

Eagle River Chain of Lakes Association, Inc
Annual Membership Meeting Minutes - APPROVED
July 9, 2022 at Kalmar Center, Eagle River, WI

In attendance were 70 members of good standing with ERCLA; 1 Guest and three (3) Guest Speakers. A complete list of attendees are on file in the Secretary's official record of this event.

9:00 AM Chuck Berg, President, called the Meeting to order and quorum verified by Secretary
Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mark Brenner, Vice President-Operations introduced the current Board of Directors and current Lake Co-Captains.

Chuck Berg, President offered a Year in Review.

Teri Stecker, Secretary advised the approved minutes of past annual meetings are on our website at ercla.org. Visit the About Us page. The unapproved version of these minutes will be added to the website.. The 2021 Minutes are in your handouts for today's session. A motion was made and seconded by Marc Groth and Bill Morgan to waive the reading of 2021 Minutes and approve them as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Chuck Berg, President introduced our Speakers from the Vilas County Sheriff Department: Deputy Matt Wilson, School Resource Officer and Deputy Jason Molle, Recreational Officer.

They each gave a brief history of their personal backgrounds in law enforcement. The Sheriff's Boat Patrol strategy on the Chain focuses on Presence, Education, Safety, Warnings and when warranted, Citations. Most of their activity comes from no wake speed, jet ski operators not observing 100'-200' rules; safety issues with inexperienced drivers such as: number of accessible life jackets, passenger overload, passenger in unsafe position (laying on sundeck or sitting or standing outside pontoon seating area while under power) and drivers operating under the influence. 95% of Deputy Wilson's time is dedicated to the Eagle River Chain; the Sheriff Dept has another response boat for other lakes in the county. Their Question and Answer highlights: (1) Deputies have no issues or restrictions when responding to the Oneida County portion of the Chain, Mutual Aid pact is in place; (2) a lengthy discussion on the substantial differences in WI boating laws between the Lake system and the River system; (3) explanation on how the Sheriff's Boat Patrol is funded - 75% DNR funds and remaining 25% split among 5 entities - ERCLA, City of Eagle River, Towns of Cloverland, Lincoln and Washington; (4) Deputies recommend calling Dispatch #715-479-4441 to report careless or reckless operation. A deputy will follow-up with the party making the call. No written violation can occur from a phone call, but if identified, the offending party will be visited by a Deputy. If the careless action continues, it is recommended you report each incident to Dispatch for documentation; it allows for further action by the Sheriff Department.

Chuck Berg, President introduced our Healthy Lakes Series #2 Speaker, Eric Wegleitner, Senior Fisheries Biologist with the WI Department of Natural Resources. His presentation centered around Fish Sticks to improve Fish & Wildlife Habitat and as a Shoreland Preservation technique. Coarse woody habitat can be natural or unnatural (logging vs flooding). Carbon is a building block and wood starts the system. It offers food source, prevents sediment & erosion, acts as a fish refuge and promotes egg laying. Prefer 2' depth and avoid high use areas. Multiple trees are cabled together and to the shore. A DNR Waterway team operates out of the Rhinelander office. ERCLA representatives will work with Eric, and the local DNR office, in identifying areas on the chain for Fish Stick opportunities.

Mark Brenner, Nominating Committee Chairman, presented the membership with the 2022 Slate of Directors, to serve a two year term: Catfish Lake Captain-Gary Conger; Eagle Lake Captain-Greg Hendricks; Otter Lake Captain-Dave Mueller; Voyageur Lake Captain-Teri Stecker; Yellow Birch Lake Captain-George Katich and Director-Dave Cyrtmus. As there were no nominations from the floor, the nomination process was closed.

Chuck Berg, President, proceeded with the Election. A motion to elect all the directors as nominated was made and seconded by Bill Lochte and John Haunfelder. Motion carried unanimously.

Dave Mueller presented the Lakes and Shores report. Hand Harvesting of Eurasian Watermilfoil since 2016. DASH Aquatic Services from DePere treated 20 acres in 2022. 200 pounds of EWM was pulled from the chain in early season 2022. We are dependent on Mother Nature and heavy precipitation slows the growth of weeds with the increase of dark water. Less rain

Eagle River Chain of Lakes Association, Inc
Annual Membership Meeting Minutes - APPROVED

July 9, 2022 at Kalmar Center, Eagle River, WI

enhances growth of all weeds. Onterra is a contractor hired by Unified Lower Eagle River Chain of Lakes Commission (ULERCLC). Onterra conducts surveys and prepares lake management plans on the entire Eagle River Chain. Bill Marshall gave an update on Cranberry Island status. A visit to the island with representatives from Vilas County Forestry Land & Recreation, Vilas County Board of Supervisors, Town of Washington Supervisors, ERCLA representatives and a private landowner.

The tour resulted in actions to be taken by the County, such as remove the grill and fire ring, add signage, work on erosion, agreed the dock was in good condition and will have porta potty replaced. At the last County Board meeting a motion passed that the Island was not for sale.

Dave Cyrtmus, Treasurer presented the membership with 2021 year end financials and year to date 2022 balance sheet. An outside CPA firm prepared a Financial Review of 2021 fiscal year.

We received a clean report, no suggestions or corrections. A copy of their report is on file with the Treasurer. A motion to approve the financial report was made and seconded by Dave Mueller and Mark Brenner. Motion passed unanimously.

The Communication Committee Report was given by Marc Groth, outlining the responsibilities and activities the team of volunteers are working on. The Committee works closely with Swisher Communications for marketing, media releases, videos, facebook posts and website updates. Swisher also produces our bi-annual newsletters.

Mark Brenner stated the membership is at 866 thru 6 months in 2022. Compared with 928 at year end of 2021. We anticipate at least matching our 2021 number. A motion to approve the membership report was made and seconded by Jody Voight and Bill Krostue. Motion passed.

Mark further reported on the Pink Bucket program at all landings on the chain. Republic Waste donates their time to pick up the waste at each location.

Mark explained the role of ERCLA and the Town of Washington in maintaining the Buoys throughout the Chain. We donate funds for repair and replacement and assist in placing and removing the buoys each year. ERCLA and the Towns do not have authority to move buoys. WI DNR is the only entity with that authorization.

The Open Forum session included the topics of using PSA & media outlets to promote public safety on the waterways. Perhaps using Videos of Boat Patrol in action. A Reminder that a ban exists for feeding deer in Vilas and Oneida Counties and is punishable by a fine. DNR requires lake management plans every 10 years and ULERCLC will work with Onterra. ERCLA, in partnership with the City and 3 Townships, will be responsible for funding the plans. A Notice that Wake Boat Enhancement concerns is a topic at the 6 County Conference hosted by Vilas County Lakes & Rivers Association in mid July. ERCLA representatives will attend.

Motion made and seconded by Bill Lochte and Bill Marshall to adjourn meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:20 AM.

Minutes prepared by
Teri Stecker, ERCLA Secretary