

Minutes ACLA Meeting April 9, 2016

Lakes Present

Reesa Evans, Wally Sedlar	LWCD	Joe Mueller, Norm Erickson	Wolf Lake
Linda Noonan, Bob Barry	Friendship Lake	Nick Homan, Onefry Karsh	- Goose Lake
Virgil Miller	Castle Rock	Paul Pisellini	Lake Sherwood
Ron Layman	Petenwell		

The meeting was called to order by President Nick Homan at 9:05 AM. Guests were introduced.

Norm Erickson distributed minutes of the Feb. meeting for approval. Rich Matzke moved minutes be approved as presented. Paul Pisellini seconded motion. Minutes approved by vocal vote. Norm then presented the treasurers report..stating a balance of \$654.44. Rich Matzke moved the treasurers report be approved as presented. Paul Pisellini seconded the motion. Report approved by vocal vote.

PROGRAM. Agricultural Land Use and Effects on Water Quality Kevin Masaik UW Extension Service..... Ground water Education Specialist

Kevin's presentation discussed historical and ecological relationships between modern agricultural methods, the use of commercial fertilizers and liquid manure applications in concert with high density row crop methods, and its overall effect on the quality of surface and ground water in Wisconsin. He emphasized that the ground water levels of Adams County do not fluctuate with water levels of Lake Superior. Rather, ground water is defined as rain and snow melt that percolates through the soil and rock strata, and flows "downhill" underground (at a rate of 1 to 3 ft./day) into lakes and streams into one of the major collecting basins..Lake Superior, Lake Michigan, and the Wisconsin River. The quality of our ground water is determined by what contaminants are able to percolate through the soils into the ground water - agricultural herbicides, fertilizers, nitrates , industrial waste, human waste, septic system waste, and natural rock formations containing soluble toxic substances such as arsenic.

It was explained that the electrical charge of nitrates and phosphates determine the rate at which they enter the ground water.. nitrates being the one that most easily passes through the soil and root systems and carried along into the ground water while phosphates tend to bind to the soil particles. The least amount of leeching of nitrates through the soil into ground water occurs in forest/prairie biomes. The greatest amount of leeching of nitrates occurs in high density row crops of corn and potato. Regarding nitrate contamination of ground water, the practice of clear cutting forested land on sandy soils and converting it to high density row crops of corn or potato with application of commercial fertilizers and liquid manure is possibly the worst scenario resulting with eventual contamination of ground water. It was stated that cover crops and the proper administration of fertilizers within a "window" - in concert with rainfall and times of growing seasons is influential in reducing the amount of nitrates that enter the ground water. Wally Sedlar added that the application of liquid manure contains one-half of the nitrates prescribed for the acreage, and the supervision of liquid manure by DNR managers is difficult due to a lack of time and manpower, and that more people are observing and supervising application of liquid manure than are working on regulating the application of commercial fertilizers. Kevin also stressed the fact that with the application of fertilizer, more does not always mean better..yields do not always improve, and a point is reached where yields diminish at the point when too much fertilizer is applied. Wally also mentioned that there were nitrate problems in ground water before application of manure to soils.

Also mentioned was that the nitrate that does enter the ground water is carried away with the movement of ground water. It is also true that nitrates do not accumulate in ground water as it is carried away, but that concentrations of nitrates can rise when more nitrates enter the ground water faster than ground water carries it away...also nitrates from one field can flow "downhill" into another adjoining field..raising nitrate concentrations as the flow moves under ground. Phosphates remain bound to soil particles but can be an issue in surface waters causing algae blooms. Nitrate in ground water becomes a health issue for pregnant women...blue baby syndrome. An example of ground water contamination other than that

from agriculture was given... the outflow from septic systems through a subdivision in Stevens Point was a situation just as dangerous as those produced by agriculture. The only technology which can remove nitrates and other agriculture chemicals from ground water is Reverse Osmosis.

Lake Convention Recap - convention about volunteer appreciation and citizen science. 'Ecology Stream' -using game video and cameras to record and document wildlife...:Snapshot Wisconsin. Data/website. Mike Bakus and Eric Edwards participated in a workshop presentation on Sticks projects.

Update - Adams County LWCD - Reesa Evans (1) Reesa expressed the need for all the lake groups email to her offices the names of present officers so that their mailing list could be updated. (2) Aquatic plant surveys: she has completed 11 lake surveys, will complete the others in May. (3) The April forest Ordinance Meeting has been rescheduled to May 16. It is a public meeting and involves issues such as conversion of forested lands to large land use (golf courses, etc.) with related problems such as water run off, public health. Also a Wisconsin Water Hearing on 9/17/16. Check for details with Adams County Planning and Zoning. (4) Commercial fishing operations removed some 15,000 lbs. of Carp and 5000 lbs. of gizzard shad from Lake Mason. The Carp were shipped to New York for processing, gizzard shad added as fertilizer to farm fields. More harvesting might occur later this year. (5) Wally mentioned that there had been poor communication between the Mason Lake citizens group, agricultural people, and the Extension Offices. Reesa stated that "we didn't find out about this until it was basically done", that their offices had worked closely with the lake district and farmers in the watershed. (6) There will be a Devils Lake Training Session in May. (7) Wally reports - Manure Committee Group Meeting Re: Irrigation issues state wide..he needs data information in the form of ordinances to apply manure application regulations. (8) An AIS coordinator is coming to Adams County week of 4/18 -22. (9) Reesa announced an 8-11 hr./wk part time job - man the docks for "Clean Boats and Waters" at Castle Rock and Petenwell. (10) Lastly, Reesa displayed a special letter written by Patty Dreier, Portage County Executive to the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Small Business, and Tourism , asking them to "Kill SB239".

Lake Issues Nick Homan stressed the need for community outreach, partnering with Duck Creek and River Alliance. Saratoga Conference provided opportunity for leaders of lake groups to link up with political leadership, an keep pressure on legislators in Madison. Bob Barry of Friendship lake reports that pressure is being put on the owner to sell, also the question was being asked of the DNR as to why nothing is being done about lake levels-that it is a two year process. Wally reports that several dams have major issues-valves stuck open at Arkdale and Lake Camelot.

ACLA Website Discussion It was decided to cancel our contract with Homestead Technologies. Paul Pisellini moved we contact the two individuals who volunteered to construct our website to build up a presentation with budget information to present, at next meeting. Rich Matzke seconded. Vote passed.

Submission of ACLA nominations to county board- #1 Onie Karch (Goose Lake), #2 Eric Edwards (Parker Lake) #3 Bob Barry - Friendship Lake. Nominations reaffirmed, and will be presented at next County Board meeting.

Plan June Meeting After discussion....regarding getting the community and county officers involved, It was suggested that Nick develop the program. He agreed to do it.

New Business Joe Mueller and Norm Erickson suggested that the office of Secretary/Treasurer be changed to two separate offices. Tabled until next meeting. Paul Pisellini moved that the Secretary/ Treasurer can sign checks limited to not more than \$250. Ron Barry seconded the motion. Passed by voice vote.

Adjournment Ron Matzke moved the meeting be adjourned..seconded by Ron Lyman. Passed -vocal vote..meeting adjourned at 11:25 AM

Respectfully submitted.....Norman B. Erickson Sec/Tres ACLA

