

**Iron River Pike Chain Lakes Association, Inc. (PCLA)**  
**DRAFT General Meeting Minutes**  
**Iron River Community Center**  
**August 4, 2012**

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Vice President Eddie Wangenstein at 9 AM. Eddie welcomed all attending (approximately 70 people). Thanks were expressed to all who displayed the various things special to PCLA: the new PCLA sweatshirts and t-shirts which were well received; paintings by Sally Witz; the beautiful posters first offered last year by the Education Committee; and a booth by Jeremy Bates, Coordinator of the Bayfield County Aquatic Invasive Species Department. Eddie introduced all Board members who were present.

**Secretary's Report:** The minutes from the 2011 PCLA Annual Meeting were passed out and approved as written.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Bob Ruef explained the organization's finances in detail (handouts). As of 8/4/12 the checkbook balance was \$6790, net worth @ \$37578, sweatshirt/t-shirt sales at \$2429 with costs to date of \$2863, income @ \$17,548, and money market at \$30,787. Total expenses paid to date eligible for DNR Grant reimbursement at 75% are \$16,758. After the grant funds are received the "War Chest" will be at \$50,147. This all made sense to everyone and the treasurer's report was approved and seconded.

Also, Greg Ogren reported on the audit and all items were reviewed and in good shape.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Lake's Association Property Watch:** The Lake's Association Watch Program for Property Protection was explained by Iron River Chief of Police Scot Eisenhauer. He also introduced his newest officer, Mitch. He reported that all police cars have M16 assault weapons as the bad guys show up contemplating doing harm with more than light weaponry. He reported that our police force is in good shape and properly trained. He reported on the burglaries that occurred this spring and how the "perps" were apprehended by good and coordinated communications within the force, the victims, and sheriff's department. He encouraged property owners to get on "Cabin Watch". He also explained that signs showing even the presence of security will deter would be burglars. He encouraged people to use Face book.

**Web Page:** John Joseph gave a history of the site and reported that the web site is visited often and that people could take better advantage of all that it can offer. In July, there were 517 hits. Often, there are 500-700 visits per summer month. A question was raised as to why we don't use Face book. He encouraged people to visit the site and submit pictures and news that would interest others.

**Aquatic Species:** Al Boehler reported that progress is being made in regards to EWM that was first discovered on the Chain in 2004. Thanks to the efforts of a few and chemical treatment, the areas of EWM are getting smaller, but that it will probably always be present. He would like more volunteer help, especially those who have experience diving, and others who can monitor the lakes and search for new areas of milfoil. He will gladly train any and all who want to volunteer. There were 27 acres of EWM before, now 13 acres. He stated that we are seeing more clams than before, and this is in response to the cleanness and clarity of our water. There was a question concerning Zebra Mussels.

Jeremy Bates, Bayfield Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator, also spoke reporting that there is a lake in the Barnes area that eliminated EWM but the treatment killed most plants in the lake so this is not a good idea. He reported that the Pike Chain is doing well, but it depends upon people being willing to help. Three lakes in the Pike Chain have necessary conditions suitable for Zebra Mussels....adequate calcium carbonate levels,

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conditions enabling these mussels to reproduce, and easy access to the lake (boat landings). There will be a workshop offered on this topic- check the website for more information. He reported on the grant cycle and that PCLA should get a new grant. The present one will end but can be reapplied for. He reported that the July 8 boat landing blitz was very good. Wisconsin State Representative for our 74th district, Janet Bewley, was at the Twin Bear landing and learned a lot, especially how important boat inspections are. A new exotic species is turning up, Japanese Knotweed. It is very important to pull these plants now as they will fragment in the fall, and multiply.

**Water Quality:** Jane Swenson reported that the water quality is very good. In the spring, a person could see depths of 25', 14-19' in summer months. She explained that as water heats up, the water turns over and causes turbidity. She also reported that Japanese Knotweed is present on Eagle, Buskey Bay and Millicent. She encouraged everyone to get brochures on this that are available today. She also stated that our loons seem to be doing well in spite of some predators. We all have to do our part to keep them. There don't seem to be many chicks.

**Education Report:** Bill Swenson reported on the committee's projects and activities. There is a Comprehensive Management Plan for the PCLA. The Education Committee needs more volunteers to help get the message out. The committee's primary responsibility is keeping other invasive species out of our lakes. This can be done through more education of the general public at boat landings, cabin owners/renters, and the Iron River community. He stated that we have "special lakes" and we need to keep them that way. Most other lakes aren't as fortunate. He explained that additional funding is needed to better educate and/or better staff the other 2 landings on Buskey Bay. These two landings could present further problems to the lakes in regards to invasive species. Boaters learn that it costs much more to put their boats in at Twin Bear as opposed to a lower fee at Hyde's and no charge at the town landing. The potential for big problems exists here!

**Fishery Committee:** Bill Swenson reported on the DNR survey of 2011. He had hoped to have a revised report by now, but State of Wisconsin budget cuts affected the DNR as well, and these people are even more limited in their time to give. The walleye fishery is of great interest and concern. One draft is done and another on the way which will show thorough research and findings. But, to summarize: walleye density has dropped to 2 fish per acre. The size has increased, but less efficient reproduction is evident. A large reason for this is the larger bass population. Bass will eat anything, including walleye fingerlings. Several questions were asked here. The DNR wants to monitor this for 6 more years then decide what to do. There was a comment concerning stocking extended growth walleye. The problem with this is the water that these fish are in will come from an unknown source that could contain other exotics. Caution must be made in this regards. Bill hopes the DNR will extend its survey to other species of fish. Bluegills appear smaller now so perhaps the bag limit should be adjusted. He reports that bass fishing is most popular in the Chain.

There was a question and statement made concerning camp fire burning and the problems associated with this burning to other people.

**Boat Landing:** Karen Austin reported on the landing procedures, boat wash etc. She said that people are aware of potential threats. She needs more recruits at the landings. She gave a brief description of her staff and the great job that each are doing. She encourages younger and more exotic people to help out. She also explained some of her educational techniques, especially those used with young children with the use of her puppets.

**Fund Raising Committee:** Bob Ruef reported on the Pike Lake Chain t-shirts and sweatshirts that are available. These were offered at a booth at the Blueberry Festival as well as at today's meeting. He encouraged people to purchase them. He also gave Ed Brunner's report and extended thanks to the

individuals named who helped with the various fund raising activities.

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**Adopt-a-Highway:** Howard Lehman reported on the two successful activities that occurred last fall and this spring. Litter seems to be lessening and all volunteers had an enjoyable time. Dates for future pick-ups will be listed on the web site.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Nominating Committee:** John Joseph reported that the terms of Greg Ogren, Al Bochler, and Judy Barber had expired.. Greg and Al agreed to extend their terms and Deb Sharbonno has volunteered to be a member of the board. This carried unanimously.

**Membership:** A motion was made that membership dues be increased from \$15 to \$20. I believe no second was made and there was obviously no vote.

#### **Ideas from Membership:**

- Jane Swenson made a motion for PCLA to start a Face book page. This was seconded and carried.
- A question was raised about the percentage of property owners on the Chain who are PCLA members. Answer...50%. Discussion was that we need to expand membership. People who were present were encouraged to speak to their neighbors about the advantages of belonging to PCLA. A list of present members will be listed on our website.
- Willard Ogren expressed his concern about the diminishing islands. Much of the islands are eroding away. He hopes people will “drop-a-rock”, but questioned if there will be official permission to do this. Who do we ask?
- Another member stated that he appreciates the light shielding that many property owners are using for their outside lights. He comes from a city where he never sees the stars and night sky until he comes up here. He hopes other property owners will invest in proper light shielding shades for their outdoor lights.
- Another member stated her irritation with fireworks being set off weeks after July 4th and late into the evening. Who can she make her complaints with?
- Another concern was shoreline conservation due to erosion caused by big wakes of boats pulling tubers.

Motion by Jim Swenson and seconded to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 10:46 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Howard Lehman