

Minutes of July 30, 2008 Meeting Township of Plum Lake-Lakes Committee

1. Call to order. The call to order was made by Chris Wise on July 30, 2008 at 6:33 PM. Present were Co-Chair Chris Wise, Jan Wise, Treasurer Jim Haberle, Secretary Vicki Haberle, Bob Munsen, Co-Chair Frank Splitt, Bill Sloey, Jerry Kurth, Sue Kurth, Vicki Gillette and guest Brandon Feasel from Notre Dame.

2. Open meeting verification. Meeting notices have been duly made and posted at the Sayner U.S. Post Office, the Town Hall in Sayner, and the Star Lake Store in Star Lake, on the 23rd day of July, 2008, and with additional notice to the Vilas County News-Review, P. O. Box 1929, Eagle River, WI 54521, and WERL-WRJO, P.O. Box 309, Eagle River, WI 54521.

3. Approve agenda. Motion made by Bob Munsen, seconded by Jerry Kurth and approved.

4. Approve Minutes of previous meeting. Motion made by Jim Haberle, seconded by Frank Splitt and approved.

5. Treasurer's Report. Jim Haberle read the Treasurer's report. As of 01/26/08 we had a carryover balance from 2007 of \$416.96. The Town of Plum Lake gave us a budget amount of \$2,500 for 2008. The Star Lakers Club donated \$100 in June for a grand total of \$3,016.96 for this year. Expenses as of July paid out for the year is \$824.70; giving us a balance of \$2,192.26 in our total budget. Chris talked about reimbursements for meetings and travel. The committee needs to have more control maybe by having a motion to create a committee to oversee the reimbursements for inspections, travel, etc. Rules on the current procedure are there for most situations but not for the unusual situations. Chris suggested one or both co-chairs should be contacted for authorization to get expenses covered. Pending approval of one or both co-chairs expenses may be paid for meetings and travel. Motion was made by Bill Sloey, seconded by Jerry Kurth and unanimously approved. Jan needs more t-shirts. One dozen will do and the cost is \$200. Frank Splitt needs money for signage; \$400 will do. Bill Sloey needs about \$200 for supplies and cat food for crawfish traps. Frank Splitt suggested putting the excess from the expense paid in reserve.

6. Summary report by TPL-AIS Public Awareness & Education Committee with related discussion. Frank Splitt needs labor and time to put up signs. Frank and Jim went to the Highway Commission to request permission to put up our AIS signs on the roadways and highways around the Town of Plum Lake. He said he got good response from them regarding what we are doing. We need more support from Ted Ritter to get the signage up, spread the word and work in our behalf. Doug McKay and Frank will be going out to put up the signage using information from "Diggers Hotline". Bob Munsen asked about possibly getting signage put up at the Plum Lake Golf Course as a pretty effective place to get the word out. Chris said signs for two or three more resorts are needed as well as a couple more signs for extras. (News report is added as an appendix to these minutes.) Jerry Kurth said he could be available to help Doug McKay put up signs.

7. Summary report by TPL-Clean Boats-Clean Waters Committee with related discussion. Jan got a printout showing how we have been doing on our inspections at the boat landings. Jan said the reports are available for anyone who would like to review them for Plum Lake. Jan spoke to the Plum Lake Riparians and the Ballard Lake Association and got \$200 from them. A children's program appropriate for any age child will be available at the library in Sayner on August 19th. We are still trying to get volunteers for the CBCW. Frank Splitt said getting volunteers to help out and keeping them active has been a continuing problem. The information we have been putting out to the public seems to finally be getting around. Bill Sloey said he has been putting information brochures on boats with trailers whenever he has had the opportunity to visit a lake boat landing and has not found much of anything so far.

Chris said when the grant is approved we will need to keep very accurate records of all of our time. We will be working with White Birch Village as they have been checking all their boats, washing everything down and distributing information. Bill Sloey said we really should have someone at the Irving, Aurora,

and Nixon boat landings on opening day of the duck hunting season. Opening day is some time around the end of September and into October.

8. Summary report by TPL-Lakes Monitoring & Management Committee with related discussion

Bill Sloey picked up a Chinese mystery snail on the beach at Pike (sp?) Lake. He had visited several local lakes. No sampling has been done as yet. Bill and Veda worked on Irving and didn't get much data. Several people have said many have been noticing much less activity by the crawfish. Bill asked about the possibility of getting a grant to study crawfish. Chris and Jan and Bill went to a session about AIS and asked about getting a grant to control crawfish and were side stepped by the DNR. Chris and Jan went to a hearing about grant rules that must be approved to be implemented to get paid by the State. Large agencies can do their own grant requests and the small organizations will need someone to write a grant for them will be "left out" because the large agencies can get their grant applications in quickly to take the "lion's share" of available funds. The crawfish project is huge and will definitely need some outside sources for funds to control them on Plum and Star Lake. The weeds in the lakes are now getting to the point where we can harvest them for sampling.

9. Old Business. None.

10. New Business. Joe Gollash said he would help us with computers. Frank mentioned Chris is with the Lake Association Leaders and they have been asked to do a project to train fishing guides in CBCW; be able to show evidence they have had the training and have passed the information on to their fishermen clients. Chris will present this at his next meeting if we will all stand behind him in this regard. Motion was made by Frank Splitt, seconded by Bob Munsen and approved. Another project could possibly be added with a letter by Frank and Chris on this project, which is in favor of adding to the governor's mansion to add protective plants leading to the lake. The motion was made by Frank Splitt, and seconded by Bill Sloey for the Lake Leaders group having a buffer of natural vegetation in front of the governor's mansion.

Jim Haberle would like to have the TPLLC support the Star Lakes Assn to have the three unofficial public boat landings on Star Lake Road closed; two to be closed permanently and one gated (to be opened for ice fishermen in winter). A letter has been written for Frank and Chris to sign in this regard. The boat landings are under control of the Town and we would like to have them closed to make it easier to control the boat landings into Star Lake for CBCW to control the crawfish, and other aquatic invasive species. Motion made by Jerry Kurth to write a letter to have the three landings on Star Lake closed in support of the action, seconded by Bill Sloey and unanimously carried.

The Grant was submitted on July 10th. We have been given a number of its worth; the Plum Lake Riparians have said they would quantify the grant. Start to think about articles for the newsletter after the grant is approved. We need to have information about what we are doing brought out to the people living up here and that what we are doing is for ALL the lakes and the benefit of all the people not just one or two lakes in the area. As volunteer recognition for the volunteers Bill Sloey suggested maybe doing a letter to the Editor (about 150 to 300 words) as a guideline for the newsletter.

11. Set a date and place for next meeting. The next meeting will be Wednesday August 27th, at 6:30 PM

12. Correspondence and citizens' comments. None.

13. Adjournment. Motion to adjourn was made by Frank Splitt, seconded by Bill Sloey. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria Haberle,
Secretary

Plum Lake signs warn drivers about aquatic invasive species

Vilas County News-Review July 23, 2008

By Ken Anderson
News Correspondent

Public awareness of aquatic invasive species will get a boost after the Vilas County Highway Committee gave approval to place new, all-weather signs on county highway rights of way in the town of Plum Lake.

Frank Splitt, president of the Ballard-White Birch Lake Association, approached the committee last week with a request to place the signs on five access points to the town: along county highways G, N and K, plus state Highway 155. Splitt also is co-chairman of the town of Plum Lake Lakes Committee.

"We're providing directions for the whole state," Splitt told the committee. "The 'Clean Boats, Clean Water' program is good, but it doesn't include other aquatic invasive species."

The message on the large signs emphasizes the need to "Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers." "We can't have someone at every boat landing, but we can get signage out there to generate public awareness," Splitt told the committee.

Highway Commissioner Jim Fischer supported the request since the town employees would be erecting the signs and "they know about Digger's Hotline."

Splitt said the Wisconsin Department of Transportation won't let them put a sign on the Highway 155 right of way, but they are contacting private property owners along the highway seeking permission to place one on their property- near where it enters the town.

While the committee had some questions about zoning provisions, Supervisor John Annin indicated "we don't need to hold this up to see what zoning is going to do."

Splitt viewed this as one step by one town and hoped this effort would "set a model on what can be done along county highways in each town."

With no objection from the highway commissioner, the committee gave its approval for placing the signs along county highways leading into Plum Lake.

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