

Attendance

Arkdale Lake	Tim Myer	Lake Sherwood	Paul Pisellini
Big Roche-A-Chri	Richard Matzke	Lake Arrowhead	Bob Bienkowski
Castle Rock	Virgil Miller	LWCD	Reese Evans
Goose Lake	Onufry Karch, Nick Homan	Parker Lake	Eric Edwards, Mike Damm
Friendship Lake	Bob Berry	Wolf Lake	Norm Erickson, Joe Mueller
Jordan Lake	Jeff Thomm		

Guests: Don Genrich, Fred Koch and Arnie Wilke from Central Sands Water Action Coalition, and Eric Olson (Director of UW Ext-Lakes)

Nick Homan opened the meeting at 9 AM, introduced the guests from UW Extension and CSWAC

The minutes from the November 14, 2015 meeting were presented...motion made to accept as written by Bob Berry, seconded by Rick Matzke. Minutes approved by voice vote.

Norm Erickson presented the treasures report as of Feb. 13 2016. Motion made by Rick Matzke to approve report as presented, seconded by Joe Mueller...motion passed by vocal vote.

Program: Fred Koch from Central Sands Water Action Alliance. Fred explained that CSWAC is a voluntary, unincorporated group of individuals from Waushara, Portage, Adams, Marquette, Wood, and Waupaca counties. The group exists to "provide a united voice of water protection interests and to increase the power and influence of those water protection interests where acting individually would not be as effective, and where speaking to regional water issues makes good strategic sense." The group is organized to establish a communication network via e-mail with individuals and lake associations and districts throughout the state regarding proposed legislation that directly or indirectly effects the quality of water in our lakes and streams. The CSWAC will send out email notifications of two types: (1) an alert to action..ie: "be aware that Bill #239 will be held on (date) at (time) in room 120 in the State Hearing Building. (2) informational email will be sent out to provide an education for all individuals on views expressed by all interested parties regarding specific legislation and the actions relating to issues involving the quality of our waters, lakes, streams. The communication network will communicate directly with each of the officers of lake organizations, and they in turn will forward same email to their members.

Following discussion, Paul Pisellini moved that the ACLA become a member of ASWAC. Rick Matzke seconded the motion...motion passed by hand vote 10 yes, 0 no.

Program: Eric Olson Director: UW Extension - Lakes Eric described "working with Lake Districts during the past 5 years" as "non ordinary times" - and characterized by financial issues caused by low funding, budget cuts to the DNR, and the defunding of UW extension services. Making the situation difficult for UW extension services was the elimination of some 80 positions state wide -10% locally, making it difficult to provide level of services to lake districts and individual lakes. In addition, UW extension services were reallocated and consolidated between five surrounding counties, requiring remaining staff to do their job as well a that of released staff. In addition, budget cuts to the DNR and other agencies had a negative impact on funding specialist services at the county level -such as lake specialist. Legal issues present unique problems when certain rules and regulations regarding lake districts have been changing and need clarification - regarding such issues as how delegates from lake groups can be selected to serve on County Board of Directors. Such an issue presently exists with Mason Lake, and similar problem at Friendship Lake..issues as selection of delegate to County Board based on definition of "most valuation" He cited Act 140 passed on 2/4/16. Another hot issue was Chapter 33 regarding waiver of rights allowing one entity to board membership. Legal issues are being settled through legislation in Madison.

He characterized the past five years as an assault on the Wisconsin Idea..a body of pro-environment legislation passed over the past 100 years, starting with "Fighting Bob" and legal allies at the UW through the 1960's..legislation which included regulation of septic systems, navigational rivers, removal of vegetation from rivers and lakes, dredging, and zoning, shoreline regulations, etc.(Chapter 33) He cited AD 600 bill and similar legislations designed to allow more dredging over 3-5years, legislation designed to strengthen owner property rights over reclaimed public shorelands. Property owners and developers are pushing for legislation favoring new development similar to the Monona Terrace .for public purpose..for the public good..example given is a project in Sturgeon Bay on reclaimed public lake bed.

Next issue was how UW extension offices are financed....by a gasoline tax. Tax revenue from gasoline sales are dropping..funding to University reduced, and reflects in the reduction of funding for the UW services..hence the negative effect on the UW extension offices and reduction of services and all economic and political problems.

Eric cited methods used by the legislature to push legislation potentially opposed by environmentalists such as the introduction of bill SB 459. A special public hearing was scheduled for Friday night, vote taken on following Monday morning. Members of ACLA also volunteered how several special public hearings on environmental issues were cancelled thus reducing public opposition.

Update from LWCD Reesa reports that she has applied for grants to continue the lake specialist position, that it is more difficult as laws have changed making it more difficult. Parker Lake completed their Fish Sticks project.(had grant) Arkdale Lake reports ownership of the dam and funds to maintain dam. Reesa reports that the department website is almost at 100% functioning level. Re: NEW CHESTER DAIRY discussion: specifically they asking for a variance on their manure pits....pipeline issues also briefly discussed..standards maintained. DNR/POLITICAL ISSUES... Reesa mentioned that recently 45 managers from the DNR sent a petition to the EPA claiming that the current WI laws are in violation of the Clean Water Act. UPCOMING EVENTS She distributed information regarding the Lake Conference in Stevens Point on 3/6/16, and gave a brief introduction to some of the programs, lectures, and workshops. WATER WALK: 9/17-9/18 persons will gather water samples from their lake, stream and bring it to Petenwell Park and symbolically join them together...a spiritual event, not political. Many activist group support the event, including River Alliance.(more details later) Regarding climate change: survey taken indicates that 44% surveyed believed that there is a human contribution to climate change while 77% believe aliens have visited earth.

Old Business: President Nick Homan called to reopened the tabled motion from the November 2015 meeting calling for the election of Vice President. Bob Berry moved to remove the tabled motion from previous meeting and reopen nominations for Vice President. Rich Matzke seconded the motion. Motion passed. Nick Homan nominated Bob Berry as Vice President.. seconded by Rich Matzke Motion passed. There were no other nominations...Nick Homan moved to take the vote, motion to vote made by Oney Karch, seconded by Joe Mueller. Vote was unanimous for Bob Berry, Vice President.

New Business: Appointment for a citizen representative to represent the ACLA on the County Board, presently represented by Onufy Karch. The board meets on the second Monday of each month at 2 PM. Paul Pisellini moved that Onufy Karch continue as our representative on the County Board. Bob Berry seconded. Motion passed. Because a list of individuals need to be submitted, it was necessary to nominate two other candidates. Candidate #2 is Eric Edwards, nominated by Michael Damm, and candidate #3 is Bob Berry, nominated by Nick Homan and Joe Mueller. Rich Matzke has lined up speaker for the April meeting..Milk source, pipeline, related issues.

Bob Berry motioned the meeting be adjourned. Rick Matzke seconded. Meeting adjourned at 11:05 AM

Respectfully submitted 2/16/16

