



Meeting Minutes

Meeting date: Wednesday, April 20th, 2016

The first 2016 meeting of the Polk County Association of Lakes and Rivers (PCALR) was held Wednesday, April 20th, 2016 at the Polk County Justice Center in Balsam Lake.

Attending

Gary Ovick, Church Pine, Round, Big Lake; Jim Maxwell, Big Blake Lake; Gordon Kill, Big Round; Dave Nelson, Wapogasset; Mark Jacobson, Wapo/Bear Trap; Blaine Erickson, Loveless; Jim Peterson, Loveless; Orlo Colman, Balsam Lake; Larry Bresina, Pipe Lakes; Dave Wedan, U.S. Fish Wildlife Service; Jeremy Williamson, Polk County LWRD

Welcome and Introductions

Treasurer's Report

Current balance is \$_____

Membership Report

New memberships are being received. A reminder that membership is from May to May. Paid membership is important to retain our status as a qualified lake association.

Wisconsin Lakes Partnership Convention Review

Those attending the convention discussed the sessions they attended and what they learned.

Jeremy Williamson attended the Lake Modeling EVAL session about ag watersheds, showing what's draining to and how much. Jeremy also mentioned that Polk County now has LiDAR, enabling mapping and modeling with two-foot contours.

Gary Ovick attended the conference for the seventh consecutive year, including these sessions: Shoreland Zoning special three-hour special session, Legislative Update, Volunteerism (recruit/retain/reward), and the Healthy Lakes seminar.

Larry Bresina conducted a Workshop for Wordpress website building at the convention with 11 participants. Larry has created a shared hosting group allowing up to 15 websites to run at a \$50/year hosting fee. Four openings remain. For information go to lakekit.net.

Karen Engelbretson discussed the shoreland zoning changes summary session and presented a summary of part of Lynn Markham's presentation. Changes to zoning law were discussed by the group along with PCALR's position on the changes.

As legislation has been rapidly introduced and passed without opportunity for public input or comment, it is important for PCALR to establish a policy so that a response to proposed legislation can be made quickly without polling the entire membership.

PCALR's mission statement was read aloud:

Manage, promote, protect and preserve our lakes, rivers and streams. PCALR's mission is to promote and preserve the natural, recreational, aesthetic and ecological qualities of our lakes and rivers; to provide a forum for public expression; to contact and inform public officials of specific problems of our area; and to join forces, if necessary, to achieve a goal deemed crucial by the members to change political opinion and influence governmental bodies.

The group agreed on the following policy statement for the Association:

PCALR members support our mission statement. Members join *because* they support the Association's mission statement.

PCALR's position is to support policy that meets our mission and oppose that which does not.

We will support our position and opposition with science and scientific study.

We will voice our position in any opportunity.

The Association president will act to voice our position as opportunities arise.

Our group's support is powerful and an important part of a greater effort to protect the quality of our ground water, wetlands, lakes and rivers.

The group also agreed to contribute financial support trusted organizations that would engage in influencing public officials.

It was noted that fisheries would have the most clout to stop any upcoming legislation to allow dredging. GLIFWC (Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission) should also participate in legislative discussions. www.Glifwc.org

November general elections

The group discussed finding opportunities to conduct a candidate forum with Assembly and Senate representatives. A “constructive” forum could offer the opportunity for candidates to present the benefits of recent shoreland zoning legislation to lakeshore property owners and the general public, as well as field questions from same. We could also find opportunities to contribute questions to a forum being held by another group.

Other business

Dave Wedan, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, attended the meeting to introduce himself to the group. Dave has been monitoring eleven lakes in Polk County for zebra mussels by installing samplers/plates at public access locations on Cedar, Big Lake, Wapogasset, Deer, Long Loveless, Half Moon, Bone, Balsam, Big Round and Big Butternut lakes. Dave brought a huge assortment of publications and giveaways and provided his contact information for anyone seeking help. Based in LaCrosse, Dave is in our area twice a month. dave_wedan@fws.gov.

PCALR Survey

A recent survey of members to collect preferences for education opportunities did not provide enough response to begin planning for a workshop or seminar in 2017.

PCALR communications projects

The following communications projects were proposed and interest in participating is requested:

Who’s Who brochure

A trifold brochure with contacts for managing your lake property. Sixth printing was in 2013. Updates would be made and a quantity of 25 copies would be distributed to members. Member organizations could contract for additional quantities prior to the print run. Pricing for additional quantities would be determined by the number printed.

Lake Life Pocketbook

This little 3” x 4” book contains a wealth of information about living on the lake: what loon calls mean, string-jerk hook removal, how to find the north star, etc. A number of members are already interested in a print run. The content would be licensed from James A Brakken, updates to content would be made specific to Polk County. Karen will get print quotes. Members could participate in a group print run. Details will be provided at the June meeting.

Lake Maps

A number of groups are interested in reprinting the lake maps with AIS messaging. If your group is interested, send your request along with quantities and any updates to your map by May 31. We will plan to have printing complete in June. Information will be sent in a PCALR email.

Fishing license carrier

PCALR has in the past printed and provided an envelope for fishing licenses and reprinting the envelope has been considered as a PCALR project. Members noted that fishing licenses are no longer being issued as paper.

Gary Ovick agreed to investigate and provided this information:

DNR Starting Online Hunting, Fishing License Process

Hunters, Anglers Will No Longer Need A Paper License When They Hunt, Fish

Monday, February 15, 2016, 11:15am

By Rich Kremer

Starting this spring, hunters and anglers in Wisconsin will no longer have to carry a paper license with them when they're in the woods or on the water.

The state Department of Natural Resources is moving to an all-electronic licensing and registration system that will allow sportsmen and women to buy a hunting or fishing license online at home. Once their electronic license is approved, all a person would need to carry with them in the field is a valid driver's license.

An optional Personal Conservation Card can be purchased for \$3.50, and a display image can be downloaded for your smartphone. Customers may still request a printed state stamp for pheasant, turkey, waterfowl and trout. For details visit gowild.wi.gov.

Thanks, Gary for the quick response to research the subject.

Meeting dates

PCALR has met on the third Wednesday of the Month for many years. Do members prefer a Thursday evening meeting instead? The question will be put in an email to the group.

New Business

The group carried a motion to provide a \$100 gift card to Katelin Holm in honor of her upcoming marriage to James Anderson with best wishes and congratulations to the couple

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by
Karen Engelbretson, President
Polk County Association of Lakes and Rivers
May 2016