALR news and blog! Motion was passed for renewal to maintain the website at a cost of \$250 for the next two years.

Reminder to sign up for PCALR news, which is different than the PCALR email listserve. PCALR news is similar to a blog and can be subscribed to.

Polk County LWRD, in partnership with PCALR, received a 2012 DNR AIS grant which will pay for the design of lake maps. Lake organizations will be required to pay for the printing of the maps. The maps were first designed for Bone Lake to put AIS prevention messaging in the hands of visitors in the form of a map useful for recreation and fishing. The maps are printed in full color on waterproof paper.

## **Presentations and Discussion**

*Polk County Land and Water Resources Department: Tim Ritten*

Polk County LWRD is overseen by the Land Conservation Committee (LCC) and County Board and has staff in the areas of water quality, engineering, and agriculture. The Department's mission is to preserve, protect, and enhance our natural resources. Tim discussed threats to our surface water resources from agricultural runoff, urban and near shore runoff, and aquatic invasive species along with work being done by LWRD to address each threat. The presentation also included the location of invasive species in Polk County, programs being administered by LWRD, and future plans. Tim also discussed lack of funding as a threat.

*Balsam Lake: Carl Holmgren*

- Finished water quality project last year
- Purchased 34 acre parcel for Conservancy
- Volunteer in-lake water monitoring
- WRP last year
- Active CBCW program at four landings through a 50/50 (paid/volunteer) program with 42 students in 2012
- Dockside newsletter
- Printed and distributed lake maps with AIS messaging
- Balsam Lake Homeowners Group works with boat control and social aspects

- Future plans: Core sampling and focusing on water quality in East Balsam

*Big Butternut: Ken Peterson*

- Three Lake Management Plans done by Barr and most recently Polk County LWRD
  - Phosphorus problems and willingness to provide financial support were highlighted from the most recent report
- Currently 15 volunteers with the 2012 CBCW program
- Participating in the 2012 Landing Blitz
- Goose egg oiling program

*Big Blake Lake: Sam Rivers, Ford Elliot*

- Managing curly leaf pondweed (CLP) with a harvesting grant
  - Density has been reduced 30%
  - Many lakes use chemicals which don't apply for Big Blake as a result of the presence of Wild Rice
  - Harvest ~100 hours/year
  - Harvest ~80 acres while staying away from sensitive areas
  - CLP has already dropped for the year
- Future plans: Apply for a WDNR grant to continue harvesting and add a research component; interest in core sampling
- Interactive calendar to sign up for volunteering with their CBCW program
- Maintain a facebook and blog page

*Big Round Lake: Gordon Kill*

- Partner with Polk County LWRD, St. Croix Tribal Group, and WDNR
- Core sampling was done awhile back
- Point Intercept Survey done by Polk County LWRD
  - Standard procedure to give an idea of plant community in the lake
- Current Lake Management Plan is on the website ([www.bigroundlake.com](http://www.bigroundlake.com)) along with all past reports
- Dives in coordination with aquatic plant surveys for AIS monitoring
- I-LIDS camera installed this year at the boat landing (200+ boats in the first 2 weeks)
- Printed and distributed lake maps with AIS messaging
- Fish stocking, DNR fish study, and fish pathology report
- Water quality data collected by the Tribe
- Fishermen have asked about having a high pressure washer at the boat landing

*Bone Lake: Phil Foster*

- Received a total of 6 WDNR grants for a total of ~\$300,000
- 50 dedicated volunteers (one of the most active volunteer groups)
- Current Lake Management Plan

- Goals relate to water quality, fisheries, natural beauty/wildlife, and AIS
- Waterfront runoff program
- District funded septic upgrade
- Fish stocking and fish habitat improvement
- Spraying 80 acres of CLP
- I-LIDS camera installation forthcoming
- Active CBCW program with 15 paid inspectors and students
- Concerns with clarity, AIS, increased building occurring, and lack of funding despite the need for all septic systems to be inspected by 2015
- Partnership with Polk County LWRD

*Pipe Lakes: Dick Hollar*

- No current AIS populations
- CBCW paid inspectors every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday
  - 1 violation last year
- AIS underwater inspections (once a month from June-September)
- Contingency plans in place in case AIS problems arise
- Phosphorus retention pond on N. Pipe Lake with assistance from Polk County LWRD
- Shoreline restoration project
  - Grant provides a free lot inspection to identify what property owners can do to reduce runoff from property
  - \$25 for a design and if the practice is implemented the \$25 goes towards the project cost
  - 40-45 people have done the lot inspection, and 3-5 people have completed the design and restoration project
- Tree falls for fisheries habitat

*Wapogasset/Bear Trap: Joseph Ziglinski, Lee Rickard*

- 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary last year
- 1974 realized that septic/drain fields would not keep up with growing population
  - Replaced 23 miles of pipe for a cost of 1.5 million which was the largest project in the state at that time
- District has the ability to tax but hasn't yet
- 1999 implemented an alum treatment for CLP
  - According to Secchi data it was successful for 2 years
- 2009 Lake Management Plan
  - 5 year study to treat CLP
- Monthly monitoring of Secchi, oxygen, temperature, and phosphorus
  - Records since the 1900's and monitoring since the 70's
- Weekly plant monitoring
- Began CBCW program in 2008
  - Began with hiring students, moved towards volunteers, currently all volunteers but may return to hiring people

- Future plans: continue implementing 5 year plan; \$15,000/year to treat CLP
- Maintain website ([www.wbtlakes.com](http://www.wbtlakes.com)), facebook, and email ([wbt lakes@gmail.com](mailto:wbt lakes@gmail.com))
- Could use support looking for grants
- Focus on improving education this year; purchased AIS bobbers
- Goal: everyone to have at least a 5 foot buffer, start there

*Apple River Association: Rick Scoglio*

- Formed in 2001; not a taxing body
- Association for the entire watershed
- Working with Apple River Flowage P&R District
  - Funding for a harvester which is being purchased in 2012
- Working with WDNR on Staples Lake regarding the presence of a rock dam
- Travel to different parts of the river and organize clean ups

*WDNR updates, Pamela Toshner*

- NW Lakes Conference is taking place on June 22<sup>nd</sup> in Spooner WI.
- Upcoming process to streamline CBCW application
  - Funding for projects without the competitive grant process
  - Will likely be a need to prioritize funding based on lakes most susceptible to AIS or for those lakes with current AIS due to potential demand
- Introduction of Alex Smith who was recently hired as a WDNR Lake Coordinator
  - Alex will work with the South tier of counties (which includes Polk)

**Adjourn**

Minutes submitted by  
 Katelin Holm, Secretary  
 Polk County Association of Lakes and Rivers  
 June 2012