

Joint Rock Lake Committee



Meeting Minutes, May 2nd, 2017, 6-7:30 pm Room 231, City Hall, Lake Mills

Chairperson Wes Dawson called the meeting to order.

Board Members Present: Larry Clark, Wes Dawson, Bob Volenec, Glenn Zastrow & Stan Smoniewski

Others Present: Steve Fields-Lake Mills City Council, Pearl Wallace-DNR Warden, and Patricia Cicero-Jefferson County Land and Water Resource Conservationist. The agenda was accepted. The minutes for April were approved; Bob motioned and Larry seconded. Notice of the meeting was posted, and was published in the Lake Mills Leader.

Correspondence and Public Comment/Questions: none

Old Business:

- A. **Discuss differences in City and Town Lake ordinances:** Bob will send a letter to Councilman Fritch that summarizes our initial findings. The letter is attached at the end of these minutes.
- B. **Disability Kayak Launch:** No update.

New Business:

- A. **Election of Officers:** Glenn moved that Wes continue as Chair of the Committee, Bob as Vice-Chair, and Stan as Secretary. Larry seconded; passed unanimously.
- B. **Lake Levels:** In this discussion only agenda item, Glenn indicated that he has had comments about the low water level on the lake. Patricia recently checked the gauges by the dam and found that the new scale has a different numbering scale and the old scale is not well situated. She will contact the city to clarify the situation with the gauges. The city still plans on posting lake levels on it's website, but the data will be delayed by one week. As to Glenn's original comments, discussion centered on the lack of rain in April and that lake levels are already rising with the recent rains.

Reports:

- A. **Town:** not present
- B. **City:** Steve appreciates the updates from the committee.
- C. **County Staff Representative:** The Town and City received grants for the clean-boats-clean-waters (CBCW) program, which the Town will administer. Patricia is assisting with interviewing the applicants for the 3 to 4 summer positions that will work at the lake's launches. Patricia also mentioned the May 11th advisory meeting coming up, which will be the 8th meeting of this group working on the Lake Management plan. Topics that will be covered include institutions that have a regulatory interest in the lake; i.e. City, Town, RLIA, and our own Joint Committee. Patricia mentioned that the public survey is finalized and being prepared for mailing.
- D. **RLIA Update:** Stan reported that the Rock Lake Environmental Cleanup on 4/29 was a success with 56 individuals helping fill more than a dumpster with trash and garlic mustard. RLIA is now planning a Native Gardens tour in mid-July.

- E. **Lake Management Plan update:** Bob said the last Advisory meeting discussed water levels, past odor issues, and is recommending that the public have input into any changes recommended in the Sandy Beaches study.
- F. **WI Lakes Convention - Patricia, Stan and Wes:** These attendees to the 2017 Stevens Point Lakes Convention reported on the information they collected. Patricia also presented. This convention continues to be a wealth of information about the science, sociology, & politics of maintaining healthy lakes.
- G. As Pearl Wallace, DNR Warden was in attendance, she mentioned that the carp fishermen have been on the lake at night, and she has not received complaints about lights or noise as of this point.

Next meeting: June 6th, 6pm at City Hall.

Adjournment: Glenn motioned and Bob seconded.

April 20 2017

Dear Mr. Fritch

This letter is in response to the question you asked regarding the differences between the City's and the Town's ordinances pertaining to piers and watercraft after an annual report I gave at the city council meeting in March for the Joint Rock Lake Committee. We have done some research and this is a summary of our findings.

The Town of Lake Mills is in the process of updating their ordinance titled REGULATING PIERS, WHARVES, MOORING BUOYS, RAFTS AND INFLATABLES ON ROCK LAKE. As you are well aware of, more people are using the lakes recreational opportunities with newer, bigger and better rafts and watercraft than ever before. There is also an ordinance being updated for activities when the lake is covered by ice.

The City of Lake Mills in Title 7, Chapter 8 has REGULATION OF WATER TRAFFIC, BOATING AND WATER SPORTS UPON THE WATERS OF ROCK LAKE dated 4-20-93. Things have changed in 24 years. Piers are regulated in Title 10, Chapter 3B, THE LAKE RESIDENTIAL OVERLAY (LRO) DISTRICT. The concept here is to follow the State rules as set in Chapter 30 of the Wisconsin State Statutes. Perhaps the location of these 2 rules could be located together so a lake homeowner/lake user would have less difficulty finding and following them. There is nothing we have found covering ice activities, or vehicles that become submerged.

Reviewing these rules would be timely as the Town is currently doing the same. Coordination of rules for the 2 governing bodies would be helpful to both law enforcement and the public. Possible relocation of the lake rules to one location for piers, rafts and inflatables would make it more user friendly, and an Ice ordinance should be looked into for public safety and environmental integrity.

Thank you for asking and I hope this helps.

Respectfully,

Bob Volenec