

Agenda/ Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: 25Apr2024

Topic: Lake Wisconsin Alliance Monthly Meeting

Board Meeting Attendees:

Forrest, Dede	X	Murray, Andrea	NP	Zumm, Rob	X
Gleason, Mike	X	Neander, Steve	NP		
Herbert, Brandon	X	Ray, Kauhanae	NP		
Kell, David	X	Stowe, Amy	X		
Kidd, Sarah	X	Zumm, Jenny	NP		

Agenda/Meeting Discussion:

This was the monthly meeting of the LWA Board members.

1&2. Meeting Administration

- David called the meeting to order.
- The meeting minutes of 28Mar2024 were approved. (1st Motion: Mike/ 2nd Motion: Rob)

3. Treasurer's Financial Report

- Brandon presented the financial report. Presented report. There were no questions about the information presented.

4. Communication

- There has been improvement with the website, but some issues continue. See Section 7- LWA Website Contract and User Issues of these minutes for more detail and next steps.

5. Membership

- Andrea provided updated membership information prior to the meeting. Currently, 320 members have renewed their membership for 2024, of which 18 are business memberships.
- There are 150 prior members that have not yet renewed their membership for 2024. It was discussed and agreed that a letter will be sent via EconoPrint to these 150 prior members. Mike will connect with Andrea to get the list of people that have not yet renewed and work with EconoPrint to get a membership letter printed and sent. (1st Motion: Rob/ 2nd Motion: David).

6. Education

- Secchi discs: There will be a refresher course for monitors in Fitchburg, Monday, May 6 from 9 am-12pm. The state representative should be contacting the current monitors to let them know of this course. Rob will also contact our LW monitors. It is recommended that we use this opportunity to recruit additional monitors.
- Jenny confirmed the speaker for our annual meeting in August. The topic will be mussels. The speaker will be Lisie Kitchel, a conservation biologist from the DNR.

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7. New Business

❖ LWA Website Contract and User Issues

- David presented the 2 proposals from Clayton Hedgepath for website support. After discussion it was agreed that we would move forward with Option 1 (Rebuild / start fresh with the site and renew the support agreement for another 1-year term). (1st Motion: Mike/ 2nd Motion: Sarah)
- It was suggested to invite Clayton Hedgepath to a Board meeting to answer questions on service details.
- We discussed looking at other options for rebuilding and support of the LWA website. We will contact other lake associations to see what companies support their websites. David will talk to Ellen Voss of the River Alliance. Rob will talk to FLOW.

❖ Constant Contact

- Upgrading the Constant Contact account was again brought before the Board, as the cost of multiple user access was more than previously discussed. We currently have the “Lite” package that allows one user for \$28.50/month. Upgrading to multiple users would be \$52.25/month.
- After discussion the Board agreed to the upgraded package. (1st Motion: Mike/ 2nd Motion: David)
- Sarah will talk to Brandon regarding the best way to pay for the upgrade.
- Sarah to work with Andrea to make the upgrade.

❖ LWA Merchandise

- Post a reminder on Facebook about LWA merchandise available through Barefoot Bay Apparel.

8. Previous Business

❖ Local Business Support

- Kauhane sent a picture of a sample business appreciation certificate. All agreed it looked great! When all certificates are printed and framed as the example presented, the board will divide the certificates between the board members for delivery.

❖ Explore the Watershed Series

- **First event: MAY 11 (9 am - 12 pm): Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance**
Activity: Prairie Restoration Workday. This will include a talk about invasive species and the group will help to pull garlic mustard.
Address: Museum of Badger Ammunition Plant 7560 US-12, North Freedom, WI 53951
For more information: [Upcoming Events | SPCA \(saukprairie.org\)](#)

Lunch at Fitz's on The Lake with other LWA members

- ❖ Conservation Night by the Lake
 - We were informed that Alliant Energy will provide \$500 in support of the event.
 - LWA will provide \$1000 in support of the event.
- ❖ Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers Convention
 - David attended this convention representing LWA. He gave an overview of what he learned there. (See attachment to these minutes). Overall, David said the convention was very informative and worth the time and effort.
 - Note, David attended 2 additional workshops at this convention where the cost had not been previously approved. The Board approved those costs at this meeting.
- ❖ Newsletter
 - The spring issue is ready for distribution. Dede will review and give final approval to send.
 - Sarah will provide a pdf copy to Jenny for posting to Facebook.
- ❖ Update on the Native Plant Initiative
 - The April edition of the Native Plants Initiative was sent at the beginning of the month. We are getting close to a 70% open rate (68.7%)
 - Two LWA members responded with interest in the Healthy Lakes & Rivers Grant. Sarah is working with volunteer, Kathrin Judd, to manage the process and communications for this effort.
 - Chris Arnold has been invited to attend the LWA May board meeting. If Chris confirms he will attend, we will invite Kathrin Judd & the interested homeowners to learn more about this process.
 - If Chris confirms he will attend the May LWA Board meeting, we will send another reminder to all members reminding them of this grant.
 - Sarah continues to try to connect with Ed Hastreiter regarding his email of interest in native plants. Two emails have been sent with no response back from Mr. Hastreiter.
- ❖ LWA Support for Disposal of Fishing Lines
 - Rob brought a sample of the disposal containers. The cost will be \$95 - \$100 for each disposal unit. The plan is to use existing posts at the installation site.
 - The Board will select which boat launches to place these containers at the time they are ready for placement. Recommendations for placement are as follows:

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- Recommended in Sauk
 - Moon Valley
 - Merrimac Pier (needs permission from Merrimac)
 - Kilpatrick Point (Sauk Cty Parks District)

- Recommended in Columbia
 - Sunset Bay (Kevin Kessler)
 - Eagle Drive (Lodi Township – Steve Neander)
 - Whalens Grade (Mark Niehbur)

- This plan was reviewed and all agreed to continue forward. (1st Motion: Rob/
2nd Motion: Sarah)

Next Meeting: May 23 , 2024

Action Items

No	Item	Responsible	Status
1	Send membership renewal forms to the 150 homeowners who have not yet renewed their 2024 membership	Mike	
2	Contact LW Secchi Disc monitors and inform them of the refresher course in Fitchburg in May	Rob	
3	Talk to other nonprofit organizations to see who supports their websites.	David Rob	
4	Move forward with the disposal containers as per plan	Rob	
5	Confirm that Chris Arnold will attend the May LWA Board meeting.	David	
6	Upon confirmation of Chris Arnold's attendance at the LWA May Board meeting, invite Kathrin Judd and the interested homeowners to also attend.	Sarah	
7	Upon confirmation of Chris Arnold's attendance at the LWA May Board meeting, send another reminder to all members reminding them of the Healthy Lakes & Rivers grant.	Sarah	

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No	Item	Responsible	Status
8	Follow up on upgrading Constant Contact	Sarah	
9	Send reminder for Garlic Mustard Pull at Sauk Prairie	Sarah	
10	Post reminder to FB for LWA apparel through Barefoot Bay.	Jenny	
11	Reach out to 7 businesses that have not yet renewed their 2024 membership.	Kauhane	
12	Communicate and issue the LWA support for Conservation Night by the Lake on July 20.	David	
13	Work with Mike to update the LWA website to reflect the local businesses who support LWA.	Kauhane	
14	Follow up on next steps to move the Explore the Watershed initiative forward.	David	COMPLETED
15	Move forward with plans for LWA sponsorship of grants for the plantings of native plants.	Native Plants Team	COMPLETED
16	Follow-up with Andrea and coordinate sending a reminder membership renewal email to 2023 members that have not yet renewed their membership for 2024.	Mike	COMPLETED
17	Draft (Mike) and post (Jenny) a reminder for membership renewal to Facebook.	Mike Jenny	COMPLETED
18	Produce LWA appreciation certificates, order frames, and deliver the certificates to local businesses who support LWA.	Kauhane	COMPLETED
19	Work to draft and send the LWA newsletter by May.	Dede	COMPLETED
20	Explore how LWA can drive and/or support installation of fishing line disposal units at area boat launches.	Jenny Rob	COMPLETED
21	Explore future dates for educational presentation on invasive species	Jenny & Dede	Continue to follow
22	Contact Arthur Watkinson to discuss stump removal issue	Mike	Continue to follow

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No	Item	Responsible	Status
23	Continue to follow Alliant Energy for approval of fish stick placement.	Mike	Continue to follow

“Chapter 33 Golden Jubilee: 50 Years of Partnering for Our Waters”

2024 marks the 50th anniversary of Wisconsin’s unique lake law, Chapter 33: Public Inland Waters. The legislature and governor worked together in the early 1970s to establish a collaborative research and management framework that lives on today as the Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers Partnership. The law also created the pathway for landowners around lakes to form Public Inland Lake Protection and Rehabilitation Districts. Today, over 250 lake districts exist in the state, and they all operate under the same policies and rules laid out in Chapter 33.

The entire United States is divided up into a nested six-level hierarchy of drainage areas. At each level, two digits are tacked on to the Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC). When we talk about a “huck twelve” (HUC12), we mean a small hydrologic unit with a twelve-digit code, on the order of 10-40 thousand acres.

LOWER WISCONSIN RIVER BASIN HUC 0707005

The Lower Wisconsin River basin drains approximately 4,940 square miles of south-central and southwestern Wisconsin. The basin includes the Wisconsin River from the Castle Rock Flowage dam to its confluence with the Mississippi River near Prairie du Chien and all the streams tributary to the Wisconsin River along this reach, spanning all or parts of 12 counties: Adams, Columbia, Crawford, Dane, Grant, Iowa, Jackson, Juneau, Monroe, Richland, Sauk and Vernon.

Water quality in the basin is generally considered good. The primary water quality problems are caused by nonpoint sources of pollution, particularly from agricultural operations, excessive populations of rough fish and hydrologic modifications such as dams, stream straightening and the ditching, draining or other alteration of wetlands.

Lake Wisconsin is (LW19}

Wisconsin's 15,000 lakes.

Working in the Watershed. Information and resources to Launch Your watershed planning efforts by Dan Zerr Natural Resources Educator. University of Wisconsin-Extension.

Ways to measure watershed health include

Types of land cover. The more natural the better.

Measure of Nitrogen and Phosphorus coming into the water.

Temperature of lake, turbidity, amount of algae and chlorophyll

Support of Aquatic life. Fish, mussels.

Steps to establish a watershed plan. 10 year action plan,.

1. Gather stake holders, hold a meeting,
2. 2 Asses the watershed-do profile, Do plan,
3. 3 Do Plan,
4. 4 Establish overseer of plan,
5. 5 Monitor results, goal is to improve water quality. This hard to reach and hard to measure.
6. 6 modify plan,

Facts about Wisconsin

Over 2 billion dollars from fishing and water related income.

82% of water,(lakes and rivers) are not impaired, 17 thousand lakes and 86 thousand miles of streams.

website with all information available. Dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/surfacewater/swdv

SURFACE WATER DATA VIEWER

The Surface Water Data Viewer (SWDV) is a DNR data delivery system that provides interactive web mapping tools for a wide variety of datasets including chemistry (water, sediment), physical and biological (macroinvertebrate, fish) data.

WISCONSIN WATER EXPLORER (WEX)

The Wisconsin Water Explorer tool allows users to explore characteristics of Wisconsin's water resources and was designed as a companion tool to the [Surface Water Data Viewer \(SWDV\)](#) (the SWDV is a tool that shows maps related to Wisconsin's water resources).

uwsp.edu/uwexplakes by clicking on "Resources" in the navigation menu, then "Convention Collection". Our searchable directory of presentations, recordings, and other Convention materials is combined with over 2000 articles from our quarterly newsletter, *Lake Tides*. Choose the COLLECTION and YEAR you're interested in and/or choose a specific CATEGORY or type in a keyword(s) in the TEXT SEARCH box. The more parameters you use, the more you will refine your search.

The lakeshore restoration movement

For many of us, lakeshores represents the sweep of one's heart, a place filled with memories of growing up, catching fish, watching frogs, and whiling away the sweet summer days. However, during the past few decades especially, the over domestication of our lakeshores has altered their character in damaging ways. But do not despair, change is afoot!

People around Wisconsin and beyond have been rethinking what is best for the lakes and for their families. They are taking on the task of restoring their lakeshores to a more natural look. Lake residents and organizations, natural resource agencies from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) to local land conservation districts to tribal partners, energy companies, and businesses such as resorts and restaurants, all have embraced the idea of restoring lakeshore habitat. A lot of great things can come from this effort.

Reestablished native trees, shrubs, grasses, wildflowers, and other plants improve wildlife habitat so there is more for our families to enjoy. These natural areas along lakeshores enhance water quality, helping our lakes become healthier and more satisfying for everyone. Often lakeshore restoration projects form teams, including local contractors, nurseries, consultants, and others specializing in habitat restoration and erosion control work. Miles of lakeshores have been returned to a more naturalized character, with the full complement of healthier soil, fallen leaves and other organic material building in the groundlayer. Projects grow towards well established, diverse herbaceous layers. Over time, a rich groundlayer of ferns, grasses, sedges, rushes, and wildflowers grows underneath a unique shrub layer and understory tree layer of smaller samplings. Above, a fuller canopy layer also grows. Together, this suite of native vegetation adds to the lakes ecosystem, improving the structural beauty, functionality, and habitat value of the shoreline.

Lakeshore property owners who participate in habitat restoration by installing assorted best practices on their land are giving back to their lake and helping to address the number one stressor to lakes - the loss of lakeshore habitat.

PFAS <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/PFAS/WaterQuality.html>

WATER QUALITY PFAS INITIATIVES

The DNR is conducting a number of initiatives related to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination and water quality in Wisconsin. These initiatives are:

1. [PFAS surface water rule and implementation](#);
2. [surface water and fish tissue sampling](#); and
3. [PFAS and biosolids](#).

Wake boarding issue Lakes At Stake Wisconsin organization

<https://www.lakesatstake.org/>

The organization will be working to modify LRB 3518/1, proposed legislation being circulated for sponsors in the Legislature. The proposal would prevent wake sports from operating 200 feet from shore and nullify more restrictive local ordinances on wake surfing

Legislation is dead for this year. Local township boards are enacting their own ordinances. These are usually more restrictive.

Our Position: 700/500/20 + No Hitchhikers

To keep our lakes protected from the threats of wake sports, we are advocating that, at a minimum, any watercraft designed to create an enhanced wake using a ballast and/or wave shaping technology, be required to operate:

- 700 feet or more from shorelines, docks, rafts, and any structure
- 500 feet or more from other boats and lake users
- In no less than 20 feet of water.
- In addition, before entering a body of water, any watercraft with a ballast system must be fully emptied and sanitized to prevent the transport of aquatic invasive species.

We are working at the state and local level to secure common-sense protections so everyone can enjoy our pristine Wisconsin waters.