

Iron River Pike Chain of Lakes Association, Inc. (PCLA)
2014 Annual General Meeting Minutes
Iron River Community Center
August 2, 2014 9 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Vice President Eddie Wangenstein.

WELCOME: (Eddie Wangenstein) Eddie welcomed all attending (85 individuals counted; 79 members and one visitor signed in). Board members and officers were introduced.

LOONWATCH PRESENTATION: Chris Emory, guest speaker from the LoonWatch Program of the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute/Northland College, gave a very informative and interesting presentation on loons and the LoonWatch Program. Many of us were surprised to learn that loons don't mate for life :(.

BUSINESS MEETING started at 10:00 a.m.

ACCEPTANCE/REVISIONS OF AGENDA: (Eddie Wangenstein) There were no revisions to the agenda.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: (Kristen Sandager) The August 3, 2014 General Meeting Minutes were accepted as written. If anyone is interested in writing an educational article or has photos for the newsletter please contact her.

TREASURER'S REPORT: (Eddie Wangenstein for Jay Kernan who was not able to attend the meeting today) The organization's finances and 2014 budget were reviewed using the handouts that Jay had prepared-see handouts. Most of what we spend is for EWM consulting, permits, and chemical applications (averaging \$35,00-\$50,000 annually) Without the grant money available now for this, we need dues and contributions to ramp up. We're in pretty good shape in the short term, but our cash won't cover many more years at the current or growing level of treatment.

2013 income was \$44,500.41 and expenses \$55,997.80 with a net deficit of \$11,497.39 with the deficit due primarily to the timing of the receipt of \$51,650.00 from the DNR grant in 2014 rather than 2013. 2013 dues and contributions totaled \$21,259 (154 members and of those approximately 125 contributed to lake management); apparel sales generated \$1697. As of 7/31/2014 projected cash balance after known disbursements/receipts is \$59,017.30.

2014 PCLA budget: total income \$76,250.00; total expenses \$44,450.00; Cash gain of \$31,800.00.

Thank you again to Rick Tuttle for donating his time to prepare our federal and state not for profit tax returns. **NO OBJECTIONS** to the treasurer's report as presented and written. **ACCEPTED.**

AUDIT REPORT: (Howard Lehman) The audit done by Greg Ogren and Howard for 1-1-2013 through 12-31-2013 showed that all transactions were accounted for and properly reflected. **NO OBJECTIONS** to the audit report-**ACCEPTED.**

GUEST SPEAKER Scot Eisenhauer, Chief of Police, Town of Iron River-Community Watch Program. No burglaries on the Pike Chain or Town of IR in 2013. He also encouraged signing up for the vacation check program through the department-forms available on PCLA website. IR police department also has a facebook page that he posts on daily.

QUESTION AND ANSWER WITH JEREMY BATES- Aquatic Invasive Species Project Coordinator of Bayfield County Land & Water Conservation Dept.- unable to make meeting.

NATURAL GAS (John Podlesny) Xcel has been approached about running a natural gas line around the Pike Chain. Approximately one million dollars from an investor(s) is needed upfront with a return of this to the investor in about 5 years. Use of natural gas may reduce heating costs by about two thirds and may also increase property values. Some furnaces would need some modifications. Information only.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Website: (Al Bochler) Thank you John for our wonderful website: www.pikechain.org. PCLA also is now on facebook: www.facebook.com/PikeChainofLakes-thank you Jane Swenson.

Water Quality: (Marth Oie) Overall, water quality is good with water clarity averaging 15-20 feet this year. Thank you to all committee volunteers. More volunteers are needed.

Clean Boat Clear Water (CBCW): (Karen Austin) This is tenth year of CBCW. This summer, biodegradable ice packs were given to fishers to use instead of ice. As we have requested, there is increased monitoring this summer at the town landing, targeting most used times. Overall there have been fewer boats on the lakes this year so far, probably because of poor weather earlier.

Fundraising: (Ed Brunner) No report. Pike Chain apparel was for sale during the meeting. PCLA had a booth at the Blueberry Festival again this summer.

Education: (Howard Lehman) Committees goals reviewed. Zebra mussels are our greatest fear and threat.

Adopt-a-Highway: (Julie Peck) 12 people participated in the pick up on 6/12/14 with 7 bags of trash picked up. A few members commented that they also pick up trash along this route when they are out walking.

AIS: (Al Bochler) Our original grant money for EWM treatment will be exhausted in 2014. We did not receive enough points for the grant that was applied for earlier this year. We will apply for future grants. 8.6 acres were treated this spring. Chemical treatments have been effective. The 5 year follow study as required in original grant done fall 2013 showed more variety of plants- the report is available on our website.

Fishery: (Howard Lehman) On Aug. 1, three board members (Al, Howard, Eddie) and Derek Ogle (year round resident on Eagle Lake) met with Scott Toshner, WI DNR about the fishery and the upcoming 5 year study/plan in which the Pike Chain is considered a "reference" lake as opposed to a "treatment" lake- a lake where new ideas to help fishery are tried out. When the 5 year plan is up, the reference lakes will also get the benefit of the study and receive the best solutions that were discovered in the treatment lakes. Scott understands the importance of a good and balanced fishery for people who live and fish on the Pike Chain. A fishery presentation by Scott at The Spot sometime in Sept. is in the works.

NEW BUSINESS

Membership dues: The BOD recommended raising membership dues to \$20.00 annually. **MOTION** by Ed Brunner and seconded to raise dues to \$20.00 annually. **PASSED.**

Nominating Committee: (Eddie Wangenstein) Committee members: Eddie and Greg Ogren. Bill Swenson resigned from his term in Sept. 2013 and the terms of Ed Brunner and Howard Lehman are done. Howard and Ed have agreed to serve another term. The committee recommends the appointment of Kari Wangenstein to the BOD. **NO OBJECTIONS -ACCEPTED.**

Thank you Bill Swenson for your many years of hard work and service!!!

Ideas/questions/recommendations from membership:

A member expressed concern about seaplanes landing on the Chain being a potential source of AIS especially zebra mussels. Most comments felt the best approach regarding this is to talk 1:1 with those involved. No action taken.

MOTION Jim Swenson and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.
Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Sandager, Secretary