

## **Minutes for Iron Pike Chain of Lakes Association (IRPCLA) Annual Meeting – August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

Attendance: Entire BOD was present. A total of 89 members were in attendance.

The meeting was called to order by Jay Johnson, President at 0905.

Welcome and opening comments by Amy Arneson Wangensteen and Paula Doty Millar.

New property owners the chain were welcomed and acknowledged. Every lake was represented by attendees except for Muskellunge and McCarry Lakes.

**President's Report** by Jay Johnson. We are in a strong financial position currently. Whole lake treatment for Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) will be more expensive (estimated \$25,000 per lake treated) and our lakes management plan update may cost \$40,000. All the volunteer work from people helping with mailings, stuffing envelopes, etc. is greatly appreciated.

**Treasurer Report** by John Coffey. Collections were down for 2020 due to COVID 19 and not meeting in person. For this year, 90 members have paid to date plus whatever comes in today with the meeting. Lake contributions have been about \$16,000 so far. We have expenses coming with the lakes management plan and future Eurasian Water Milfoil treatments using the more expensive herbicide ProcellaCOR™ EC. Combined checking and savings account balance is around \$184,000 currently.

**Secretary Report** by Tom Sandager. We didn't have an Annual Meeting last year due to COVID 19, so Board of Director (BOD) elections were not held. Terms were simply continued by the BOD for Howard Lehman and Jim Bender, who's terms would have ended in 2020. The BOD did meet June 2020 (combined virtual and in person) then again in January (virtual) and June (in person) of this year. Please send address changes, email updates to [TSandager@yahoo.com](mailto:TSandager@yahoo.com).

### **Committee reports**

- Audit committee – Mike Higgins and Joe Rapacz. Records are very thorough and everything checks out. We do have an IRS 990 form done each year too.
- Aquatic invasive species - AIS committee - Members include Al Bochler, Jay Johnson and Eddie Wangensteen, Joanne Bassett, John Westman, Fred Petroske, Carolyn Petroske and Barb Bochler.

We have been dealing with EWM since 2004. The last whole lake treatments were in 2017 (Buskey, Millicent, Hart and Twin Bear) then 2019 (Eagle and McCarry). No treatments this year. 2,4D resistance being noted so a newer agent called ProcellaCOR™ EC™ is what we'll probably be using but it's about 3 times more expensive versus 2,4,D. In addition to working better against EWM it

dissipates faster, which theoretically might mean that it could be even safer than 2,4-D for fish. It works similar to the 2,4-D and is what's called an "auxin". Auxin herbicides make the plants grow so fast that they die with very limited toxicity to humans and fish. It's anticipated that at least spot treatment will be needed in 2022. Onterra will be doing a fall survey that will determine 2022 treatment areas.

Since 2004, when we first started dealing with EWM, it's been found that hand pulling, cutting, boat traffic probably don't have much impact on EWM. If you have a bed of EWM and want to trim it to avoid driving your boat(s) through it, that's OK. EWM spreads mainly by fragmentation late in the summer and is not affected much by hand pulling, trimming or boat traffic.

In order to be eligible for grants from the DNR we are revising our management plan. This is being done with the help of Onterra, a consulting firm we have worked with since 2005. Part of the process is to get input from a lakes survey to property owners, campground users plus meetings with the [GLIFWC \(Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission\)](#) and the [Bad River Tribe](#) since the Pike Chain drains into the White River then goes through the Bad River reservation before emptying into Lake Superior. These discussions have gone well. A DRAFT of the management plan is viewable on the website. There is a fishery report in the Appendix.

Al Bochler has been very involved since the start filling out applications for grants from the DNR. His recollection is that we have received a total of ?? \$400K ?? (Al, can you update this number?) thus far. This has been a big help to our budget!

So far, we have not seen any Zebra mussels on the Pike Chain. Lake Superior has had these since 1988 and there is no effective treatment. It's extremely important that boat owners take precautions after putting their boat into Lake Superior or other infested waters (eg Mississippi River). Veliger larvae are microscopic young Zebra mussels and can live in any water retained by a boat (eg ballast tanks, livewells). Hot water, bleach, sunlight and drying surfaces out completely can kill Zebra mussels and veliger larvae. See links at the end of the report for more information.

- Education and Fisheries - Members are Al Bochler, Howard Lehman, Derek Ogle, Bill Swenson, Scott Bochler and Jay Johnson. See Open Discussion below.
- Fundraising and Membership – Jay Johnson. At this point we are in a strong financial position, so no big fundraiser is planned for this year. Since the cost of treating EWM with newer herbicides will go up in the future, we might need a fundraiser in the future.

## **New business**

- Approval of annual membership dues at \$20 was discussed and **unanimously passed**.
- A donated painting of the Pike Chain by Bonnie Fetzer (McCarry Lake) will be auctioned off at the Pine Point Party August 21<sup>st</sup> with the money going to the IRPCLA.
- Re-election of current board members who wish to continue for another term.
  - Mike Higgins (1<sup>st</sup> term ending 2021)
  - Jay Johnson (2<sup>nd</sup> term ending 2021)
  - Joe Rapacz (2<sup>nd</sup> term ending 2021)
  - Jim Bender (1<sup>st</sup> term ended 2020, but served another year and needs re-election to 2023 – 2 more years)
  - **All were re-elected by voice vote.**
- Election of new board members. Barb Beeksma and Kristina Sorenson are nominees. Thanks to outgoing board members!
  - **Barb and Kristina both unanimously approved by voice vote.**
  - Howard Lehman – 10 years served including 10<sup>th</sup> year due to COVID.
  - Deb Sharbonno – 9 years served.
  - Thanks to Deb and Howard for serving!
- Pike Chain of Lakes Party at Pine Point on August 21<sup>st</sup>. It's technically not a IRPCLA sponsored party but a nice way to meet your neighbors in a fun, relaxed atmosphere.
- Items from the floor
  - Saturday June 5<sup>th</sup>, North Point Drive to Twin Bear Lake were covered by the Highway Cleanup drive. Hoping to do another drive in early December. Another good way to get to know your neighbors.
  - The area under the bridge between Twin Bear and Eagle lakes is filling in and it was asked if this could be dug out or dredged by hand to make it deeper underneath the bridge for boats passing from Twin Bear to Eagle. Al Bochler noted that in the past he has communicated with the Army Corp of Engineers. Al that beavers are involved in the area of the bridge, so it's OK to dig out the sand.
- Fisheries Open Discussion
  - Jay Johnson noted that we've been a study control lake with the DNR so no stocking has been done for a number of years. Our time as a control lake is coming to an end.
  - Howard Lehman noted that the website has plenty of detail on this subject and is worth a look. The fisheries information is in the [Appendix of the Lakes Management Report DRAFT \(pp 95 to 103\)](#) on the [Iron River Pike Chain of Lakes Association \(IRPCLA\)](#) website. Walleye fishing has really declined in the Chain and is the current focus with respect to

fishing. Possible reasons might be overpopulation of bass (they eat the smaller walleyes under about 8 inches), limited spawning times, warming of the water perhaps and a decreased number of perch, which the walleye eat. Last survey showed only 1 walleye per acre. Total acreage for the chain is a little over 1000 acres for the Chain, so there are only about 1000 walleyes throughout the chain. 9600 walleyes about 8 to 9 inches in size will be stocked this fall. For a variety of reasons when stocking is done as little as 10% may survive. We don't know how many fish are taken each year from fishing. Spearing by the tribes took about 69 fish this year. There may be increased fishing pressure once word gets out that the Chain is being stocked. Catch and release would really help and allowly the newly stocked walleyes to mature and grow. Current regulations allow taking 3 fish under 14 inches. Estimated cost per fish for stocking is about \$12 per fish.

- Al noted that GLIFWC has been very professional and helpful to work with. Zach Lawson with the DNR has been working with us but has recently transferred to another DNR office and his position may take 6 or more months to be replaced locally. He's continued to work with us in addition to his new position. Bill Swenson, Jay Johnson and Derek Ogle have been active in attending meetings.
- Jay noted that about 69 walleyes were speared this year. They had also offered to do some stocking. DNR wants to stock all the same so that they can track it.
- Jay and Al noted that the panfish (eg Blue gills) population is large and that the 10 fish limit is probably.
- Gary Hagstrom questioned if we could get some help from our State of Wisconsin representatives could give us some political help in getting the fisheries biologist position filled and maybe also more restrictive fishing when it comes to walleyes so they have a better chance to grow before being fished out.

The meeting was adjourned 1025 am.

#### **Board Members 2020 to 2021**

Jay Johnson, President

Joe Rapacz, V President

John Coffey, Treasurer

Tom Sandager, Secretary

Jim Bender

Al Bochler

Jake Gress

Mike Higgins

Howard Lehman going off 2021.

Paula Doty Millar

Deb Sharbonno going off 2021.

Amy Arneson Wangenstein

## **New Board of Directors 2021 to 2022**

Jay Johnson, President  
Joe Rapacz, V President  
John Coffey, Treasurer  
Tom Sandager, Secretary  
Barb Beeksma  
Jim Bender  
Al Bochler  
Jake Gress  
Mike Higgins  
Paula Doty Millar  
Kristina Sorensen  
Amy Arneson Wangenstein

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Sandager, IRPCLA Secretary

### REFERENCES

[Bad River Tribe website.](#)

[Canadian Water Protection Act \(see pp 24-26 for decontamination methods for Zebra mussels\) with specifics w/r to concentrations and duration to kill Zebra mussels.](#)

[GLIFWC \(Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission\) website.](#)

[IRPCLA \(Iron River Pike Chain of Lakes Association\) website.](#)

[IRPCLA Pike Chain Lakes Management Plan DRAFT July 2021](#)

[IRPCLA Lakes Management Report Appendix DRAFT July 2021](#)

[US National Invasive Species Information - Zebra Mussel](#)

[US Forest Service boat cleaning recommendations with respect to Zebra mussels.](#)