



OCONTO COUNTY LAKES AND WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION

PO Box 233, Townsend, WI 54175-0233

OCLAWA ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, April 30, 2022

Riverview Town Hall

Board members present: Steve Heimerman, Dwight Ziegler, Kathy Wiggins, Nancy Patrick, Matt Marty

Organizations recorded as present: White Potato Lake Advancement Association, Munger & Bear Lakes Management District, Townsend Flowage District, Winslow Shores Property Owners Association, Lake Ucil Homeowners Association, Anderson Lake Association, Rost Lake Association, Inland Lakes Protection & Rehabilitation District #1, Machickanee Advancement Association, Pickerel Chain Lake Association, Paya Lake Association, Underwood Lake Property Owners Association, Mary Lake District, Kelly Lake Advancement Association, Crooked Lake P & R District, Chute Lake P & R District, Oconto Sportsmen's Club, Maiden Lake Association, Archibald Lake Association, Boot Lake Improvement Association.

Guest Speakers: Derek Thorn, FLOW AIS Coordinator; Erica LeMoine, LoonWatch Coordinator: via Zoom.

31 people signed the attendance sheet, plus 5 board members.

The meeting was called to order by president Steve Heimerman at 9:00 a.m.

2021 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES: Kathy

A White Potato Lake representative moved to approve the minutes; Inland Lakes seconded the motion. The motion passed.

REVIEW OF 2021 ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Steve

- Attended meetings and worked with the Oconto County Land and Water Conservation Committee, and made connections with the County board.
 - Because of the new population census, the County supervisors' districts were the rearranged. There are now more supervisors for lower Oconto County, and fewer in the northern area. The committees were also reorganized and the one that includes land and water conservation has all new members. We will need to make contacts with them to orient them to the northern part of the County's needs.
- Clean Boats, Clean Waters training: 40 people were trained; three new organizations participated.
- Oconto County Healthy Waters Cost Share Program: 13 groups have received grants, mostly for EWM eradication treatments.
 - When applying for State AIS grants, a group can receive points by also applying for an Oconto County Cost Share Grant.
 - About 50% of the \$231,000 monies allotted in 2018 by the County for the Cost Share grants has been spent. \$35,000 is allotted for grants each year.

- New change this year: The application deadline is still November 1, but if there are any monies left over, organizations can still apply for a grant for this year. Townsend Flowage District was granted \$1,600 and Archibald Lake Association was granted \$7,000 this way.
- About \$8,000 was left over this year.
- **Worked with?** organizations to apply for 501 c(3) status.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Dwight

- Income: Our 2020 carryover was \$1,351.30; OCLAWA received a **\$250** allotment from the Town of Riverview from their tourism income. The total income was \$4,051.30.
- Expenses: \$1,109.68
- Balance: \$2,941.62, to carryover to 2022.
- 2021 RAFFLE:
 - White Potato Advancement Association, Oconto Sportsmen's Club, Townsend Flowage District and Archibald Lake Association have received grants totaling \$1,700.00. Over \$3,000 is still available from this year's raffle.
 - Receiving an OCLAWA grant helps receive ranking points when applying for WDNR and Oconto County Healthy Waters grants. Points are given for groups who get financial assistance from other sources.

2022 ACTION PLAN:

- 2022 raffle: 3,500 tickets were printed. 99 packets of 3 are to be distributed to each lake.
- Snapshot Day: Saturday, August 20 at Riverview Town Hall
- Fall tour with members of the new Oconto County Land, Water, Forest and Zoning Committee. This tour has helped OCLAWA receive monies for our grants in the past.

NR107/109 REVISIONS UPDATE: Matt

- The public comment period is now closed. Any comments should go to your legislator.
- The proposed increased fees are partly due to hiring more personnel and biologists.
- One member's concern: The calculation for the percentage of EWM in a lake for treatment should be based on the total GROWABLE area for EWM, not the total area of the lake. Some small lakes are not be eligible for herbicide treatments with the total lake area calculation.
- A Munger & Bear Lake representative moved to have a WDNR representative come to our Fall Meeting to talk about the proposed revisions. An Underwood Property Owners' representative seconded the motion. The motion passed.

BOARD ELECTIONS:

- Matt Marty is retiring from the board; Steve Heimerman agreed to stay on as a member, but not as president. He will be our liaison to the Oconto County Board.
- Amy Klebe has agreed to be the president this year.
- Mike Rasmussen agreed to be on the board. He is a member of Inland Lakes Protection & Rehabilitation District #1.
- Kathy Wiggins moved to accept the slate of board members; Munger & Bear seconded. The motion passed.

LOONWATCH VIRTUAL PRESENTATION: Erica LeMoine, LoonWatch Director

Brief summary:

- Loons are water birds, not water “fowl”: they are closely related to penguins. They have about a 20-30 year lifespan.
- Loons need clear water; they are visual predators. Shoreline restoration helps keep waters clear.
- Their territory in a lake range from 50 to 100 acres.
- Threats to loons: lead poisoning, water level, shoreline development, wake boats washing out nests and churning and eroding shorelines, warming climate (they used to inhabit lakes as far south as Illinois, and now northern Wisconsin is currently on the southern edge of their range.)
- There is a lower rate of numbers of loons, in part due to the lower quality of chicks born and fewer chicks returning. If a chick survives to 8 weeks old, it has a good probability of survival.
- They do not mate for life; they are more married to their territory than to their mate.
- How to help:
 - Restore shorelines; use only lead-free fishing tackle; properly dispose of fishing line (recycle or cut up to 6” lengths).
 - Follow the 200’ rule of staying away from shorelines and nesting platforms.
 - Reduce energy consumption which reduces the likelihood of oil spills.
- lakes in Oconto County have “Loon Ranger” volunteers, who monitor their loons.
- LoonWatch webste: www.northland.edu/loonwatch. Telephone number: 715-682-1220

CITIZEN LAKE MONITORING NETWORK (CLMN): Derek Thorn

- 61 lakes in Oconto County have either done, or are in the CLMN program. 26 are doing lake chemistry monitoring; there is a waiting list to do chemical monitoring. There are 1,300 volunteers annually.
- Clarity testing is done about every two weeks; chemical testing is done four times a field season.
- Oxygen reading meters are costly, about \$1,500-\$1,800 each. Apply for a grant (Oconto County Healthy Waters Cost Share Grant, OCLAWA grant), share with other lakes, borrow one from Derek for 3-5 days.
- SWIMS is a data base for water clarity monitoring. A participating lake’s data is entered in SWIMS at the end of the year.
- QAQC Monitoring: 10% of the lakes do additional testing. In our area, they are: Archibald-west, Bass Lake, Chute Pond, Grindle, Kelly, Little Horn, Munger.

OPEN/MEMBER CONCERNS:

- A discussion of the process of becoming a lake district.
- An over abundance of lake weeds. High water could be a possible component of the problem.

Board member, Matt Marty moved to close the meeting; a Paya Lake representative seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Wiggins, Secretary

