



Meeting Minutes

Meeting date: Wednesday, August 21, 2019

The third 2019 meeting of the Polk County Association of Lakes and Rivers (PCALR) was held Wednesday, August 21, 2019 at 6:30 pm at the Polk County Government Center in Balsam Lake.

Attending

Karen Engelbretson, Bone; Anna Turk, Long; Ray Sloss, Balsam; Jeremy Williamson, Land & Water Resources Dept.; Katelin Anderson, Land & Water Resources Dept.; Kim Butler, Half Moon; Rick & Nancy Ashley, Wild Goose; Jim Maxwell, Big Blake; Phil Foster, Bone; Jim Reckinger, Cedar; Peggy Lauritsen, Blake.

Welcome & Introductions by Karen E.

Treasurers Report provided by Ray S.

Report (Exhibit A) read by Ray S.

Wayne Mosley to be updated to Wayne Wolsey.

Should be getting end of income at this point.

Ray asked for motion to accept July Treasurers report, Kim B. motioned, Peggy L. seconded, passed unanimously.

Membership Report provided by Anna T.

25 required to maintain our organization status, currently at 29, 11 personal 18 organizations which includes 1 business.

Membership runs May – April.

CAFO Report provided by Kim B.

Iowa farm company wants to bring 26,000 hog farm to Burnett county with satellite farrowing operations potentially in Laketown and another unnamed location in, Polk County. The business is looking to move away from Iowa and create islands of farms to avoid easy spread of disease such as Asian Swine. That could affect smaller hog farms that share co-op feed deliveries, vulnerable to the spread of disease as they do not choose to use. Many stakeholders in this situation want to keep everyone happy and do the best thing for everyone involved.

County Board chair Dean Johansen introduced Resolution 33-19 to impose a six-month moratorium on new or expanded large-scale factory farms which was tabled on a technicality in the ESC committee. Supervisor Brad Olson introduced Resolution 35-19 to support all types of ag activity and that resolution passed at the county board meeting on August 20. Resolution 33-19 will be up for vote on August 28 in ESC Committee.

The discussion about CAFOs includes a well rounded group of people that includes farmers.

CAFO stands for concentrated animal feeding operation and is any farm over 1,000 animal units. 1 unit = 1,000 lbs, ex. Cow could equal 1.5 units based on weight but 1 unit could also be 10 turkeys.

Burnett County passed moratorium for one year.

Satellite would be a farrowing operation in Laketown with another potential location not identified.

Chose Laketown because they did not sign onto the Polk county universal zoning regulations. Laketown town chairs listened to 100-150 people say they don't want it, board of supervisors – Dean Johansen – proposed a temporary 6-month resolution against CAFO in Polk county.

Farmers feeling pressed by low prices and a representative of feed co-ops is saying that objectors are “against farmers,” which is not correct.

Need take into account the huge impact that tourism has in this county, huge impact of lake home taxes on the county, the way that the natural environment needs to be protected. Ex. Business is not going to want to locate near large stinky hog farm.

Moratorium will be heard at August 28, 2019 Environmental Services Committee (ESC) meeting. People can attend in person to provide feedback or write to their town supervisor. Moratorium is not to prevent CAFO, rather hitting the “pause button” to make sure natural resources and environment are protected prior to a CAFO implementation. Difficult task to balance private interests with public good.

If this passes in ESC, then the moratorium goes onto full county board the 3rd week of September.

Peggy L. asked a question about groups providing written feedback vs individuals, Kim suggested individual comments have more impact. Indicated that comments can also be sent to county clerk which will be added to record.

Discussion regarding how to have productive conversations in about this issue with others in the county. Want to avoid going back to the farmer vs lake mentality that used to exist in the area. We want to work with farmers, not against them.

Kim B. commented that no farmers have specified if they will get actual harm from a 6-month moratorium. Clarified that it is important to not go down the road of “all CAFOs are bad” because that's not it, people seem to be most worried about out of state businesses coming in.

One farmer has said if moratorium passes, he will close his farmland to snowmobile trails.

Karen E. wrote letter to Supervisor Doug Route, saying that things need to move forward but need to do it carefully when talking about the large quantity of animals, the large quantity of manure, and the impact to water resources. Economical development needs to happen, but if we're careful and plan accordingly we can prevent a potential manure spill into St Croix River.

Department of Agriculture is having hearings throughout the state and you can go and voice your opinions about livestock siting. Tim has done work with livestock siting within county, where should it be (i.e. away from rivers/lakes)

To find your Supervisor, Google “Polk County WI Board of Supervisors”.

Shoreland Zoning provided by Kim B.

Tourist Rooming House Provisions of Shoreland Ordinance.

Proposal originally put restrictions on things lake owners do all the time, ex. extinguishing embers by 11p.

This was started by 1-2 large rentals on Balsam Lake. Tough issues of how to balance private property rights with rights of people who live nearby.

Polk County 2019 Agenda & Minutes can be found [here](#).

Land & Water Resources Management Plan provided by Katelin A.

Management Plan on website ([link here](#)); guides what department should be doing for next 10 years, with review in five years.

Rick A. was on committee which included four meetings over winter; good group of advisory committee members with representation from farmers, lake property owners, realtors, businesses, St Croix River association (refer to plan for full committee list).

Required public hearing on August 28, 2019 at 10a (after ESC meeting).

Will be on agenda for approval by County board meeting September 17, 2019.

Presented to Land & Water board December 3, 2019.

Lot of good information, one comment from committee is that it be sent to schools as resource.

Compared to previous plan, this has more focus on groundwater than previous plan; previously number one goal was Invasive Species.

Additional change is the ranking of watersheds based on various factors. Does not mean LWRD will not help lakes outside the priority watersheds, but want to focus in a way that will help bring results for the county.

Plan to apply for DNR Protection grant to get more staff to inventory watersheds where holes in data exist. This is different than the rest of state and is a new approach with the goal to measure progress and have an impact in a focused area vs. one off projects throughout the county.

Rick A. said the committee was an "amazing group of people...Polk County should be very thankful for the great group of people working out of this building."

Storm Damage Discussion & Resources

DNR sent Karen E. notice of meeting on August 29, 2019 7 p.m. at Unity School. There will also be a meeting in Barron on Tuesday, August 27.

DNR is trying to help owners with storm damage to understand their options. Property owners are encouraged to bring maps of their property with damage, types of trees affected, etc. Foresters will be there to help make connections with loggers to salvage and harvest. Every forest is going to be different.

Storms missed oak wilt window. Oak can stay on ground longer than other kinds of woods as they deteriorate more slowly.

Karen E. shared list of two debris sites that are still open and are to remain open indefinitely (Exhibit B).

Karen E. called 211/United Way for help. A volunteer forester from Burnett County came and identified areas they could use help with, volunteers arrived next day to help cut wood - nicely organized.

Wilkins donated a bunch of food to a crew, Bone Lake Church was handing out food, another church did a spaghetti feed.

Peggy – grateful for Facebook connecting people the first week connecting resources to people that needed to know things. Found out people were safe, landings open or not, lost and found, etc.

Katelin received email from White Ash who said their clarity was way down this summer. Anyone else seeing clarity problems? Ray - Balsam went from Secchi of 10 to 6.5. Jeremy - Wappo had 26 at end of June.

Question raised about tree planting program to aid with replacing damaged trees. Directed to the April LWRD tree sale. Information will be available January 2020 on their website ([link here](#)), can contact LWRD office at (715) 485-8699 to get on the mailing list if not already. **Post meeting addition:** The Wisconsin DNR also provides a tree sale, application for orders available online in October 2019, go to the WIDNR web site and search for tree order form.

Kim B. noted that the county put in for \$3.4M in FEMA aid, but all goes to public assistance (not private homes), ex. Cleaning roads, etc. Governor Evers has been to Polk County twice since the storms which is unusual.

Misc.

Waterfront Rescue aquatic vegetation removal company owner Sean used to work for St Croix River Assoc, started their own company doing manual removal of plants from 30' land opening. With experience as part of St Croix River Association, they know and understand what they can and can't do. Company name: Waterfront Rescue, website: www.waterfrontrescue.com.

Programming - October 4 9a-4p Commissioner Training Update

\$25 registration fee includes lunch (catered by Café Wren), limited to 35 people.

Sign up will be available shortly.

Eric Olson presenting. Executive Director UW Extension WI Lakes, offers Commissioner training at WI Lakes Convention every year. Afternoon session will cover grants process and new surface grant changes. Both sessions include Q&A.

New Business

Katelin A. eDNA update. Deer lake - 4 people scuba team searched 10-10x2m areas and didn't find any zebra mussels. Boat team took eDNA samples, total of 1500ml in three different basins.

Bone lake eDNA being done next Monday, August 26, 2019.

Won't have any results until winter.

Potential to add Balsam Lake next year.

If lake doesn't have enough calcium it doesn't support the growth of the Zebra Mussel shell.

Katelin A. – tomorrow (August 21, 2019) Terrestrial Invasive Species training in Osceola, WI. Someone out of Madison coming up, and there's an app to use and submit pictures for review.

Old Business

None

Next Meeting

Jason Kjeseth, Polk county Zoning Administrator will present Shoreland Zoning Ordinance changes expected to be voted on over the winter by the County board. 300' all around lakes is now residential zoning (resolution by Jim Miller). Beyond 300' different zoning exists which could include commercial uses, some beyond that is even unzoned. It is important thing to work with the/your Town to find out what they're doing behind the 300'. Keep an eye on what kinds of things are coming to your town board for approval and/or what is passing.

Next Meeting October 16 6:30p Polk County Government Center in Balsam Lake

Send agenda items for next meeting to Karen E. at president@pcalr.org.

Meeting adjourned: 8:04p

Minutes respectfully submitted by Anna Turk September 20, 2019

Exhibit A

**POLK COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF LAKES AND RIVERS
ACTUAL vs BUDGET 2019**

	Actual July 2019	2019 Budget	Variance
REVENUE			
MEMBERSHIP DUES	550.00	525	25.00
PAYPAL	215.00		215.00
DONATIONS	270.00	260	10.00
DRAW FROM RESERVES		285	(285.00)
TOTAL REVENUE	<u>1,035.00</u>	<u>1,070.00</u>	<u>(35.00)</u>
COST OF OPERATIONS			
Office Supplies	39.19	40	1
Software		40	40
Website	50.00	50	-
Insurance			-
State Annual Report	10.00	10	-
Account expense (PayPal)	9.57	10	0
TOTAL COST OF OPERATIONS	<u>108.76</u>	<u>150</u>	<u>41</u>
COMMUNICATION EXPENSES			
Meeting Expense		100	100
Postage	-	20	20
Development & Printing			-
Presentations / Speaker fees			
TOTAL COMMUNICATION EXPENSES	<u>-</u>	<u>120</u>	<u>120</u>
OFFICERS EXPENSES			
Convention Expense		200	
Dues and Subscriptions		100	100
Scholarship		200	
Training materials / Manuals / Publications		200	
Committee expenses		100	
TOTAL OFFICERS EXPENSES	<u>-</u>	<u>800</u>	<u>100</u>
TOTAL OPERATING COSTS	<u><u>108.76</u></u>	<u><u>1,070.00</u></u>	<u><u>261.24</u></u>
BALANCE	<u><u>926.24</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>(296)</u></u>
FUNDS IN RESERVE			
SAVINGS	5.00		
CHECKING	1,904.00		
TOTAL FUNDS IN RESERVE	<u><u>\$ 1,909.00</u></u>		

POLK COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF LAKES AND RIVERS
Income and Expense
July 1st - July 31st, 2019

	Total	
	July, 2019	Jan - July, 2019 (YTD)
Income		
Dues		
Mathew Berg		25.00
Karen Engelbretson		10.00
Cedar Lake		25.00
Deer Lake		25.00
Amery Lakes P&RD		25.00
Anna Turk		10.00
Wapogasset / Bear Trap Lake		25.00
Church, Round & Big Lake		25.00
Ray Sloss		10.00
Paul Duxbury		10.00
Big Round Lake		25.00
Horseshoe Lake		25.00
Gordan Kill		10.00
Kim Butler		10.00
Wild Goose Lake		25.00
Little Butternut		25.00
Little Butternut Sanitary District		25.00
Millard		10.00
Ashley		10.00
Bone Lake		25.00
Big Blake Lake Prot & Rehab Dist		25.00
Phil Foster		10.00
Balsam Lake P&R		25.00
Wayne Wolsey	10.00	10.00
St Croix River Assoc	25.00	25.00
Long Lake Prot & Rehab	25.00	25.00
Largon Lake Prot & Rehab	25.00	25.00
Lotus Lake Assoc	25.00	25.00
Sub Total Dues	110.00	550.00
Donations		
Big Round Lake (DONATION!)		25.00
Gordan Kill (DONATION!)		10.00
Kim Butler		10.00
Ray Sloss (DONATION!)		100.00
John Wright (DONATION!)		100.00
Wayne Mosley	15.00	15.00
St Croix River Assoc	10.00	
Sub Total Donations	25.00	260.00

Misc Income, (membership via Paypal)	60.00	60.00
Sub Total Misc Income	60.00	60.00
Total Income	\$ 195.00	\$ 870.00
Expenses		
COST OF OPERATIONS		10.00
State Form 5 Filing Fee		39.19
Office Supplies		50.00
Website	2.65	9.57
PayPal	100.00	100.00
Wesconsin Lakes		0.00
Total BOARD ADMINISTRATION	\$ 102.65	\$ 208.76
Net Income	\$ 92.35	\$ 661.24

Exhibit B

Two dump sites opened indefinitely - (one has been closed at 2193 80th street)

773 Mains Crossing Ave, Amery

899 200th Ave , Luck

No further dumping debris in public right of way for pickup