

Minutes

Initial Meeting of the Minong Town Lake Committee

May 5, 2008, 3p.m.

Home of Russ Robinson (Gilmore Lake)

Present: Russ Robinson and John Ney – Gilmore Lake; Pete Miller and Tony Tubbs – Kimball Lake; Doug Bush and Ron Brown – Minong Flowage; Sam Lewis and Kate Zimmerman – Nancy Lake; Don Johnson – Pokegama Lake; Lisa Gabriel – Washburn County AIS Coordinator. **Absent:** Tim Poucher – Horseshoe Lake.

The meeting adhered (mostly) to the agenda provided by Sam Lewis. Following self-introductions, Sam Lewis agreed to act as chairperson with Doug Bush and Kate Zimmerman as co vice-chairpeople. John Ney agreed to take the minutes for this meeting.

Russ Robinson and John Ney reviewed the history, ecology and hydrology of Gilmore Lake. The era of resorts has been supplanted by private residences, mostly used as seasonal homes. Gilmore Lake is drought resistant, but prone to high water when the Totogatic River floods. An EWM boat inspection and monitoring program is in its second year; no EWM has been found so far. Concerns for AIS and other threats has stimulated the Gilmore Lake Association and increased membership to ~ 100 of 140 property owners. Water quality is good, fish are jumping, and the popples are high.

Russ and Tony Tubbs will review the draft MTLC charter, and Ron Brown and Kate Zimmerman will do the same with the draft by-laws. They will report their recommendations at the June meeting.

Sam Lewis is a director of the Wisconsin Association of Lakes (WAL). He urged: 1) attendance at the Northwest Wisconsin Lake Conference at Cable in June (handout); 2) membership of lake associations in WAL; and 3) purchase of WAL raffle tickets (handout).

Liability insurance for lake associations was discussed and generally considered a prudent investment. Costs range from <\$200-\$500/yr.

The issue of membership in the MTLC was considered. Should it be expanded to include interested parties not resident on town lakes? The Wisconsin Public Trust Doctrine (handout) puts public use ahead of private use. Concern was expressed that the Committee could grow too large to be effective. Sam Lewis will place a notice in the *Northwoods Shopper* about the MTLC and how to contact it with issues and/or concerns.

A wide-ranging discussion of concerns about town lakes followed. Major points:

1. The MTLC won't take local (e.g. one lot) zoning/development issues to the town – that is the province of each lake association. However, large-scale developments (e.g., subdivisions) might be fair game. To be determined as cases arise.
2. Education was seen as a top priority – not just the lakes but their watersheds. How to deliver that education is problematic. Tony noted that John Haack, UW-X in Spooner, is great on educational delivery. Lisa Gabriel suggested writing publicity releases. The MTLC might wish to refer educational content and delivery to a steering committee.

3. Tony Tubbs voiced concern about short-term leases of vacation homes. This is a growing business, and rentals to groups of party-oriented folks can be disruptive to other lake users. Better regulation may be needed.

4. Priority concerns were generally agreed upon:

AIS

Water Quality

Shoreline Preservation

Education

The next step will be to finalize the charter and by-laws and flesh out priorities. Future meetings will be held 3-5p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month throughout the summer. The next meeting will be June 4 at Tony Tubbs on Kimball Lake (directions to follow). Kate Zimmerman will host in July on Nancy Lake, Doug Bush in August on the Minong Flowage, and Don Johnson in September on Pokagama Lake.

Lisa Gabriel stated that she would be doing CBCW inspections at the county park landing on the Minong Flowage on weekdays starting the end of May. This could provide an opportunity for training of prospective boat inspectors Lisa can be reached at:

lgabriel@co.washburn.wi.us or 715-468-4654.

The meeting adjourned at ~ 5 p.m.