

## **Sawyer County Lakes Forum**

### **Meeting Minutes**

3/18/2025 9:00am

Sawyer County Courthouse Assembly Room & Online

#### **1. Call Meeting to Order**

President Martin Hanson called the meeting to order at 9:00am.

Motion to approve the following agenda. All in favor, motion passes.

#### **2. Roll/Introductions**

1. Natalie Erler- Sawyer County AIS Coordinator
2. Mike Tietz- Blueberry Lake
3. Jean Accola- Little Sissabagama
4. Don Stover- Tiger Cat Flowage
5. Kurt Schroeder- COLA
6. Donna Carlson- Grindstone Lakes
7. Martin Hanson- Round Lakes
8. PJ Schaeffer- Osprey Lake
9. Dave Sievers- Osprey Lake
10. Lynne & Roger Amundson- Callahan/Mud Lakes
11. Mike Gardner- Chippewa Flowage

#### **3. Public Comment**

None

#### **4. Approval of February 18, 2025 Minutes**

Don Stover motioned to approve the minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Donna Carlson.

All in favor, motion passes.

#### **5. Election of Board Officers**

A. President: Martin Hanson elected 10/30/24

B. Vice-President: Jean Accola elected 10/30/24

C. Secretary: Still Vacant

D. Treasurer: Combined with President for now.

## **6. Treasurer Report**

Balance: \$473.00

Jean will be the second signer for checks. She and Martin will go to Frandsen Bank when she gets back.

12 paid lake association member fees so far with a few more anticipated.

## **7. Bylaw Changes Discussion**

Motion to adopt the bylaws with a change (underlined) to Article II, Section 1 "If there is more than one lake organization for a particular lake and a vote shall take place, the representative from the lake association that is a DNR qualified lake association, shall be the single voting member".

Approved by PJ, second by Jean. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passes.

Martin will post the new bylaws to the website.

## **8. Website Update**

### **A.) New Website**

i.) We exceeded the capacity for the current website, so Martin purchased a new website and he was able to get the old domain/URL back.

New website is [www.sawyercountylakesforum.org](http://www.sawyercountylakesforum.org)

Old website will remain for approx. 8 more months, but will have a notice to direct people to the new website. After the domain is expired in 8 months, the website will not exist anymore.

ii.) Working on responsiveness for phone/tablet formatting

iii.) Looking for local lake pictures, or other local lake information. Send Martin your pictures/ideas for the website.

iv.) Microsoft is changing their subscriptions and policies, so we will use Google instead. It is free for non-profits. Hoping to have this done by the

next meeting. Payed members will have access to the Google Drive and all the financing or other sensitive information will be in a restricted folder only viewable by the Forum Officers/Directors.

## **9. Legislation Updates**

A.) Federal: None

B.) State

i.) Elevated Wakes-Draft Resolution Update

Jean talked to Kay Wilson, and Kay said that we already did this in 2023. There is a County Resolution on wake boats that the County Board approved, so she advised that we don't need to do it again at this point.

Post the letter that Jean was sent and gather information on which townships have ordinances to post on the website.

Don will write a one-page press release for the next meeting, so that we are getting the word out there on wake boats.

C.) County

1. Sawyer County

i.) Land, Water, and Forest Resources Committee (LWFRC): None

ii.) Zoning Committee: Definition of what is a camper cabin? Multi-dwelling Ad hoc committee discussions could impact shoreline zoning and therefore water quality.

iii.) Sawyer County: Calahan-Mud Lake Lake District Update:

The LWFRC passed a resolution with recommended approval to form a lake district with no changes to the original boundaries. The County Board has a meeting on 3/20/25 where they will hopefully make a final decision. If no decision is made at the March meeting, they need to decide at the April meeting.

## D.) Town

### i.) Town of Round Lake

There is a failing dam on the Mosquito Brook Flowage. The DNR determined it was abandoned and will remove it. There is a potential developer that wants to buy this land, but the town would like to put it into an easement.

## 10. Lake Reports

COLA: Grants were approved. (Commenting on earlier discussions on EWM removal) DASH did not work well for them. They are going to hire a group to run the Eco Harvester instead of having volunteers run it. They had filed a lawsuit against one of the cranberry operators on the lake but a judge dismissed the case saying the water that is being discharged is irrigation water (which is allowed to be discharged). No further action can be taken on this. They cannot use ProcellaCor because of the cranberry operations.

Little Sissabagama: They are getting the equipment ready for the CLMN AIS Monitoring program. Water is still low.

Tiger Cat Flowage: Failed to get a permit from the DNR to treat the EWM using ProcellaCor. They have an important meeting on 3/20/25 to discuss with the DNR on this issue.

Blueberry: Focused on member education. Over the last few years, they have seen an increase in plant growth because they have shallow and clear water. They have a few wake boats on the lake and have seen a lot more recreational activities since COVID. It is very hard to enforce wake boat regulations.

Grindstone: Watching the ice disappear. Continuing to carry out grants and working on invasive species control in Little Grindstone. I-LIDS (cameras at the boat landings) are very effective. Donna is attending the Lakes & Rivers Convention.

Round: Were awarded all 4 grants this year. They had to self-fund last year. They've used all the tricks in the toolbox for EWM control like 24-D, ProcellaCor, DASH, hand pulling, and an Eco Harvester demo. They are exploring becoming a lake district. Are trying to find a way to monitor lake levels remotely.

Osprey: GLIFWC is against ProcellaCor. Offered to help the Tiger Cat Flowage and they have a planning grant to update their Aquatic Plant Management Plan.

Callahan/Mud: Haven't treated the EWM in 2 years. They finally got a grant this year for treatment. Questioning disposal options for DASH.

Chippewa Flowage: Have 4 grants and are also updating their aquatic plant management plan. They monitor EWM annually. They are looking for Purple Loosestrife beetles. Want to do more education.

## **11. Northwest Lakes Conference**

Save the Date! Friday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at the Hayward High School

Sponsorship cost is \$100. Booth fee is \$20. Motion to approve the \$120 amount for sponsorship and a booth at the conference by Kurt. Second by Mike Gardner. All in favor, motion passes.

## **12. Sawyer County Lakes Forum Annual Meeting**

A.) Formalize organizing committee

Linda Zillmer, Don Stover, & Mike Gardner volunteered to be on the committee. Send them any ideas you have. They will touch base with each other.

## **13. Future Agenda Items**

Report from Donna about the Lakes & Rivers Conventions

Draft press release for elevated wakes

Town of Round Lake is no longer doing an AIS Education Day. The Round Lake Property Owners Association had given them \$100 to help cover costs. There is now \$100 up for grabs for an educational event. We could use this for our annual meeting. There just needs to be an AIS education component. Open to the public.

## **14. Next Meeting Date**

Tuesday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at 9am. Online and Sawyer County Courthouse Assembly Room

Meeting adjourned at 10:26am.

### RESOLUTION ON ENHANCED WAKE REGULATIONS

**WHEREAS:** the lakes of Sawyer County, Wisconsin are integral to the recreational base of the economy in Sawyer County.

**AND WHEREAS:** Legislation has been proposed to regulate wakesurfing and wakeboarding,

**AND WHEREAS:** the legislation as currently written fails to set minimum standards for the protection of private property, public safety and enjoyment, and aquatic environments,

**AND WHEREAS:** several towns in Sawyer County have already set standards that use evidence from aquatic and engineering studies which protect shorelines of lakes in Sawyer County from erosion by these enhanced wakes,

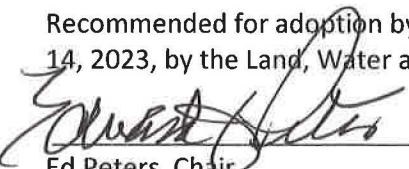
**AND WHEREAS:** the legislation fails to include a standard related to wake depth that would protect water quality in lakes from scouring by enhanced wakes,

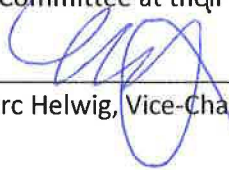
**AND WHEREAS:** The legislation repeats standards already in place in other statutes,

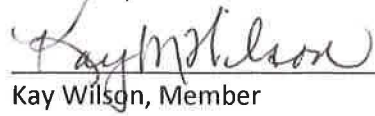
**THEREFORE,** be it resolved that the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors does recommend that the Wisconsin Legislature engage in meaningful discussions to pass standards that balance the right of everyone to recreate on waters of the State of Wisconsin, by affirming that;

Wisconsin's local governments deserve local control to set their own standards beyond state minimums, of at least 700 feet from the shore, and to prohibit enhanced wake creation in waters shallower than at least 30 feet in depth.

Recommended for adoption by the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors at its meeting on November 14, 2023, by the Land, Water and Forest Resources Committee at their November 8, 2023 meeting.

  
Ed Peters, Chair

  
Marc Helwig, Vice-Chair

  
Kay Wilson, Member

  
Brian Bisonette, Member

  
Jason Weaver, Member

  
Kevin Sheptick, Member

This Resolution is hereby adopted by the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors 14<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2023.

  
Tweed Shuman, Sawyer County Board of Supervisors

  
Lynn Fitch, County Clerk