



Lakes Committee Meeting Minutes

10/26/2023 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Lake County Division of Transportation

600 W. Winchester Rd.

Libertyville, IL 60048

1. Call to order

Alana Bartolai, Lakes Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:02.

2. Roll call

Anna Niedzinski, DRWW Coordinator performed role call. Members present: Alana Bartolai, Lake County Health Department (LCHD); Rob Flood, Northshore Water Reclamation District, Gages Lake Conservation Committee; Gerard Urbanozo, LCHD; Tom Morthorst, Village of Third Lake; and Nick Huber, Lake County Forest Preserve District.

Others present: Anna Niedzinski, Lake County Stormwater Management Commission; James Bland, EPS, Inc.; Brian Valleskey, Geosyntec Consultants; Mary Conley Eggert, Lake County Lake Lovers

3. Public Comment

Mary Conley Eggert, Lake County Lake Lovers, presented the mission statement of the group and its goals. They have nine (9) events planned for 2024; which will cover profiles, success stories, and a demonstration of bio-dredging. Eggert is in the process of compiling a database of lakes in Lake County and their representatives. They are looking to collaborate with the different groups to avoid a duplication of effort, and to share regional knowledge.

James Bland, EPS, Inc., presented a zebra mussel reduction method, and the success the application had in several lakes in Lake and Cook Counties. The most notable being Valley Low lake, where after a two year period of application the subsequent year there were no juveniles collected. Also noted was that microcystin species were located at several sites, with low toxin levels and no visible blooms, Bland advocated to set up a regular screening schedule regardless if algae blooms are present or not.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes

a. January 26, 2023 Lakes Committee Meeting Minutes

Motion by Flood, seconded by Huber to approve the January 26, 2023 Lakes Committee Meeting Minutes

AYES: Bartolai, Flood, Urbanozo, Huber

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Morthorst

Motion passed 4-0-1

b. July 27, 2023 Lake Committee Meeting Minutes

Motion by Morthorst, second by Huber to approve the July 27, 2023 Lake Committee Meeting Minutes

AYES: Bartolai, Flood, Urbanozo, Morthorst, Huber

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

Motion passed 5-0-0

5. Old Business

a. NARP Update

Bartolai reminded the committee that the final draft will be available for public comment by the end of the month.

6. New Business

a. Lakes Committee new member consideration: James Bland and Brian Valleskey

Motion by Flood, second by Morthorst, to make James Bland and Brian Valleskey members of DRWW Lakes Committee.

AYES: Bartolai, Flood, Urbanozo, Morthorst, Huber

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

Motion passed 5-0-0

b. DRWW Lake Education Discussion

Bartolai summarized education events that were planned and executed by DRWW and LCHD. There are plans to do a lakes management round table discussion on December 13th, 2023 for HOA groups.

Bartolai is looking for assistance from the group to promote the event.

c. Discussion of Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program Support Letter to IEPA

Bartolai opened the floor for discussion for writing a letter of support of the Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program which was disbanded in on 2019 by the Illinois EPA. Bland recommended that lake monitoring groups that were involved in the voluntary monitoring program be co-signatories on this letter of support. Per the by-laws a letter of support must be approved by the DRWW Executive Board before sending. It was then suggested that another organization like Illinois Lakes Management Association (ILMA) lobby the Illinois EPA, which they have in the past. It was agreed that the members should go to prospective groups to gather support and at the next meeting review a draft letter.

7. Member Comments

Morthorst inquired about the LCHD carp removal program. Lake county will continue the carp harvest in the upcoming year with eight (8) lakes in the watershed, there is a possibility of more harvests, but it is dependent on staff capacity.

Bland brought up two (2) items for future discussion; water quality standards for phosphorus and Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs).

8. Meeting Dates

Next Scheduled Lakes Committee Meeting: 10:00 AM January 25, 2024 at the Central Permit Facility
500 W. Winchester Road, Libertyville, Medium Conference Room, 2nd Floor

9. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Morthorst, seconded by Flood. Motion passed with unanimous vote, Bartolai adjourned the meeting at 11:11.