

Meeting 6 –Waterways Association of Menominee & Shawano County (WAMSCO) Annual Meeting

Four Seasons Hotel

Airport Rd.

Shawano, WI

April 30, 2016

Attendees: (A sign-up sheet was available, all were encouraged to sign in)

Agenda: (Please see attached)

- 1) **Call to Order** Brenda opened the meeting at 9:07 AM and provided background, and a brief history of the organization
 - a) WAMSCO is not a government organization, it is a Citizen lead organization
 - b) Started 2 years ago with an invasive species meeting. Expanded to cover watershed related issues. Every Lake is a reflection of what happens around it.
 - c) Brenda noted that our Board of Directors has a diverse make-up, but that we are still seeking a representative from the Agricultural community
 - d) It was noted that WAMSCO is a potential support group for any waterway issues you are dealing with. It consists of neighbors helping neighbors.

- 2) **Shanda Hubertus** - President's comments
 - a) Introduction of the BoD (Shanda, Art, Mark, Jessica, Dennis, Ray H, Ray Z)
 - b) Review of the Purpose and Goals of the organization
 - c) Review of the Agenda and Handout, (Including the membership application)

- 3) **Scott Koehnke** WDNR Water Management Specialist – “Wisconsin Water Law 1787 to Present”
 - a) Scott reviewed his background and tenure with the WDNR
 - b) His presentation covered the following:
 - i) Relevant portions of the history of the Public Trust Doctrine which states that all navigable waters are held in the public trust. This doctrine had it's origins in the Northwest Ordinance of 1787
 - ii) He reviewed important case law including: The right of the public to fish, the right of the public to hunt, the right to scenic beauty, and the importance of enforcement
 - iii) He reviewed the history of shoreline zoning, it's continued evolution, and how such zoning impacts riparian landowners.
 - iv) Scott also answered a few FAQ's regarding the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM), the definition of a wetland, who owns lake bottom (state of Wisconsin) and river bottoms (riparian landowner), and where the riparian landowner's property rights end (when water depth is greater than 3 feet)
 - v) Scott concluded with a summary of current law regarding shoreline structures such as boathouses.

- 4) **Scott Frank** – WDNR Shawano County Conservationist – “Shawano County Shoreland restoration Program”
 - a) Scott reviewed several types of projects the Conservationist’s office gets involved in. These include: Education, Invasive species, Forestry, and Shoreline restoration
 - b) Scott provided an in depth recap of the Shoreland Restoration Project in Shawano County.
 - i) The initial grant was approved in 2014, with initial funding of \$110,000
 - ii) Cost sharing was at 50% of the project cost, with a maximum value of \$2500 / parcel
 - iii) He discussed the following successful projects:
 - (1) Whispering Pines demonstration project
 - (2) Cloverleaf Lakes restoration projects
 - (3) Long lake restoration project
 - c) Scott briefly reviewed the following other areas of potential partnering projects:
 - i) NCRS EQUIP \$
 - ii) The Nature Conservancy
 - iii) DNR Tree Planting Program
 - iv) AIS Boat landing Kiosks
 - v) Timber Invasives Partnership
 - vi) Scholarships for Youth Conservation Camp

- 5) **Brenda Nordin** – WDNR Lakes Biologist - Belle Plaine Sportsman’s Club, and Cloverleaf lakes – “Healthy Lakes Initiative Grant Program”
 - a) DNR Healthy lakes Initiatives are fundable up to \$25,000
 - b) Eligible entities are Associations, Lake Districts, etc. (as long as they have public access)
 - c) 33 Fish stick and 12 erosion control sites have been completed so far. “Fish Sticks” are habitat for fish turtles, and aquatic organisms which are constructed by purposefully submerging trees at the land-water boundary.
 - d) The Fish stick project on Gibson Island in Cloverleaf lakes was discussed
 - i) 25 acre island was purchased for \$1000000
 - ii) GPS mapping of the site was completed, and suitable sites were identified
 - iii) Trees were located and transported to target sites over the winter lake ice
 - e) Shoreline Remediation projects at Cloverleaf lakes were discussed.
 - i) 9 projects were completed in 2015, with more planned for 2016
 - ii) Project benefits, size (350 ft² minimum), and plant types were discussed along with photos of completed projects.
 - iii) Lisa Reis is an excellent resource for scoping, planning and executing these projects
 - iv) Brenda has grant applications available for 2017 projects.

- 6) **Brenda Nordin** – “Area Lakes Aquatic Management”
 - a) We now have 150 Lake-years of data to study when evaluating AIS issues
 - b) In 2003, the WDNR began a comprehensive review of the overall impact of AIS management efforts. Effectiveness varied dramatically from case to case.
 - c) Treatment history of local lakes was reviewed.
 - d) Key to success appears to be Integrated Pest Management (i.e. use of multiple tools as opposed to repeating use of a single method when results are unfavorable) one example is the use of a DASH unit to supplement herbicide treatments.

- e) The mode of action of various common herbicides was discussed (2,4 D, Endothall, Diquat, Floridone, Aquasrike.)
 - f) 2016 Treatment plans for various area lakes were also discussed.
 - i) Loon lake has issues with Hybrid milfoil which has been resistant to herbicide treatment, they will utilize Aquasrike (endothall & diquat) in 2016
 - ii) Cloverleaf lakes will use Floridone and a 6 bump 6 treatment protocol which involves 2 phased treatments
 - iii) Washington lake is also dealing with Hybrids
 - iv) Moshawquit and Legend Lake will not be treating in 2016 due to a lack of required approvals.
 - g) Integrated Pest Management is the key to success. Must carefully manage herbicide dosage to ensure sufficient concentrations to kill (not merely weaken) invasives while not injuring desirable native populations. (i.e. .6 ppm is too high, .15 ppm is too low, .4 ppm is about right)
 - h) When evaluating how to proceed, it is very helpful to have a comprehensive Lake Management Plan to use as a reference. WDNR can provide Planning Grants to assist in development of such plans.
- 7) **Shanda Hubertus** –“What do you want for WAMSCO??” Shanda led the discussion, feedback follows:
- a) Website should include the following
 - i) Grant money opportunities
 - ii) Links to key contacts with resource listing
 - iii) List of available resources
 - iv) A facebook page
 - v) Business members get free space on our website
 - vi) Volunteer opportunities
 - b) Any questions from lake Association meetings should be directed to the WAMSCO email address
- 8) Adjourn
- a) Shanda thanked our advisory members: Brenda, Scott H, Scott F, Andy H, and Jay M
 - b) Shanda asked all BoD members to check email for details of our next meeting
 - c) Scott F thanked BoD members and WAMSCO members for participation
 - d) Meeting was adjourned at noon.