

**Town of Plum Lake-Lakes Committee  
Meeting Minutes for Thursday, October 13, 2005  
Sayner Pub**

**1. Call to order** -- Frank Splitt called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**2. Introduction of attendees** -- Self introductions were made by all attendees. Present were: Frank and Judy Splitt, Jan Wise, Debbie Becker, Mike Errington , Vicki Gillett, Jim and Vicki Haberle, Marcia Kettleson, Gerry and Susan Kurth, Bob Munsen , Bill and Veda Sloey. Dennis Nielson was not able to attend.

Guest Speaker: Ted Ritter, Vilas County AIS Project Coordinator

**3. Explanation of how and why the committee is being formed**

All expressed an interest in serving in an organization that would help protect the lakes in the Town of Plum Lake by confronting the problem of Aquatic Invasive Species that has become of concern in our area lakes. Ted Ritter, gave good suggestions on how the Town of Plum Lakes- Lakes Committee can proceed as a standing committee of the town board to obtain money and support for dealing with Rusty Crayfish and other forms of AIS already in some of our lakes, and to keep out those that are threatening our lakes from and the ecology of our lake systems. There are about nineteen lakes in Vilas County that have problems with invasive species. The main goal of the committee is to be effective in providing early detection, prevention, and eradication of AIS in infected lakes.

**4. Informational presentation and suggestions re: how the committee should proceed**

-- Ted Ritter, handed out Aquatic Invasive Species Planning Partnership, Guidelines & Suggestions for New Town Lakes Committees. Please refer to the above document for suggestions and comments added to the outline by Mr. Ritter as he spoke about them.

Re: MEETINGS:

- Meetings must be posted in at least three places, and at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting.
- Roll call establishes whether or not you have a quorum. No decisions can be made without a quorum.
- Minutes must include motions, seconds, and decisions. Reviewing minutes is a necessity.
- It's a responsibility for the committee to keep in touch with the town board. Mr. Ritter also would like copies of the minutes of this committee's minutes.
- Logging time of involvement for any work done for the committee is important and can mean dollars for grants. Frank has a stack of time sheets.

## Re: ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

- The committee cannot use a proxy vote.
- The committee needs to agree on who the voting members are going to be (how many members per lake).
- The committee needs to be involved, having one or more members with the town board.
- The committee needs to make a form of resolution that the town board adopts the committee as an agency of the board.
- As a government entity, the committee can hire a coordinator(s) to use money for the lakes. This person keeps track of how many and hours are spent, along with duties given by the committee.
- The committee needs to figure out what can be accomplished and how to combine energies and resources.

## Re: POSSIBLE PROJECTS

- A committee objective could be to prevent lakes from infection.
- Outreach efforts can be done through fishing tournaments, donated space in town booklets, plastic bags at the stores, stickers on bait buckets and worm containers, and community events.
- Join the county level efforts:
- Adopt a shoreline so people can spot AIS.
- Use a guideline provided by the county for monitoring AIS. prevention and education
- A county team is in place to study the risks of AIS through the UW system. (zebra mussels, and spiny water flea)

Mr. Ritter stressed being aware that most WDNR grants no longer provide for advance funding. This may be gotten from the town board. You pay bills while your project is working, with the town board floating the expense. Grant money is available, but the committee needs to have a plan. Next grant cycle is February 1st. Mr. Ritter will help write the grant. Smaller grants are easier to write. Vicki suggested getting a coordinator to provide and plan for projects. .

**5. Report on 10/6 AIS Workshop and AIS Handbook** -- Vicki Gillett gave a report on her attendance of a meeting on AIS Public Awareness Campaign. She shared a handbook on AIS which give the facts, history, and contacts for fighting AIS. Vicki recommends that members go to meetings to be trained for identifying AIS, and training volunteers to work on boat landings. She stressed the need for volunteers. It was mentioned that perhaps one or two members go to training meetings, then train the rest of the committee, and interested volunteers.

**6. Report on AIS Public Awareness Campaign** -- Debbie Becker shared the work done on labels for educating the public on AIS. There have already been some samples made. Frank used these for show and tell at the Oct.11,Town Board meeting. Monies have already been spent for the machinery to make the labels, so the dollar amount should not be too great for next year. (About \$100).

To provide an estimate of mailing costs, Debbie said her costs this year have been \$296 for 800 letters sent. The cost could be reduced by sending these out to businesses and clubs. She mentioned using an educational logo on bags about AIS, and the importance of making them affordable to buy for the businesses in town to use with their customers

Debbie suggested that the committee might want to get monies to offset the cost for the business owners to encourage them to use the bags. The cost would be approximately \$3213 for 90,000 bags. The committee might consider getting about \$1500 to offset the cost, through a grant or from the Town Board. Also, money for the mailing costs could be sought. Other items that could be used for public education are: placemats, bar coasters.

**7. Membership and Organizational Structure of the Committee** – Frank asked that members think about the following kinds of questions for consideration at the next meeting,:

- How should the committee should be structured....individuals, lakes, husband and wife teams?
- How do we rotate duration (length of time) of positions on the committees?
- How do we get replacements?

**8 Budget Request to the Town Board** – Frank said that the Town Board has approved \$500 for calendar year 2005 will budget funds for the work of the committee. in 2006. A budget estimate is needed early in November. Debbie will come up with the figures for our AIS Awareness Campaign.

**9. Other Business** -- Bob and Frank will look into getting us information/speaker about Purple Loose Strife.

**10. Establish the Time and Date of the Next Meeting** -- The next meeting is to be held at the Town Hall at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, October 20, 2005. Frank will prepare the notice for an essentially single item agenda: Discussion and action on progress of the membership and structure of the Town of Plum Lake Lakes Committee.

Submitted by Jan Wise

Scribe for the evening