



OCONTO COUNTY LAKES AND WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION

PO Box 233, Townsend, WI 54175-0233

ANNUAL MEETING

April 29, 2023

Riverview Town Hall

Organizations Represented:

Anderson Lake Association, Archibald Lake Assoc., Boot Lake Improvement Assoc., Boulder Lake Private Homes Assoc., Chute Lake P & R District, Crooked Lake Area Lakes P & R District, Finnegan Lake Walleye Club, Inland Lakes P & R District, Kelly Lake Sportsman's Club, Maiden Lake Club Assoc., Mary Lake P & R District, Munger & Bear Lakes Management District, Oconto Sportsmen's Club Paya Lake Assoc., Pickeral Chain Lake Assoc., Rost Lake Assoc., Townsend Flowage P & R District, Underwood Lake Property Owners Assoc., Wheeler Lake Assoc., White Potato Lake Advancement Assoc., Winslow Shores Property Owners Assoc.

Guest Speakers: Ken Dolata, Oconto County Conservationist, and Derek Thorn, FLOW AIS Coordinator

OCLAWA Board members present: Steve Heimerman, Dwight Ziegler, Kathy Wiggins, Nancy Patrick, Mike Rasmussen, Dennis Schaefer, Lance Wiedenhoft

Total people recorded as attending: 42

President, Steve Heimerman called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

Secretary's Report: 2022 Fall Meeting Minutes: Kathy

Dwight Ziegler moved to approve the minutes; Floyd Schmidt seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Dwight

In 2022 there were 31 paid members. Our end-of-year balance was \$4,630.33.

OCLAWA Grants: 6 grants have been paid out; 5 other grants have not yet been paid. A maximum of \$750.00 can be requested for a grant. An organization can apply for grants for more than one project in a year.

Status of \$1,000.00 FLOW AIS Pledge: Steve

Last year, OCLAWA pledged \$1,000 toward filling the funding needed to make the FLOW AIS coordinator a fulltime position, and challenged other organizations to chip in. The pledge is no longer necessary because Marinette County was added to FLOW AIS and their funding was enough to create the fulltime position.

John Rosner moved to return our \$1,000 pledge back into the OCLAWA Grant fund. Bob Whitman seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Interfacing with Oconto County and the Seven Towns: Steve, Ken

- The Citizens Advisory Committee comprised of Steve Heimerman, Dwight Ziegler and Steve Dupuis has been working with the County's Land and Water Resources Committee. The CLWR committee has been reorganized to include several other groups, such as zoning, forestry, parks, register of deeds, U. W. Extension.
 - This means we have less time to present our issues at meetings, and there will be more competition for funding.
- Seven Towns Presentation: Steve and Ken Dolata developed a presentation of the contributions the seven northern County towns make to the overall County tax base.
 - This is to show the County the importance of maintaining clean waters.
 - The county tax levy (29 jurisdictions) has five of the ten highest levies in the northern towns (where the lakes are!!!). Townsend is #2, Brazeau #4, Riverview #5, Lakewood #6, and Mountain #10. In addition, the Town's levy for Town purposes is due to the significance of the lakes' values. Townsend has ~75% of their local levy from waterfront properties, Riverview is 61%, Brazeau is 62%, Lakewood is 45%, and Mountain is 38%.
 - Part of the problem in influencing the County Board is that the population numbers are low, therefore only three county board members are representing the northern County, out of a total of 31.
 - Other issues are that much of the population are seasonal residents and therefore don't have the voting influence that the more populous southern areas have.
- It's important to develop relationships with the town boards. Go to board meetings. Develop a relationship with the representatives.
- When applying for DNR grants, "paint a picture" in your descriptions. The grant readers are all over the state and may not know much about Oconto County. We're also competing with more "big dollars" requests, so it may help in competing with them.

June 10 AIS Training Sessions: Identifying invasive species:

- There will be training in two locations: The southern location is 9:00-11:00 at White Potato Lake Sanitary Building; the northern location is 1:00-3:00 at the Lakewood Community Center
- Go to our website for more information: oclaw.net

Snapshot Day: July 26 at the Lakewood Community Center:

- This is more of a hands-on training session than the June 10 workshop. There will be a short training session, and then teams will go out to designated waters to hunt for AIS plants.
- Paul Skawinski, UW Stevens Point, will lead the training.

OCLAWA Fall Meeting: August 26 at Riverview Town Hall:

- Lucky 13 raffle drawing
- Guest speaker: Abby Vogt, Coordinator of the Timberland Invasive Partnership.
- Follow-up on grant application information.

2023 Wisconsin Lakes Convention Reports:

- Congratulations to Floyd Schmidt (Chute Lake P & R District) for winning a Stewardship Award.
- Some/topics things learned by attendees: Grant money is being reduced from \$6.5 million to \$6.2 million, Wake boats are a common issue, phragmites, PFAS, phosphorus and algae (5 pounds of phosphorus creates 500 pounds of algae. Much of the phosphorus is created by faulty septic systems).

2023 Lucky 13 Raffle:

Dwight distributed raffle tickets to attendees. Other groups will receive tickets by members of the OCLAWA board.

OCLAWA Board Elections:

- Outgoing board member: Nancy Patrick. Many thanks for all of your years of service!
- Steve agreed to remain on the board for another year, not as president, but as the liaison with the County Board (motion to approve by Kathy Wiggins; seconded by Betty Zimdars).
- Mike Rasmussen was elected as President (motion to approve by Lance Wiedenhoef; seconded by Steve Heimerman).
- Bob Grobarchek agreed to be on the board for a one-year term (motion to approve by Betty Zimdars; Steve Heimerman seconded).
- Gail Golden will be a board member for a three-year term (motion to approve Steve Heimerman; seconded by John Rabe).

Member questions/Concerns:

- Wake boats are a concern. Restricting them must be achieved by town boards. Lake districts do not have the authority to restrict the size of motors.
- Will the state rework the 107 and 109 guidelines? It is not known if they will.

Lance Wiedenhoef moved to adjourn the meeting; Gail Golden seconded the motion. The motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 10:35

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Wiggins, Secretary

The Grant Workshop followed the Annual Meeting. Ken Dolata and Derek Thorn were the presenters. Here is a link to the DNR surface water grant page :

<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/aid/SurfaceWater.html>

