

Iron River Pike Chain of Lakes Association, Inc. (PCLA)
DRAFT General Meeting Minutes
Iron River Community Center
August 6, 2011

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Vice President Eddie Wangensteen at 9 a.m. Eddie welcomed all attending (75 members and 7 visitors signed-in) and thanked Sally Witz for bringing some of her paintings of the Pike Lake Chain that are for sale with proceeds given to PCLA.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: The minutes from the 2010 Annual Meeting were approved as written. Secretary Kristen Sandager reported that minutes from the board of directors and general meetings are on the website. Anyone interested in writing a short article for upcoming newsletters should contact her. Those preferring to get the newsletter via email should contact her or complete the appropriate section on the membership form.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Bob Ruef explained the organization's finances in detail (handout). As of 8-6-2011, the checkbook balance is \$5,757.97 with a projected checkbook balance of \$28,941.48 after anticipated grant draws. Grant activity was reviewed with an available grant balance of \$99,132.27. Income and expenses from January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010 were explained and as of 12/31/2010 total liabilities and net worth was \$26,272.11. .

OLD BUSINESS

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Web Page: John Joseph reported that there were 2700 hits in July with numbers being typically lower during the winter. He encouraged us to check out the website and submit news, photos etc.

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS): Al Bochler reported that there continues to be progress in controlling EWM with 16 acres treated in June this year. He is looking for more volunteers as there is a 25% match in grant funding for hours of monitoring.

Education Committee: Bill Swenson reviewed the committee's projects and activities so far. This has included the laminated maps that were distributed last year and are still available for purchase; week-day boat inspections; and the big project this year of developing and distributing 6 educational posters. A handout was available detailing where these posters have been distributed (public places, resorts, rentals etc). In addition, a framed poster was given today to any dues paying member attending this meeting. The committee is looking for more members.

Fishery Committee: Bill Swenson reported on his work with the DNR Fishery Management Department. A detailed report of the fishery assessment done on the Pike Chain in 2010 should be available next summer. The committee is looking for more members.

Water Quality: Jane Swenson reported that the water clarity continues to be good on the Pike Chain and thanked the volunteers who do the Secchi readings. The Secchi readings from this summer are on the PCLA website. The data is also incorporated into much larger data base with the WI DNR-Citizens Lake Monitoring Network. A patch of Japanese Knotweed, a land invasive, has been found on Buskey Bay and Eagle.

Data from the loon survey is on our website. The loon population seems to be “healthy” with 14 loons on the Pike Chain this year.

Boat Inspection: Karen Austin reviewed general statistics from the boat inspections at the 4 landings. Overall to date, numbers are down probably due to poor weather. No EWM has been found on boats inspected so far this year. She reviewed recent legislation that passed in MN in June 2011 aimed at strengthening MN ability to prevent the spread of EWM through more thorough watercraft inspections, stronger regulations prohibiting the transport of AIS and adding authorized, trained inspectors. With efforts being ramped up in MN, there’s hope that maybe similar type legislation will be introduced in WI. Judy Barber reported that around the state, “Karen’s” program has a reputation of being very successful.

Adopt-a-Highway: Jerry Peck reported on the 2010 spring and fall pick-up. 15 bags at each pick up were collected. Dates for future highway pick-ups will be posted on the web-site or you can contact Jerry to get on the email list.

NEW BUSINESS:

LAKE ASSOCIATION WATCH PROGRAM FOR PROPERTY PROTECTION: There was interest from the membership last year to continue this program and was referred back to the Board of Directors to clarify some logistical issues.

MOTION by Tony Mullozzi and seconded to return this to the floor. **PASSED** unanimously.

Tony Mullozzi reviewed the history of the program and the recommendation of the Board of Directors to continue it for dues paid members where up to a \$2000 reward could be offered for information leading to the conviction of anyone for trespassing/vandalism/theft. The Board of Directors would decide in conjunction with the Iron River Chief of Police who may qualify for the reward money and the reward amount, with the understanding this person would need to testify if necessary. Guest speaker, Iron River Chief of Police Scot Eisenhower, talked about the benefits of having a tipster program in place such as this and the value of neighborhood watches using an email tree. He reviewed some of the services from the department such as the Vacation Check Program (form for this will be available on the PCLA website) and the Iron River tipster line.

MOTION by Tony Mullozzi and seconded to allocate \$2000 for reward money in a specific fund for a PCLA Neighborhood Watch Program as outlined above and to cover the cost of printing up to 500-1000 stickers for this. A short discussion took place regarding the cost of the stickers and the ongoing funding of this if reward money was ever paid out. **PASSED** unanimously.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (Jerry Peck): The terms of Bill Swenson, Betsey McKinney, and Jerry Peck are done. Bill Swenson has agreed to serve another term. The committee recommends the appointment of Bill Swenson, Ed Brunner, and Howard Lehman. A nomination from the floor was made by Julie Mellum for Alice O’Connor who declined.

MOTION by Jerry Peck and seconded to appoint Bill Swenson, Ed Brunner, and Howard Lehman to serve on the board. **PASSED** unanimously.

ANNUAL DUES: Eddie Wangenstein reported on the recommendation from the Board of Directors to keep the annual membership dues at \$15.

MOTION by Jim Swenson and seconded to keep the annual membership dues at \$15. **PASSED** unanimously.

QUESTIONS/IDEAS/CONCERNS FROM THE MEMBERSHIP:

To better enjoy the beautiful night skies, there was an appeal to avoid open lights shining out over the lakes at night. Information only.

There is new legislation requiring the DNR to perform an economic impact analysis of NR115. Information only.

There have been questions on the different mill rates for Delta and Iron River. A handout on the mill rates for the various local school districts was distributed. Information only.

There is concern that the islands, especially in Millescent but also in Hart, are getting smaller. Information only.

It was suggested making some sort of Pike Chain t-shirt. No action or discussion taken at this time.

The Twin Bear Campground is under new management and they seem to be doing a good job. The grounds are well groomed. Information only.

There was a request to increase the amplification for the hard of hearing for future meetings.

MOTION by Jim Swenson and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 10:19 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kris Sandager, Secretary