

Unified Lower Eagle River Chain of Lakes Commission
Meeting Minutes

February 15, 2024

Meeting called to order by Ron Kressin at 1:02PM at the Eagle River City Hall.

All in attendance stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Verification of posting and approval to follow the agenda in any order. Motion by Bill Lochte and seconded by Carole Linn. All voting ayes. Motion approved.

Ron Kressin asked for a roll call and introductions. Commission members in attendance - Francine Gough, Cloverland Township; Ron Kressin, City of Eagle River; Carole Linn, Washington Township; and Bill Lochte, Lincoln Township.

Also in attendance:

Dave Mueller, Commission Treasurer and ERCLA AIS Coordinator; Marc Groth, Commission Secretary and ERCLA Shoreline Restoration Chair; Bill Marshall, Lincoln Township Supervisor; Steve Skora, Catfish Lake Co-captain, Cathy Higley, Vilas County Land and Water Conservation Department.

Motion made by Bill Lochte to approve the minutes of the November 16, 2023. Motion seconded by Carole Linn. All voting ayes. Motion passes.

ULERCLC Commission Business:

Treasurer report by Dave Mueller.

The books are closed for year 2023. ULERCLC has a balance of \$27,144.13. Outstanding obligations are a small refund to ERCLA of \$187.52 and Onterra LLC 2023 remaining is \$2266.25. We have a small receivable from Cloverland Township of \$148.55.

Motion to accept the Treasurer Report by Bill Lochte; motion seconded by Carole Linn. All voting ayes. Motion passed.

2024 Project Summary

Dave Mueller submitted a request to the DNR for 25% of the original grant amount of \$112,707.40. The DNR policy for additional funds is now 15%, so we did get an additional 15% of \$16,906.11. Therefore, we have enough in our treasury to handle the 2024 projects.

Grant funds remaining are \$2457.32. Add the \$16,906.11 to this amount for a total of \$19,363.43.

Total treasury amount is \$24,838.91. Add the \$16,906.11 equals \$41,745.02.

Add that total with the incoming funds from ERCLA, the City of Eagle River and the three townships allows for adequate funds for 2024. Invoices are sent to the City of Eagle

River and the three townships after we receive our final costs from Onterra and DASH LLC. The existing DNR grant expires on 12/31/24.

The ER Chain is due for an aquatic plant management update. ERCLA will apply for the planning grant in the fall of 2024. Estimated cost for the planning grant is \$50,000. Surveys will start in the spring of 2025 with riparians and non-riparians. Feedback from these surveys will be critical. A control grant will also be applied for in the fall of 2024 sponsored by the Commission. 67% of the expected cost will be covered by the grant if approved. The pre-application for both grants are due by 9/15/24 with the grant applications due by 11/15/24

Letters of support from local organizations and business entities with a small contribution for the EWM program will be advantageous in getting the grant approved.

Motion by Bill Lochte to approve the 2024 treatment plan with the correction of additional grant funds of \$28,176.85 to \$16,906.11; motion seconded by Carole Linn. All voting ayes. Motion passed.

Bill Lochte acknowledged the amazing work Dave Mueller does for the Commission.

Marc Groth informed the Commission that the DNR approved our Healthy Lakes Grant for two rain garden projects and one native planting project. The Healthy Lakes grant will help us when the DNR is ranking grants for approval.

Cathy Higley of the Vilas County Land and Water Conservation Dept. (VCLWCD) presented her upcoming projects on the ER Chain. VCLWCD has an agreement with their LTE for 36 hours CBCW on the Chain. Cathy is proposing a shoreline survey for the invasives knotweed and phragmites. They have a grant for a shoreline invasive survey for knotweed and phragmites. Knotweed has been identified on the Eagle River. It is also ERCLA's intention to complete a shoreline invasive survey for yellow iris, yellow loosestrife, and purple loosestrife. Dave Mueller suggested ERCLA tie in their survey with the Vilas County Land and Water survey. ERCLA volunteers can execute the survey. Vilas County does the mapping and writes up a communication to the shoreline landowners. ERCLA agrees to help communicate to the landowners that the survey is coming this summer to alleviate any concerns of surveyors getting too close to their property. ERCLA and Vilas County Land and Water will meet to coordinate activities for the shoreline surveys including training by Vilas County Land and Water.

Letters and Communication: We received a letter from the DNR approving the additional funding of \$16,906.11.

Next meeting date: August 1, 2024, at 11:00 AM in the Eagle River City Hall.

Motion to adjourn by Bill Lochte at 2:05PM. Motion seconded by Carole Linn. All voting ayes. Motion to adjourn approved.