

Town of Plum Lake – Lakes Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 18, 2006, Plum Lake Town Hall

1. Call to order – Frank Splitt called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Attending : Chris Wise, Jan Wise, Debbie Becker, Vicki Haberle, Jim Haberle, Bob Munsen, Judy Splitt, Frank Splitt, Bill Sloey, Veda Sloey, Jerry Kurth, Sue Kurth, Jim Sprinkman.

2. Open meeting Verification – Notices were posted at the Star Lake Store in Star Lake; at the Post Office, Town Hall, and Plum Lake Library in Sayner; in the Vilas County News-Review of Eagle River; and broadcast as a public service message by the WERL-WRJO radio station, Eagle River.

3. Approve Agenda – Minutes of the last meeting were discussed and approved – noting that the agreed-upon change to “The Town of Plum Lake Lakes Committees Statement of Mission and Means” was not recorded. The first word from Item #4 of the Statement was changed to “encouraging.” Vicki Haberle read the following revised statement which is being incorporated in these minutes:

The MISSION of the Town of Plum Lake (TPL) Lakes Committee is to provide the local leadership in protecting TPL lakes from the growing threat of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) as well as to provide an umbrella organization, enabling lake groups to partner by joining efforts to address mutual issues and concerns related to AIS.

The MEANS used to accomplish this mission will include, but not be limited to the following:

1. Sensitizing TPL citizens and visitors, especially lake users, to the AIS threat by means of an ongoing AIS Educational Outreach Campaign aimed at creating public awareness.
2. Fostering lake stewardship via “Clean-Boats-Clean-Waters” education, for example, by literature and sticker distribution at local businesses and community events.
3. Posting educational signage and conducting watercraft inspections at boat landings.
4. Encouraging and guiding the initiation and management of lake surveys and monitoring, for early detection of new infestations (Adopt-A-Shoreline), threat assessments, and abatement programs as dictated by circumstances.
5. Developing plans for identifying suspicious samples collected by monitors and for rapid response to confirmed infestations with an aim to minimize the impact of AIS on TPL lakes for the near and long term.
6. Working with the TPL Board, the Vilas County Land & Water Conservation Office, the Vilas County Lakes Association, and state government, as well as community and lake organizations, to obtain resources and to seek other assistance as needed to accomplish the overall mission.
7. Participating in county-level AIS action teams.
8. Keeping the TPL Board up to date on local lake management activities and needs.
9. Employing other measures appropriate to the accomplishment of the TPL Lakes Committee Mission.

4. Summary of report activities since last (January 5th) meeting – Chris Wise reported that he and Jan picked up AIS signs from the DNR and posted same on April 24th at the Plum Lake Lakewood Estates. He advised that Plum Lake has rusties and posted a DNR-furnished STOP sign to call boaters attention to this problem. Chris also advised that signs are now posted at the West Plum Lake landing and West point, Razorback Lake, Partridge Lake, Star Lake at the campground, and that Ballard, Irving, Laura, and Dorothy Dunn Lake, have been previously posted. One DNR-furnished sign is needed at the Star Lake Road to cover the 3 unimproved landings used to access Star Lake from this road.

Three members, Chris & Jan Wise and Bill Sloey, attended the Clean Boats, Clean-Waters (CBCW) and Lake Monitoring Workshops at the April 20-21, Wisconsin Association of Lakes (WAL) Conference.

5. Presentation by Ted Ritter on a new AIS Lake Monitoring protocol – Ted began by commenting on a draft copy of Bill Sloey’s document – saying that the importance of AIS lake monitoring can’t be understated and that Bill’s efforts are on track. Ted said that St. Germain Lake is a prime example of non action on a huge problem with AIS. A handout was given about monitoring lakes for early detection of invasive species. Everyone is welcome to come listen to a presentation of AIS monitoring at the Boulder Junction Town Hall on Thursday, June 15th at 6:30 PM or the Lincoln Town Hall on Tuesday, July 11th at 6:30 PM. Ted would like Town Lakes Committees to work on monitoring and questioning lake residents and to coordinate the activities locally.

In addition, to the lake monitoring activities in June and July; The Invader Crusader Award will be presented this year to the Vilas County Lakes Association (VCLA) and Vilas County AIS Partnership. VCLA and the Partnership would like to recognize all the people involved. They are planning an “Invader-Crusader” picnic party for all on June 26th at Star Lake Old Mill Site Park. Details are in the process of being worked out. Ted asked if we could trap as many rusty crawfish (to be eaten) the day of the party. Debbie Becker will contact Ray Link about the holding tanks for the rusty crawfish.

Ted said the Partnership is planning a meeting of AIS researchers on Thursday, July 20th. On Friday the 21st, the Northern Lakes Conference will be held at Lakeland Union HS. A Clean Boats Clean Waters workshop will be held for those interested. Info will be on e-mail, newspapers, and other media.

Chris Wise asked Ted for suggestions about how to get volunteers to do the monitoring. Ted said mailing doesn’t work; the best way is to have face to face contact.

6. Discussion and Action Plan re: TPL Lake Monitoring /Management – Bill Sloey attended the WAL Conference Workshop on AIS Lake Monitoring – saying there was too much information for the limited time available for the workshop. He said we really need at least 2 or 3 more people to go to these kinds of sessions. There were handouts and a crawfish trap given out. The next workshop will be in Boulder Junction on June 15th.

Discussed the possibility of getting Ray Link to make a presentation on rusty crawfish for us. Someone would need to pick him up and drop him off as he now lives in Rhinelander.

Bill Sloey called attention to a soft covered book titled: “Through the Looking Glass,” with good presentations on a multitude of aquatic plants. Bill would like to put together teams of people to set traps to detect the presence rusty crawfish and to pick out primary plants for study. We need teams to go to the uninhabited lakes for study. Bill prepared a prioritized list of TPL lakes with recommended activities for this year. The listing is included in these minutes as an Appendix.

Bill said we need to make sure we monitor for loosestrife and Zebra Muscles. Also, there is a new snail infestation in the Great Lakes area. Star and Plum Lake need attention this year. Need to layout a tentative timeline with benchmarks to track accomplishment of our goals. Any equipment going into Star and Plum must be sterilized so we don’t infect other lakes.

Cycle of grants is February and August (the first in the cycle) gives us a better chance to get our grant money to reach our goals for the coming year. There is an opportunity for lake monitoring instruction at the Vilas County Aquatic Invasive Species (VCAIS) Partnership, Workshop on Lake Monitoring for AIS Early Detection and Rapid Response, Town Hall, Boulder Junction, 6:30 PM.

Chris Wise, Jim Haberle, Bob Munsen, Jim Sprinkman, Frank Splitt and Jerry Kurth are willing to do monitoring on their lakes. Bill will head this committee and will contact the DNR’s Sandy Wickman regarding AIS reporting.

7. Discussion and action on progress re: the membership and structure of the TPL Lakes Committee – including the number and “time spans” of voting members for each lake, committees, and related items – Chris Wise reported that the number of TPL Lakes Committee members was addressed and alternates were named at our last meeting. The length of terms of committee members was also addressed

and the question of setting staggered term limits arose. Chris suggested that it would be better if we did not set term limits – letting people serve until they are ready to be relieved. It was unanimously agreed not to set term limits.

The next item addressed was the formation of three standing committees of the TPL Lakes Committee that will cover the first five means outlined in our “Mission and Means.” A motion was made to establish a standing committee for Lakes Monitoring, Clean Boats-Clean waters, and AIS Public Awareness & Education. Debbie Becker seconded motion. Motion unanimously carried.

8. Discussion and Action Plan re: Clean-Boats-Clean-Waters -- Jan Wise reported that she and Vicki Gillett have agreed to serve as co-chairs of this committee and would like to have volunteers to assist in monitoring boat landings. They will have a meeting to coordinate and develop plans and a protocol for a TPL CBCW boat-inspection program. Lots of handouts and information are available. Jan or Vicki will advise time and date of meeting.

9. Discussion and Action Plan re: AIS Public Awareness - Debbie Becker reported that bait-container stickers will be available for opening day and that the month of June is Invasive Species Awareness for Wisconsin. Debbie is getting signs from Miller Brewing for her Star Lake Store windows. She may be able to get a poster or sign to add to the Star Lake Store bulletin board for all to see. Bill Sloey suggested putting up posters at the camp sites too. Debbie suggested putting display boards at key points around the area. Bob Munsen suggested distributing cards of AIS compliments of the Musky Club to give to fishermen. Debbie will get T-shirt pricing for CBCW volunteers. She believes they can be done for a very reasonable price – same for small aprons with front pockets and/or a vest. Debbie can get 5 gallon buckets to serve as crab traps and will get together with Bill on the traps. She can also have crawfish traps at the Star Lake Store for a \$10.00 deposit per trap.

Debbie said that because of problems with time availability during the summer months, she would not be able to attend all meetings. Frank Splitt said he would help support Debbie in her role as the chair of the AIS Public Education & Awareness committee.

10. Set date and place for next meeting – The next meeting will be on June 22nd at 6:30 PM at the Town Hall with agenda items focused on reports from the three standing committees.

11. Correspondence and citizens comments – There was no correspondence and no citizens present.

12. Adjournment – A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. Jerry Kurth seconded. The meeting adjourned at 8:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria Haberle, Secretary
TPL Lakes Committee
June 10, 2006

APPENDIX: SUGGESTED TPL LAKE PRIORITIZATION AND RECOMMENDED ACTIVITIES FOR AIS MONITORING AND MANAGEMENT BY LAKE TYPE

TYPE A – Lakes infested with Rusty Crayfish:
Star Lake (1206 acres), Little Star Lake (245 acres)
Plum Lake (1108 a)

2006 Activities- Intensive boat monitoring via CBCW at boat launches. Watch the boat launch areas for EWM and CLP. Riparian owners watch for purple loosestrife along shores and zebra mussels on docks. Prepare a proposal for remediation of rusty crayfish.

TYPE B – High impact public access lakes receiving intensive use:

Irving, Ballard, White Birch complex (1025 acres)
Partridge Lake (234 a)
Razorback Lake (362 a)
Escanaba Lake (293 a)
Nebish Lake (98 a)
Crystal Lake (88 a) *
Laura Lake (599 a)

2006 Activities- Priority annual in-lake monitoring for all AIS and do CBCW at launches when volunteers are available. Plan for annual shoreline monitoring for all AIS.

TYPE C – Low Impact Public Access Lakes:

Starrett Lake (66 a)
Lone Tree Lake (121 a)
Aurora Lake (94 a)*
Camp 10 Lake (33 a)
Stewart Lake (39 a)
Nixon Lake (110 a)

2006 Activities- Signs at launch and in-lake monitoring every 2nd or 3rd year. Try to get volunteers to check shorelines and docks annually.

TYPE D – Limited Public Access Lakes

Palette Lake (173 a) *
Mystery Lake (20 a)
Frank Lake (141 a)
Spruce Lake (15 a)
Allequash Springs (10) wild Lake*
Wharton Lake (32 a)
Dorothy Dunn Lake (20 a)
Salsich Lake (48 a) *
Blueberry Lake (12 a)
Wilson Lake (17 a)
Alva Lake (24 a) Wild Lake*
Jean & Eloise Lakes (37 a)
Snyder Lake (16 a)

2006 Activities- Signs at launches and in-lake monitoring every 3 to 4 years. Try to find volunteers to check shorelines when possible

TYPE E – No Public Access Lakes

Dad's Lake (46 a)
Nineweb Lake (37 a)
Decker Lake (13 a)
Monohan Lake (17 a)

2006 Activities-Educate the riparian owners and attempt to gain access for future monitoring.

NOTES:

1. This listing and set of recommendations was prepared for and presented to the TPL AIS Committee on 5-18-06 by Bill Sloey.
2. (*) Designates lakes of unusual biological importance or rare scenic value