



Meeting Minutes

Meeting date: June 22, 2011

The third 2011 meeting of Polk County Association of Lakes and Rivers (PCALR) was held Wednesday, June 22, 2011 at Polk County Justice Center in Balsam Lake. Meeting came to order at 7:00 pm.

Attending:

Ray Schmidt, Wild Goose; Katelin Holm, LWRD; Dan Bergeron, Big Round; Gordon Kill, Big Round; Carl Holmgren, Balsam; Peer Frohnert, Loveless; Cheryl Miller, Lotus; Dick Hollar, North Pipe; Ken Peterson, Big Butternut; Karen Engelbretson, Bone.

Agenda:

County ordinances codification, keyhole development, Dick Hollar

County Board, Carl Holmgren

New AIS Signs, Zebra Mussels in Bass Lake, Tim Ritten, LWRD

August meeting Loon Watch

Stillwater St Croix River crossing

Roundtable discussion

Polk County Ordinance codification and Shoreland Protection Ordinance Dick Hollar continues to represent PCALR at the Citizens Advisory Council monthly meetings. The Shoreland Protection Ordinance is now under review. PCALR discussed the issue of keyhole development and whether there are any holes in the current ordinance to allow it; there may be. Bring any issues about the ordinance to a PCALR meeting and Dick will carry those to the CAC, or contact president@pcalr.org.

County Board report. Carl Holmgren, Tim Ritten. Polk County Amended its Illegal to Transport Aquatic Plants and Invasive Animals Ordinance in a resolution that was passed unanimously by the Polk County Board June 21, 2011. The main thing that changed in the ordinance is that the owner of a boat or trailer can be held responsible for attached vegetation when launching. This amendment will allow cameras at boat landings to have legal leverage against violators.

Redistricting in the county may change your lake district's county board representative.

Carl reports that he met Dave Weden from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Onalaska, was installing zebra mussel traps in Balsam Lake. The traps are stacked sheets of plexiglass that attract the invasive mussel. For more info call 608-783-8435, 608-498-8435 (cell) or email dave_wedan@fws.gov in LaCrosse.

Polk County LWRD, Tim Ritten. New AIS signs are available for Polk County public lake accesses. The new, updated signs combine a number of messages and can reduce sign clutter at your landing. Get your sign by stopping in or calling the Polk County Land and Water Resources Dept. It is each lake's responsibility to update the signs at its landing(s). The signs are free.

Zebra mussels are confirmed present in Bass Lake (St. Croix County), 8 miles from Cedar Lake on the Polk County border. Zebra mussels are not in a small area and have infested the whole lake. Jeremy Williamson (LWRD) has reported that the lake has a good water quality and a varied population of fish and native aquatic plants.

Pike Lake Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM). Divers have revisited the lake to check on the pioneer infestation that was treated and hand pulled last summer and fall in Pike Lake. The treated area is free of EWM, but the plant is present and growing all around the treated area. More treatment is being planned using herbicides and hand pulling.

Tom O'Hern and Dick Hollar represent PCALR at the monthly Citizens Advisory Council meetings addressing the codification. The Shoreland Protection Ordinance is now being codified.

August meeting , August 17 with Loon Watch. PCALR's August meeting will feature guest speaker Erica LeMoine from Northland College's Loon Watch program. This popular presentation includes a slide show , audio and handouts. Attendees will learn a lot about loons. Resolution passed to pay \$110.40 mileage and a \$100 stipend. Everyone is welcome. Karen will reserve the larger room at the Justice Center.

Stillwater St Croix River Crossing. It was determined that PCALR's position on the bridge is not necessary.

Roundtable.

Sarah Sawyer, Half Moon, asked for names of divers working in Polk County. Those present recommended Steve Schieffer, Amery, Jeremy Williamson, LWRD, and Steve McComas, Blue Water Science.

Balsam Lake is having its Freedom Festival July 1-4 with bull riding, a street dance, parade, fireworks and movies on the beach.

Peter Frohnert reports dead fish on Loveless – crappies and sunfish. Similar reports from other lakes. Columnaris virus is responsible. The virus is widespread and more deadly this year due to more runoff from heavy rains and the late spawning season that stresses the fish and makes them more vulnerable to disease.

2012 Meetings

Dan Bergeron proposed a resolution to change the PCALR meeting schedule for 2012 to four scheduled meetings rather than monthly meetings. The meetings would be held:

April - Discuss WAL convention

June - Invite DNR people, as well as LWRD and others from the state to talk about invasive species, prevention and treatment, fisheries and how PCALR can influence decisions being made.

August - Invite assembly and senate legislators and county board supervisors. This would be our opportunity to discuss funding and protection by law and ordinance.

September - End of season meeting. Roundtable to share problems and solutions, plans for the future.

Emergency or special meetings and presentations can be added as deemed necessary.

Resolution was passed unanimously. This meeting schedule will be implemented for 2012.

PCALR Website

Larry Bresina volunteers to work on the PCALR website in an agreement lasting through September 2011. After that time PCALR can pay Larry an annual stipend to continue his work. Resolution passed to offer Larry a stipend in an amount to be determined as Karen contacts him for the amount and a listing of his services.

Next PCALR meeting, July 20, 2011

This is PCALR's annual meeting. Refreshments will be provided

Elections. There are currently two active PCALR officers: Karen Engelbretson, President and Secretary, and Dan Bergeron, Treasurer. Officers serve three-year terms. Elections will take place at PCALR's annual meeting in July. Tim Ritten (LWRD) volunteered to serve as nominating chair. Nominations for the election may be sent via email to Timr@co.polk.wi.us.

Minutes submitted by

Karen Engelbretson, President

Polk County Ass'n of Lakes and Rivers

July 7, 2011