

**LAKE WAUSAU ASSOCIATION
SPECIAL MEMBER MEETING
March 22, 2011**

A special meeting of the Lake Wausau Association Members was held at Howard Johnson's in Wausau, Wisconsin, on March 22, 2011 at 6:00 pm.

Special Meeting
3/22/11

The meeting was called to order and presided over by Bill Goetz, President of the Board. The following Directors were present: Bill Goetz, Theresa Graveen, Russ Graveen, Rick Parkin, Holly Kohl, Jim Nauta, and Dave Dalum. Also in attendance were approximately 45 other members. The following Directors were absent: Nathan Birchler, Kathy Beatty, and Travis Wistrom.

Call to Order

Mr. Goetz announced Scott Provost of the DNR was in attendance to give a presentation on the Wisconsin River and Lake Wausau. This presentation is the highlight of the special meeting and was previously presented to the Rib Mountain Business Association and the Town of Rib Mountain. Subsequent to Mr. Provost's 20 minute presentation, the floor would be open to Members for Question & Answers.

Scott Provost,
DNR Rep

Mr. Goetz announced the Lake Cleanup Project on March 6th, organized by the Board in an effort to remove garbage and debris before the melting of the ice, was a success. There was a great response to the Cleanup Project and Mr. Goetz personally walked around the lake and noted no trash left behind on the Lake. Mr. Goetz thanked Veolia for the donation of the dumpster located at Rookery Park. The Association plans to hold the clean up again next year.

Lake Cleanup
Project

Mr. Goetz announced the executive board is currently reviewing the Association By-Laws for amendments to match requirements of the DNR for purposes of qualifying for grants for clean up or activities that DNR will be involved in. Attorney Jim Low has volunteered to assist us with any changes to the by-laws. The only noted change at this time is to the Membership definition and voting rights which will be modified to allow all members equal voting rights. Within the next 30 days, voting ballots will be sent to all members explaining the change and asking for votes on the change. After being voted in, the by-laws will be amended so we can begin applying for available grants to aid in the cleanup weed and algae growth.

By-Law Changes

Mr. Goetz announced the Association is currently developing a website for Members to stay connected. Currently, Mr. Goetz is using his business website to communicate Association information (www.outdoor-exchange.net). The domain for the Association's website under construction is www.lakewausau.org and is expected to be available for viewers in the next couple of weeks.

Website

Mr. Goetz announced we are in the process of creating a quarterly newsletter that will be mailed out to members. The newsletter will include meeting minutes from the executive board meetings, scheduled events, information regarding algae and weed clean up, and other Lake information, and goals of the Association including increasing membership, seeking volunteers for committee positions, and other initial projects of the Association. Our Vice President, Nathan Birchler, is looking at records of past Association projects to determine which projects should be reopened or continued by the Association.

Newsletter

Mr. Goetz introduced Mr. Scott Provost from the DNR who presented on Lake Wausau and the history of the Wisconsin River, as well as how we got to where we are now and what will happen in the future. Mr. Provost shared information regarding nutrient (or phosphorus) loads in our Lake water and the contributing sources of those nutrients. Phosphorus is abundantly present... it's all over agricultural land, our streets, the entire city... everywhere. Mr. Provost described various point sources and non-point sources of phosphorus and how difficult it is to manage. He explained the more nutrients in the water, the more plant and algae growth there is (1 pound of phosphorus results in 500 pounds of algae). Fish are not found in algae dominated areas, and too much algae can be toxic. The fewer nutrients in the water, the less plant and algae growth there is. Accordingly, there must be a balance of nutrients to maintain the desired balance of plant growth. The balance of nutrients is affected by weather conditions (i.e., rain, early snow melts, storms that contribute to the run-off into our river system) and development (i.e., changes in root systems in the shorelines that affects the amount of phosphorus being taken out of our river system). Mr. Provost explained that a long-term plan to maintain a good balance must be implemented and the DNR has grant funds available to help with the implementation of Aquatic Plant Management (APM) options. The DNR will pay up to 75% of one of these plans, and 25% can come back in a match of in-kind services. A written plan to address APM is required. Mr. Provost explained the appropriate steps involved in this process are 1) form a lake group or association, 2) obtain a Habitat Aquatic Plant Survey (HAPS), 3) develop an APM plan (can use a consultant, the county, or many others who are willing to work with us), 4) develop interest in "Total Maximum Daily Load" (TMDL) which is a long-term study done by the DNR to pinpoint where impairments to our Lake water is coming from, and 5) support implementation and execution of TMDL (public citizens must do this). In implementing TMDL, he suggests building alliances with rivers downstream because if our Lake is clean, theirs will be clean as well (we must think in terms of the river system). Lake Wausau Association and community citizens should educate others about lake issues and how to control and reduce the amounts of phosphorus entering our Lake. Mr. Provost explained the grant deadline for projects in 2011 is August 1st. Mr. Provost also mentioned that concerns regarding algae in the water or the quality of the water should be called into the Health Department, which triggers DNR testing. For storm and sewer re-routing matters or concerns, calls should be made to the City of Wausau. Mr. Provost explained that if debris or trees have fallen into the water and is causing a hazard it can be removed; however, the DNR will not come out to remove.

Scott Provost,
DNR Rep
Presentation

Mr. Goetz announced his closing remarks related to an upcoming Lake Cleanup effort which the Association will be a part of. Further information will be available on that project. The Board will provide information to members about changes to the By-Laws so we can apply for the grants that are available. Mr. Goetz also mentioned he will start working with the DNR to determine whether we can still obtain an aquatic plant survey this year. He asked that anyone email us any concerns regarding the matters discussed during the meeting so we can begin to compile a list of matters to address. Email him directly at sales@outdoor-exchange.net or visit our website at www.lakewausau.org.

Closing remarks

Meeting adjourned at 7:20PM.

Adjournment