

MINUTES—MINONG TOWN LAKES COMMITTEE MEETING MAY 14, 2012

New Mailing Address: P.O. Box 99; Minong, Wi.

Members present: Laurie Johnson, Russ and Barb Robinson, Al Angen, Bob Henricks, Pam Toshner, Sam Lewis, Keith and Judy Leary, John Ney, Lisa Burns, Kate Zimmerman, Ron Brown, Tony Tubbs, Don Olson

Laurie called the meeting to order at 9:00. She passed around the committee membership list and asked people to make any needed changes.

Next, Russ described the meandering surveys done by Matt Berg of 5 town lakes done last year and displayed one set of results. No exotic species were found in any of the lakes. All of the lakes appear to have healthy water and a very good variety of aquatic vegetation. The survey data will serve as a good baseline for future studies so we can see if there is any deterioration of lake quality. Matt determined, from the species present, that the lakes all had a high or reasonably high FQI (floristic quality index) when compared to other Northern Wisconsin lakes. The FQI for our five lakes ranged from 39.8-49 when the local average is 24.3. In three lakes strands of *littorella*, a rare species, were found. This is a first for Washburn County. (*Results and comparison chart were presented by Russ at the 7:00 May 14 Town Board meeting.*) The final portion of the grant we used to do the study is still forthcoming from the DNR. Pam will try to locate similar data for Lake Nancy and Gilmore data can also be added so we will have the main lakes all on the spreadsheet.

The next agenda item was a final accounting for the Lake Fair last summer. All money has been received from the DNR. We cleared about \$400 in spite of the terrible weather at the start of the fair which did cost \$450 in tent damage. Henson's took back some of the food, and we sold some. Tony reported that our bank balance has \$708 in it, but soon we should have about \$2k due to money still outstanding. The Bank of the West is now charging a \$5 monthly fee. People encouraged Tony to look for alternatives.

John Haack, Pamela and others developed a Lakes Trivia game which is available for \$15. If you want one, see Tony or visit <http://learningstore.uwex.edu>.

A new Minong Area Chamber of Commerce has been created, and they approached us to see if we would join. After discussion we voted to approve a one year \$40 membership to see how it works. We discussed the possibility of having an information booth at Minong Summer Days, but no decision was made. *Unfortunately, there is also a possibility that Minong Summer Days may cease to exist.* Potential benefits to membership are name recognition, cooperation with the village, and possible help with solicitation of funds. The chamber meets monthly, and Tony has been going. The Village is trying to improve upon its' image (which is not good). They have a website but no employees.

Sam described the Loon Ranger program. There are rangers on Horseshoe, the Flowage and Nancy. The duties of a ranger are to track loon presence throughout the year and make a report to Loon Watch which is located in the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute at Ashland College. Loon rangers will be trained. Other lakes were encouraged to see if anyone wanted to volunteer to be a ranger. Laurie described a very positive experience they had on Horseshoe with the ranger saving a loon.

Bob Holman from Horseshoe wants to know if there would be any interest in a golf tournament to act as a money raiser for the committee. FORWARD NAMES OF GOLFERS TO LAURIE WHO WILL GET THEM TO BOB.

The meeting then moved to a discussion of possible new projects for the committee. One option discussed was more mini-presentations like were given last summer across the county. Minong Township sessions were the best attended. Everyone seemed to favor the idea but felt that sessions should either be aimed at youth or have a youthful appeal. Another idea was to seek a grant in conjunction with North Star Charter School for a kid's science curriculum. We will contact Jane Malischke to see if a school can apply for a grant, or would the committee need to be the sponsoring agency.

Further discussion centered around one of the original ideas the committee had which was to have a township-wide CBCW program. That idea didn't go far in the past since some lakes were already doing monitoring on their own and the town was not interested in helping by sponsoring a "coordinator." It might now be possible to tackle this idea again. Several committee members expressed the thought that they felt this should be a high priority. Pam described a possible new "easy" system the DNR could have the CBCW which would allocated up to \$4k per landing for monitoring. Laurie will organize possible project ideas and ask committee members to rate them prior to our next meeting.

Saturday 6/9 is Lisa's AIS workshop at the Spooner Ag. Station. All are invited.

Barb gave an update on the MTLC brochure. We felt that the town should be the contact listed on the brochure. That way it becomes more "timeless." We felt that the committee chair and treasurer should decide how much to spend. Barb will seek some estimates.

The next meeting date was set for Monday, June 4 at 9:00-11:00 in the town hall.

Respectfully submitted, Sam Lewis, secretary