

**Van Vliet Lake Association  
Annual Meeting – July 5, 2010**

President Jeff Burke called the Van Vliet Lake Association annual meeting to order at 10:03 am. The following board members were in attendance: Jill Wilm, Vice President (& Howdy, Chairman of the Bone); Paul Specht, Treasurer; Mike Czarny, Member-At-Large; Ronie Jacobsen, Member-At-Large; Jorja Burke, Secretary; Tom Olson, Past President; George Kupfer, Member-At-Large and Steve Smithson, Member-At-Large. Also in attendance were Grace Alix, Ken Alix, Nick Andrew, Carl DeStefano, Dena Jersild, Steve & Nancy Frank, Pat Kupfer, Dick & Carol Novak, Dick Rowe, Bill & Diane Schroeder, Linda Smithson, Jim Sprester and Don Trimble.

Minutes of the July 3, 2009 annual meeting were unanimously approved with a motion by Ken, 2<sup>nd</sup> by George.

Treasurer's Report by Paul reflected fees to State of Wisconsin to continue non-profit status, annual dues paid for membership in two lake association groups and postage to notify members of elections and meetings. Copy on file. Motion to approve Treasurer's report by Tom, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Steve S. Motion passed.

**Committee Reports /Old Business:**

Ronie reported on Clean Boats/Clean Waters (CB/CW) activities during the past year. Included in her report is information about the inspection of the boat/trailer, procedure followed, VVLA progress in the process and training for volunteers. A copy is on file.

Jeff spoke to communication with Association members/property owners via e-mail as a replacement for hard mail. Those who wish to receive information in this manner should verify with Ronie that current e-mail addresses are on file. Members were assured that every security precaution would be taken to ensure protection of e-mail identity. In spite of costs involved, hard mail will continue to be sent to those not having e-mail available.

Mike presented an update on the Aquatic Plant Management Plan (APMP) progress for Van Vliet Lake. He discussed current status of the APMP, active goals, process and expectations. Mike also presented information re fishing enhancement activities. Citing a conversation with Steve Gilbert of the DNR, Mike related that the DNR is open to discussion re placement of fish cribs, however, habitat to increase population in Van Vliet Lake is not necessarily needed – with the diverse weed cover, VVL is perfect! Those wishing further details may contact Mike. Copy on file.

**Election of Officers:** Slate of officers as presented: President: Ronie Jacobsen, Secretary: Jorja Burke, Members-At-Large: George Kupfer and Mike Czarny. Motion to elect the candidates as presented by Bill Schroeder, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jill Wilm. Motion passed unanimously.

**Guest Speaker:** Nick Williams, Presque Isle Town Lakes Committee Co-Chair was introduced. Nick spoke to the creation of the PI Town Lakes Committee under a resolution approved by the town board in September 2005. He talked about PITLC's mission to learn about invasive species, apply for grant monies for projects, determine what is and is not in our lakes, to monitor the lakes to inform the public and should invasive species be found in any of our lakes to undertake treatment plans. Nick also listed accomplishments of PITLC including: Grants have been awarded for 29 lakes and 2 rivers being studied between 2006 and 2012; an education grant has been awarded for the construction of kiosks in several town and DNR landings within Presque Isle; children's education programs are conducted at area schools; committee members participate in Clean Boats/Clean Waters, application of labels containing invasives information to bait containers at local bait shops; maintain a booth as County Fair; Adopt a Shoreline programs on some lakes; publishing informational articles in local newspapers. A copy of Nick's information is on file.

**Possible sanitation facilities for landing:** It was brought to the attention of the Board that some people using the boat landing area leave human scat behind. Discussion ensued re the placement of a pit toilet in the landing area. In lieu of this, it was suggested that a sign be posted directing users to the closest public bathrooms at Big Lake Park, as an outbuilding at the small landing would be unsightly, have odors and be open to vandalism as occurred in Wilderness Park. Another member felt that eradication of spotted knapweed at the boat landing is a more pressing issue.

**Boat wash-down station demonstration:** Jeff reported that a demonstration would take place at the PI Town Lakes Committee's next meeting, July 13<sup>th</sup>. He invited any interested individuals to attend.

**Cooperative efforts for shoreline restoration with native plants:** Ronie offered a sign-up sheet for interested residents. She cited steep slopes, dying birch trees and beaver remodeling efforts as issues to consider for remediation. Jeff suggested Iron County Forestry Department's Heather Palmquist as a good resource person. She is located in Hurley. Plants through that facility may be purchased in quantity and are inexpensive, Contact Jeff for more information.

**Working in the Hemlocks:** Tom reported on conversations he's had with Tia Nelson, Secretary of the Board of Commission of Public Land, explaining the structure of the BCPL and the fragility of the Hemlock Forest tract adjacent to Van Vliet Lake. Declaring the forest a state natural area would protect it, but Tom said the cost is too high as the value of the land is so high. Another way to offer protection may be to develop a trail system for hiking. The area has a high profile within the state of Wisconsin and another department, the Bureau of Endangered Resources is also interested in protection of the area. Tom would like to see this tract of land preserved, as is, in perpetuity. He will continue to work toward this goal. Anyone interested in working on this project should contact Tom or any of the Board members.

**Quarry remediation:** Jeff offered information re the town's quarry site on Van Vliet Road. It has become a source of irritation for some in the area, with noise, ongoing truck traffic, and dust. A Carlin Lake resident would like to form a remediation committee to address this. Both the County and the State have quarry remediation laws on the books. Don asked if the quarry could be used as a crushing site for exterior (brought in) gravel. The answer was not known at this time.

**Other:** Ronie drew our attention to the printout she prepared outlining tips about the VVLA website.

**Association member comments:**

Nancy expressed interest in how far from shore one would check plant growth.

Bill referred to the clear-cutting of land on South Crab Lake Road.

Jeff spoke of some of his experiences with residents and visitors during his tenure as VVLA president.

George thanked Jeff for his efforts in serving as President of the Association during tumultuous times.

**Meeting was adjourned** to our picnic at 11:40am with a motion by Mike, 2<sup>nd</sup> by George.

Respectfully submitted,

Jorja Burke, Secretary

## Clean Boats, Clean Waters Presentation at Annual Meeting 2010

### What is CB/CW?

Clean Boats, Clean Waters is a volunteer watercraft inspection program intended to educate boaters on aquatic invasive species and how to prevent their spread between lakes. Inspectors work at public boat landings and talk to boaters about prevention procedures to stop aquatic hitchhikers.

### What does the inspection interview consist of?

- Questions about the last use of the boat
  - Do they drain water?
  - Do they clean off plants?
- Are they aware of the law? Now a highway violation to have plants on trailer.

### What is our procedure?

- Set of instructions, information packet
- Two hour shift
- Wear the shirt
- Work in pairs or solo as you prefer
- Pleasant interaction with the boater
- Spontaneous and scheduled work shifts possible
  - Materials available when you get to landing
  - Completed forms left when you are done

### Where are we in the process?

- 2009 – 9 days, 61 hours, 55 boats, 17 volunteers
- 2010 – Walleye tournament, 3 days, 32.5 hours, 31 boats, 7 volunteers
- Targeting July 24 and August 14 as well as the Muskie Tournament on September 10-12
- Need as many volunteers as possible – ask your neighbor
- How do you get trained?
  - Sign up for a Saturday later in the summer – we will either train you ahead of time or an experienced volunteer will join up with you
  - Call Ronie or Jill with a date that works for you and at least one other person and we will try to set up a training session

My talking points / notes for my topics on the annual agenda.

- Topic #1 and #2 - 2-3 min each
- Topic #3 5-7 min with questions.

Mike

## 1. Fish Cribbs

- a. Waterway & Wetland Permits: Fish and Wildlife Habitat ([http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/waterways/shoreline\\_habitat/fish\\_wildlife.html](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/waterways/shoreline_habitat/fish_wildlife.html))
- b. Spoke with Steve Gilbert (DNR Fish Biologist at Woodruff) 715-356-5211 (x229) on 6/21/2010
  - i. Van Vliet is listed as an ANSRI Lake (Area of Special Natural Resource Interest) on DNR website, which precludes addition of ANY fish cribs.
  - ii. However, Steve indicated the website is in error
    1. Individual riparian owners may install cribs - individual permit to DNR
    2. WOLA may undertake a project to install cribs - group permit to DNR / county / affected owners
  - iii. Crib design is by DNR specifications - only
  - iv. Determination of placement of cribs in < 12 inches muck would fall on permit requestor.
- c. *Steve questioned initiative to install cribs - primarily because existing fish habitat (weeds) in VV is already excellent. Cribbs would only concentrate panfish. Cribbs in lakes like Presque Isle are useful due to lack of good habitat.*

## 2. Individual Weed Cutting Permits

- a. Steve indicated that the DNR will still consider individual weed cutting permits, in the absence of a completed APM
- b. Individual permits are for nuisance navigation and would still need to adhere to distance regs. (**Chapter NR 109 AQUATIC PLANTS: INTRODUCTION, MANUAL REMOVAL and MECHANICAL CONTROL REGULATIONS**)

### 3. Update APM

a. The points for the Oxbow Lake Weed Survey and Aquatic Plant Management (APM) are listed below

- i. The plan is completed and the plan has been accepted by all 4 parties - Bonestroo, Oxbow Lake Assoc, PITLC, and the WIDNR
- ii. The plan has been filed with the WIDNR and has been approved as an acceptable APM.
- iii. Oxbow can now move forward on discussions with the WIDNR, any aspects to future lake mgmt and weed control projects, if desired.
- iv. The plan structure will be used as a template for the remainder of the lakes contracted by Bonestroo and PITLC.
- v. Key points the Oxbow APM addresses (from TOC below):

<p>1) Baseline Information</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Lake History and Morphology</li> <li>b) Watershed Overview</li> <li>c) Water Quality             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Water Clarity</li> <li>ii) Total Phosphorus and Chlorophyll a</li> <li>iii) Dissolved Oxygen and Temperature</li> <li>iv) Trophic State Index</li> </ol> </li> <li>d) Summary of Lake Fishery</li> <li>e) Lake Management History</li> <li>f) Goal and Objectives</li> </ol>	<p>2) Project Methods</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Existing Data Review</li> <li>b) Aquatic Plant Survey and Analysis</li> <li>c) Shoreline Characterization</li> <li>d) Public Involvement, Questionnaire, and Plan Review</li> <li>e) Water Quality Methods</li> </ol>	<p>3) Discussion of Project Results</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Aquatic Plant Ecology</li> <li>b) Aquatic Invasive Species</li> <li>c) 2007 Aquatic Plant Survey             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Floating-Leaf Plants</li> <li>ii) Submergent Plants</li> <li>iii) Emergent Plants</li> </ol> </li> <li>d) Floristic Quality Index</li> <li>e) Shoreline Characterization</li> <li>f) Public Questionnaire</li> <li>g) Water Quality Sampling</li> </ol>	<p>4) Management Alternatives and Recommendations</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Aquatic Plant Maintenance Alternatives             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Aquatic Invasive Species</li> <li>ii) Clean Boats/Clean Waters Campaign</li> <li>iii) Aquatic Plant Protection and Shoreline Management</li> <li>iv) Public Education and Involvement</li> </ol> </li> <li>b) Aquatic Plant Manipulation Alternatives             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Manual Removal</li> <li>ii) Aquatic Invasive Plant Species Chemical Herbicide Treatment</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<p>5) Conclusion and Recommended Action Plan</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Recommended Goals</li> <li>b) Closing</li> </ol> <p>Goals below written in line with DNR and PITLC long term plans</p>
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Conclusion and Recommended Action Plan - No aquatic invasive plants were found during the aquatic plant survey in 2007. The fact that the native plant community had an above average plant FQI illustrates that there is a unique and diverse plant community in Oxbow Lake. Such a plant community is worthy of protection for human disturbance and the potential impact aquatic invasive species would have if introduced to this system. Because of that, the following recommended action plan focuses on maintenance of the current plant community and conservation of native plants.

7.1 RECOMMENDED ACTIVE GOALS - The recommended action plan includes actions for Oxbow Lake based on the Maintenance Alternative listed above in Section 6. The PITLC president has approved the following active goals. It will be up to residents of Oxbow Lake and the PITLC to determine the actions, find the funding, and gather the individuals needed to implement the active goals.

- Active Goal: To continue and expand the WDNR Clean Boats, Clean Waters program on Oxbow Lake.
- Active Goal: To provide visitors with educational information concerning the potential impact their activities could have on introductions aquatic invasive species, wildlife, habitats and Oxbow Lake water quality.
- Active Goal: To implement and maintain an aquatic invasive species monitoring program that will survey for invasive species, and if any are found, monitor their locations and extent of populations spread.
- Active Goal: To continue and expand the Oxbow Lake comprehensive water quality monitoring program through the WDNR Citizen Lake Monitoring Network. The program would include Water Clarity Monitoring and Water Chemistry Monitoring.
- Active Goal: To work in concert with the WDNR staff and representatives of fishing related businesses to evaluate Oxbow Lake fish management practices and develop goals in order to maintain and enhance a quality family sport fishery.
- Active Goal: To develop and implement a fishing tournament AIS management and monitoring program in order to be prepared if fishing tournaments come to Oxbow Lake.
- Active Goal: To enforce the Town of Presque Isle's 200 foot no-wake areas (from shoreline and islands) ordinances in order to minimize recreational impacts on the plant community, shoreline habitats, and to promote safe boating.

b. **Next Steps / Expectations - VV Survey and APM DRAFT**

i. **PROCESS**

1. Bonestroo (Jim Scharl) had promised (in late April) the remainder of the lakes and data would be compiled into draft reports, within ~ 3 weeks from the Oxbow plan completion - **this window has come and gone. Otto is staying close to the issue, recognizing his limited leverage to a company that has been recently acquired and is undergoing headcount reduction as well as internal job reprioritization - i.e. we really don't have a confirmed delivery date for a DRAFT.**
2. Otto does welcome input by others, when the report becomes available. Otto explained that the circulation process would go thru PITLC and our active VV representative(s). (Jill and Jorja) // **UPDATE (6/23/2010 Otto Novak) - "I wish I had better news. Bonestroo plans to complete 4 plans from the '07 studies next week. That will leave 2 remaining from '07. The Van Vliet plan will immediately follow the completion of the '07 plans (Van Vliet**

will be the first plan worked from the '08 studies). This problem is one of the reasons we chose to go with a different vendor going forward."

3. All members of the VVLA Board have requested circulation copies for comment and inclusion of concerns from prior studies, prior to closure of study with PITLC / Bonestroo.

ii. **EXPECTATIONS** - The PITLC Van Vliet APM will probably not differ significantly from the OXBOW APM, with the additions of comments on nuisance weeds and perhaps future mgmt.

Good evening. My name is Nick Williams and I am co chair of the Presque Isle Town Lakes Committee, I live on Crab Lake and I am on the Crab Lake Property Owners Association Board of Directors.

For those of you that haven't heard of the Town Lakes Committee, I'd like to tell you a bit about us.

The Town Lakes Committee was created by the Town Board in 2005 as a way to try to learn more about aquatic invasive species. It was known at the time there were invasive species making their way toward Presque Isle's lakes, it was also known that there was money available from both the state and the DNR to set up programs to combat the invasion, and it was understood that none of us wanted invasive species in our Presque Isle lakes.

In September 2005, under a resolution passed by the town board the various Presque Isle lake associations were asked if they were interested in becoming part of this committee. 10 lake associations responded by asking some of their residents to become representatives. This is the core of the committee – 30 residents from 10 lake associations.

Now, almost 5 years later, we have settled on our mission and have some fine accomplishments to our credit.

“Our mission is to learn all we can about invasive species, to apply for as much grant money as the DNR will give us for projects, to find out what is and is not in our lakes, to monitor our lakes, to inform the public that we are worried, and, should we find invasive species in any of our lakes, to undertake treatment plans while the invasion is still in its infancy.”

Our accomplishments are becoming obvious.

We have learned about invasive species through classes, seminars and via networking with the county's Invasive Species Coordinator and with other Vilas County town lakes committees.

In 2006 we successfully applied for a DNR lake study grant to study 9 of our lakes. The field work was performed on the lakes during the summer of 2007 and the final reports should be available shortly. The net in process contract with Bonestroo, Inc of Waupun, Wisconsin, is for \$50,473 of which the DNR's share is \$44,841.

In 2008 we successfully applied for a second DNR lake study grant, this time to study 8 of our lakes. The field work was performed during the summer of 2008 and the final reports will also be available shortly. The net in process contract with Bonestroo, Inc of Waupun, Wisconsin, is for \$55,012 of which the DNR's share is \$41,259.

In 2009 we successfully applied for a third DNR lake study grant, this time to study 12 lakes and 2 rivers over the next two years. The field work will be performed over the summers of 2010 and 2011, the final reports will be available in 2011 and 2012. The net in process contract with



Whitewater Associates of Amasa, Michigan, is for \$150,612 of which the DNR's share is \$100,000.

All 3 of these successful grants, when completed, will give us a base line on the aquatic plant populations on 29 of our lakes - the largest lakes, the lakes with the public boat landings, the lakes with the most traffic and the lakes most at risk - plus two of our rivers.

In 2008 we successfully applied for a DNR educational grant to improve the signage at 6 boat landings by replacing the kiosks. Half of the kiosks were constructed in 2009; the balance will be constructed in 2010. 75% of the cost, or \$12,919.04, will be paid for by the DNR and 25% will be paid for by 'in kind volunteer hours'. The kiosks will allow us to standardize the placement of current AIS bulletins plus any other DNR and town information. Town information can include slow no wake and other boating ordinance details.

Besides applying for the various grants, we have implemented a program to inform the public by randomly staffing the boat landings to inspect launching boats, motors and trailers for unwanted plant material. The program is called Clean Boats/Clean Waters and relies on teaching the boating public how they can help prevent the spread of invasive species by keeping their gear clean. We also inform the public by asking bait shops to put labels on bait containers, by having a booth at the Country Fair, by providing printed materials to fishing tournaments, by submitting articles to newspapers, and more.

We have rolled out one additional program in the last few years called Adopt-a-Shoreline. In this program lake volunteers inspect the entire lake basin, to depths of 20 feet, of their lake looking for invasive weeds. The inspection is usually done by canoe, kayak or hydrobike every 3 to 4 weeks and is a way to find problem plants early, before they take over. Since each volunteer knows their assigned shoreline through multiple inspections throughout the open water season, they are the ones best able to spot an invader and report a potential problem.

And finally, we will be continuing our very successful children's education program. This is an AIS prevention program where we present a song, story and craft program at various libraries and camps. This gets the word about AIS prevention out to the youngest residents and visitors.

Everything we've done, all the programs we've worked on, all the volunteer hours we've put in, is in preparation for the arrival of the first invasive plant. When the first plant is spotted we will apply for emergency funds through DNR treatment grants, hire whatever professional necessary to combat and try to aggressively manage our waters. By being proactive with our programs we hope to either avoid or minimize the high treatment cost of keeping our LAST WILDERNESS LAKES pristine.

Where are the closest invasive species? Curly leaf pondweed is in HARRIS LAKE in WINCHESTER; Spiny Water Flea is in Lake Gogebic; and Eurasian milfoil is in the UP's Ottawa National Forest and also in Land O Lakes' Cisco Chain. Otherwise it is as close as the nearest trailer, boat or motor being pulled down the road with dangling weeds or hidden invasives on boat hulls, motors, anchors, bait containers or in live wells.

The truth is, the burden to combat invasive species really falls on volunteers and the shoreline

property owner. We'd like to encourage other Presque Isle residents, even the off water residents, to participate in our programs. Please volunteer your time and effort to help protect our greatest natural resource - our lakes. Invasive species only spread through the careless actions of people. The more we inspect and monitor, the less it will cost us all. If you see plant material on anyone's boating equipment, ask them to remove it. You are helping to protect our lakes and it didn't cost a penny.

#### NOTES

Lakes studied in 2007 (9): Averill, Big, Crab, Little Crab, Little Horsehead, North Crab, Oxbow, Presque Isle and Wildcat. Total contract \$50,473.00 (Grant Application \$44,841.00); DNR 67% or \$33,630.75; Town of PI 23% or \$11,835.84; Lake Associations and private individuals 10% or \$5,006.41. The difference between the contract and the grant application has to do with the studying of N Crab (paid for by the town and private individuals) and Little Crab (paid for by the town and private individuals).

Lakes studied in 2008 (8): Annabelle, Armour, Cathaline, Horsehead, Lynx, Mabel, Papoose and Van Vliet. Total contract \$55,012; DNR 75% or \$41,259; Town of PI, Lake Associations and private individuals 25% or \$13,753.

Lakes and rivers to be studied in 2010 and 2011 (14): Phase one: Round, Katinka, Carlin, Stateline, Rudolph, south Branch Presque Isle River, Rice Creek and Lone Pine. Phase Two: McCullough, Morton, Dunn, Beaver, Twin Island and Little Presque Isle. Net contract \$150,612; DNR share \$100,000; Town of PI, Lake Associations, In-Kind contributions and private individuals \$50,612.