

Sawyer County Lakes Forum Annual Meeting
June 28, 2014 at 10 A.M.
Comfort Suites, Hayward, WI 54843

Draft Minutes

The Call to Order was at 9 A.M. by President Waldo Asp.

The Roll Call of Members showed that the following lake associations are current members; Callahan, Chippewa, Clear, COLA, County Line, Johnson, Moose, Nelson, Round, Sand, Whitefish and Winter Alliance.

The Treasurer's Report- Paul Schwister- showed a Balance on Hand of \$456.39. A motion to approve was made by Mary Ann Churchill and seconded by Bill Czeskleba. Passed.

Vice President's Report - Mary Ann Churchill - A motion to accept the minutes of the 2013 Annual Meeting was made by Phil Nies and seconded by Bill C. Passed. In order to keep the SCLF Communication List up to date representatives were asked to send in notice of any change in the contact person to the V.P.

President's Report - Waldo told of the many letters of support that he has written this past year for lake associations, as part of their application for grants for AIS education, prevention or management. SCLF was fortunate to receive a grant for the Lake Life Booklet which is still being distributed and has been copied by other counties. Attendees were encouraged to take copies of the booklet for distribution to their association members. Possible new project might be a cell phone for lakes to communicate their conditions to each other.

If any lake association would like to host a future board meeting at your local town hall or other place please let us know.

The following people were presented for a two year term (2014 – 2016) on the board;

Mary Ann Churchill (Moose)

Phil Nies (COLA)

Mike Murray (Nelson)

Paul Schwister (Clear)

Waldo Asp (County Line)

Rick Hasselquist (Winter)

And Marv Ramsay (Spider) was presented for a one year term.

Chris Jeffords moved the election of all those nominated. Paul Schwister seconded the motion. Passed.

Those elected last year for a two year term (2013- 2015) were;

Martin Hanson (Round)

Chris Jeffords (Chippewa Flowage)

Dan Tyrolt (LCO Conservation)

Bill Czeskleba (Moose)

Kevin Horricks (COLA)

NW Wisconsin Lakes Conference - Bill Czeskleba gave a review of the conference that was held in Drummond this past June 20th. This is like a Wisconsin Lakes State Conference rolled into just one day. Dan Small of Outdoor Wisconsin was the opening speaker and he told about the early days of trying to bring ordinary people to enjoy and learn the science of the natural world. His stories were amusing and illustrated how this was done. There were 5 strands at the conference to choose from for each of the three sessions, they were Fish

and Wildlife, Legal & Legislation, Lake Health, Aquatic Invasive Species and Watershed Partners. The evaluation sheets will be tallied in July and the place of the 2015 Conference will be chosen.

Activity by the Board – Phil Nies – The SCLF board has sent a letter to the County Board stating that the SCLF has an interest in the Sawyer County Zoning Committee and how it protects the waters of the county. Our board believes that the members of the Zoning Committee should be directly responsible to the unincorporated areas of the county where most of our lake associations are found. The citizens there are those who will be most affected by the actions of the ZC. Since the City of Hayward has its own Zoning Ordinances people who live in Hayward should not be on the county ZC since they would not be responsible to those living in the unincorporated area. The SCLF board does not want to have these county By-Laws changed that regulate who may sit on the County ZC.

Website Report – Martin Hanson – The activity on the website has been low but the most interest is shown in the Minutes & Agendas section.

Martin asked how long do we want to keep articles on the Home Page.. He suggested articles be removed after 6 months and he would create an archival page for those who might want to search past postings. He asked for any suggestions of additions to be sent to him

Congratulations to Lake Associations that have received grants – Whitefish received a 3 year Rapid Response grant of \$24,000.00. Nelson Lake received \$6,000.00 for Clean Boats/Clean Waters, Sand Lake received \$4,000.00 for CB/CW, Round Lake, a grant for CB/CW, Chippewa Flowage a grant for CB/CW, and Windigo and COLA both have continuing grants for CB/CW.

It was asked whether it will become more difficult to get Control Grants in the future. There will probably be less money for this type of grant. Repeated grants are needed by lakes with recurring problems. If treatments are not kept up it could hurt the quality of the lake and property values could be hurt.

Motions and Reports from the Floor

It was moved by Bill C. and seconded by Chris Jeffords that the SCLF should continue writing letters of support to the DNR and state and local legislators for the continuation of funding for all County AIS Coordinators. The grant for Sawyer County AIS Coordinator Kristi Maki will end in December. Also, a letter should be sent to all lake associations asking for their letters of support on this issue.
Passed.

Underground (Household) Water Testing – Waldo had gotten water testing kits from Kelly Nechuta, Conservation Specialist. They cost \$3.00. A sample should be taken on Mondays so it will get to Madison in time for testing that same week. There is a form that needs to be filled out and sent with it.

Sawyer County Zoning Regulations – Jay Kozlowski – Zoning and Sanitation Technician – Changes have been made to state zoning regulations found in the state document NR115 during the past 10 years. In the past two years Sawyer County has made zoning changes to correspond to NR115. Jay had a hand out that helped explain these changes which mainly concerned Nonconforming Structures and New Dwelling Setbacks. Copies of this hand out can be found in the county Zoning and Conservation Department. There are new allowances for nonconforming structures that would permit upward expansion and expansion toward the back of the lot. The county can still be more restrictive in some zoning areas than the state regulations.

Guest Speaker – Alex Smith, DNR Lake Biologist, Bureau of Water Quality for Sawyer, Barron, Polk, and Rusk Counties.

How to Live with AIS Once You Have It

Alex explained the different types of AIS grants that are available. There is the non-competitive Quick Response Grant for new infestations up to \$20,000.00. The competitive grants are for education, prevention, and planning, up to \$100,000.00.

After several years of applying for grants a lake association will determine its tolerance for living with AIS. That point is reached when there is no more money or volunteers.

Although the AIS can affect property values and can affect navigation lake association must learn to live with some of the plants. The management plan process is key for tolerance. Lake associations must set a plan for controlling the plants and how much they want to treat each year. Curly Leaf Pond Weed is hardly ever eradicated but EWM responds well to treatment. For some situations it is better to do one area a year and not let the infestation grow for several years.

Sometimes several years after a successful eradication a plant will return in patches. That is probably because the herbicide did not stay on all of the plants for a long enough time.

Applications for permits for herbicide use take a long time for approval. Can that be speeded up and have decisions made here in our area. Right now all applications need to go to Madison and then to GLIFWC for final approval because we are in the Ceded Territory. This sometimes takes as long as 6 weeks. Applications for permits should be submitted in the winter with an estimated figure. In the spring a new map should be completed and the process will go more quickly. Many aspects of living with invasive plants were covered.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:53 with a motion by Bill Czeskleba and a second by Chris Jeffords. Passed.

Dates and locations for 2014-2015 Board Meetings and Annual Meeting

Regular 2014 Summer Board Meeting: Thursday, July 10, 10 a.m. at Hunter Town Hall

Regular 2014 Fall Board Meeting: Thursday, November 13, 10 a.m. At

Regular 2015 Winter Board Meeting: Thursday, February 19, 10 a.m. at Flat Creek Eatery

Regular 2015 Spring Board Meeting: Thursday, April 16, 10 a.m. at Bass Lake Town Hall

Annual 2015 Meeting: Saturday, June 13, 9 a.m. at Flat Creek Eatery

Regular 2015 Summer Board Meeting: Thursday, July 16, 10 a.m. at Hunter Town Hall

Regular 2015 Fall Board Meeting: Thursday, November 12, 10 a.m. At

