

Eagle River Chain of Lakes Association, Inc.
Annual Membership Meeting Minutes - UNAPPROVED
July 10, 2021 at 9:00 AM
Eagle Waters Restaurant, Eagle River, WI

Meeting called to order by Chuck Berg, President at 9:05 AM.

In attendance are 15 members on Zoom plus 43 members at the Restaurant. Quorum verified by the Secretary. List of attendees on file with the Secretary.

Chuck Berg, President welcomed everyone including those viewing on Zoom. He asked all to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. Then he introduced Mark Brenner, VP-Operations, who introduced the current Lake Captains and Co-Captains.

In his Year in Review remarks, Chuck Berg, President, reminded everyone of the Association's mission to protect the beauty and health of the chain and its safety. He thanked the members for their continued support and thanked the enthusiastic, hard-working volunteers for their involvement. Chuck highlighted the past year and presented an overview of the reports that would be given to the membership. 2021 has been a great year for ERCLA and we are excited about our future for our members and volunteers. We have over 50% of the Chain riparians as paid members and our goal is to grow that percentage. Our financial picture remains strong and we are proud of our financial management. We view our assets as protection against a time in the future when invasive species pose a threat to our chain and WI DNR grants might not be available to fund that fight. Finally, in terms of safety, ERCLA continues to financially support the Vilas County Sheriff's boat patrol and the Chain of Lakes Buoy program. We also began sponsoring a boat safety inspection program this year. Chuck shared a very special thank you to prior ERCLA Presidents and our present Directors-at-Large. Bill Lochte and Dave Tidmarsh who without their vision, foresight and passion, this organization would not be what it is today.

Teri Stecker, Secretary, presented the minutes from our 2020 Annual Membership meeting. A copy was handed out to attendees and was up on the screen for zoom participants. Dave Cyrtnus made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, but waive the reading, Michael Queoff, seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

Mark Brenner, VP-Operations presented the slate of Nominees for the 2021 Election of Directors process. The directors will serve a term of two (2) years and begin their term immediately after the election. The Nominees are: Michael Queoff, Cranberry Lake Captain; Marc Groth, Duck Lake Captain; Bill Krostue, Lynx Lake Captain; Dennis Burg, Scattering Rice Lake Captain; Aubrey Dalbec, Watersmeet Lake Captain; Chuck Berg, Director and Mark Brenner, Director. Mark asked for additional nominations from the floor and hearing none; declared the nomination process was closed.

Chuck Berg, President, asked for a vote in favor of all the nominees to raise their hand and keep them raised. The zoom participants were asked to use the "raise their hand" toggle. The vote in favor of all nominees passed unanimously.

Our program speaker, Catherine Higley was introduced by Chuck Berg, President. Cathy Higley works for Vilas County Land & Water Conservation as the Lake Conservation Specialist. She works closely with local lake organizations on aquatic invasive species issues, water quality, lake surveying, and the Healthy Lakes program. Cathy shared opportunities for riparian landowners to protect their shorelines. She offered us a virtual tour of several practices already installed in Vilas County that address common shoreland erosion concerns. These programs protect surface water quality by installing practices to keep runoff, including phosphorus, out of lakes; protect shorelines from erosion; and improve habitat for wildlife and fish. Common practices include rain gardens, native plantings, fish sticks, water bars or diversions, water infiltration pits or french drains and riprap. Many of these practices are simple enough to be "do it yourself" type projects.

Vilas County Land & Water staff can create individual site plans for installing these practices for landowners and can also help landowners access funds and/or technical assistance through the DNR's Healthy Lakes program and Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection cost sharing programs. For detailed information refer to this website: <https://healthylakeswi.com/best-practices/> and a new PDF file from Vilas County Land & Water Conservation Department: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1IODL7UhhkQ5q2vryCeKF29HjdnVt8JmE/view?usp=drivesdk>

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Lakes & Shoreline Committee report presented by Dave Mueller, AIS Coordinator. We are in the monitoring and maintenance phase in our battle with EWM (Eurasian Water Milfoil). For the past 5 years we have managed growth areas through Hand Harvesting. 9 acres were hand harvested by D.A.S.H, LLC. Since 2007, our Lake Management Consultant has been Onterra LLC. In their early summer 2021 survey, a total of 30 acres was found to have EWM growth. The early season is viewed as the best time for harvesting due to water visibility. EWM Acreage in Cranberry, Catfish and Yellow Birch were Hand Harvested in 2021. Cost for this work is approximately \$2,000 per day. In early September our Peak Season Biomass survey will be completed. Regular Chemistry testing is done on Watersmeet, Cranberry and Otter to monitor and manage phosphorus and all other chemicals and nutrients. Recently, ULERCLC (Unified Lower Eagle River Chain of Lakes Commission) invoiced ERCLA \$9,135. for their portion of the AIS management work. This expense will appear in our third quarter project results. More information will follow soon on our Shoreline Restoration & Healthy Lakes initiative and partnership with Vilas County. Regularly check our Website and Facebook page for updates.

Financial Committee Report by Dave Cyrtmus, Treasurer and Chuck Berg, President. A copy of the financial report was handed out to attendees and shared on screen with all Zoom participants. All financial indicators are positive. Both assets and equity are up per the Balance Sheet comparison between mid year 2020 and 2021. Per the Profit and Loss Report, our total income is up due to a push for dues payments to be paid earlier in the year. You will see under our Administrative cost, the increase in our Communication expenses, is also due to the earlier efforts and timing. We expect this to stabilize in the third quarter. The large credit under projects in 2020, is the WI DNR grant we obtained for our 2019 expenses. Our project expenses are typically incurred in the third and fourth quarters. It is important to note, we contracted with Reach & Schwaiger, CPA's to conduct a 2020 Financial Compilation report while also preparing our tax filings. We will continue to utilize them going forward. Teri Stecker made a motion to approve the financial report as presented; Bill Lochte seconded. The vote to approve was unanimous.

Membership report by Mark Brenner, VP-Operations. A mid-year membership report was handed out to attendees and on screen for Zoom participants. When you see Eagle Waste (now Republic) thank them for being an ERCLA Donor. They place, empty and pick up our Pink Bucket waste receptacles, at each of the public boat landings. Looking at the membership report, when we compare 2020 total paid memberships of 406 versus 2021 total of 855 you will see the results of our concerted effort to receive dues earlier in the year. If you subtract the non-riparians from the database total, 50% of the waterfront property owners are ERCLA members. We keep a record of the type of mailing you respond to and use the positive methods in future mailings and communication efforts. In 2020 we initiated the Credit Card pay plan with PayPal on our website, www.ERCLA.org. PayPal users account for 27% of our members. There is a fee for these services, but so far we are able to maintain this option without surcharging the system users because we save a substantial amount of time processing these types of payments.

Mark also reported on the Buoy program. ERCLA sends the Town of Washington a financial support of \$5,000 per year for our share of the maintenance and repair of 100 buoys on the chain. Each spring and fall we also physically assist the Town in placing and removing each buoy. The WI DNR provides specific GPS coordinates that we use. If you see buoy damage, misplaced or any concerns contact Mark directly at 815-298-8582 or thru our website's Contact Us page. Mark explained the rule on "no wake" buoy placement. If you can see the next no wake buoy, you must maintain a no wake speed. As soon as you cannot see the next no wake buoy, you are out of the zone and can increase your speed.

A participant asked if lights can be placed on the red and green channel markers? Mark stated the light & guard package is currently \$100 per buoy and he will have to check on the feasibility of lighting channel markers. We will run a Facebook post and a notice on our website on the "no wake" buoy rule. A participant shared that many of the pilings, equipment, signage and buoys from Cranberry Lake along the Eagle River channel to the Three Lakes Chain need repairs. The Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company maintains that stretch of water and we will contact them.

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Communications Committee Report by Marc Groth, Chairperson. Mark encourages all members and guests to view our Website regularly and follow our Facebook page, facebook.com/eagleriverchain. We have 9240 followers. Create a Contact file and save our email address erclaonline@gmail.com so you don't miss our communication notices. Consider using the online dues program. Besides the safety messages already mentioned by others, we have a boat safety flyer & map at dealerships, rental stores and at our brochure sponsor's locales. Our Bi-Annual Newsletter is now released in Spring and Fall, the next one in late October. It contains invaluable material and references and is also on our website. We are especially proud of our YOUTube Channel, and recommend the D.A.S.H diver underwater video of EWM removal and his interview. Our committee has discussed ERCLA boat decals and pier signage. We will re-evaluate the conversation at our next meeting.

Michael Queoff advised the membership of a new education and safety program with US Power Squadron, Central WI, Wausau chapter. Their certified vessel inspectors go through a boat safety checklist with you. There is no enforcement or fines, nor any information shared with local authorities. It is strictly for your education and safety purposes. If you pass the inspection, a decal is on your watercraft and is recognized by law enforcement. We need a minimum of 15 vessels in order to hold an inspection event next year.

Open forum provided for conversation and discussions on jet ski speeds, youthful operators, too many No Wake speed violators, large wakes by Wake Boat type watercraft and inside the 100' rule that damage piers, docks and shoreline, increased boat traffic compared to years past, rental property owners educating their renters on safety and respecting the use of non-motorized users such as kayakers, swimmers, etc.

Chuck Berg announced the next Annual Membership meeting will be Saturday, July 8, 2022 at 9:00 AM.

Motion to adjourn made by Bill Lochte and seconded by Gary Conger, motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:00AM

Minutes prepared by:
Teri Stecker, ERCLA Secretary