

The meeting was called to order by President Ronie Jacobsen @ 10:00 a.m. In attendance: Grace Alix, Ken Alix, Nick Andrew, Ed Brodsky, Jeff Burke (Past President), Jorja Burke (Secretary), Mike Czarny (Board Member), Ronie Jacobsen (President), Barbara Novak, Dick Novak, Bill Schroeder, Diane Schroeder, Paul Specht (Treasurer) Jim Sprester and Don Trimble. Marty Kiepke, DNR Fish Population and Creel Census speaker was also present.

Minutes of the June 18, 2011 annual meeting were unanimously approved with a motion by Jeff Burke, 2nd by Mike Czarny.

Treasurer's report was presented by Paul Specht. A copy is attached and shows a current balance of \$3,551.62. The report was unanimously accepted with a motion by Mike, 2nd by Jim Sprester.

Election of officers: Outgoing board members are Jorja Burke, Secretary and George Kupfer, Member-at-large.

The slate of candidates nominated by the board was unanimously voted in as officers with a motion by Nick Andrew, 2nd by Dick Novak:

President – Ronie Jacobsen

Secretary – no candidate at this time, open for board appointment. As our bylaws require nominations prior to the annual meeting in order to allow for absentee ballots, nominations may not be made at this time.

At large two year terms – Mike Czarny and Barbara Olson

At large one year term – Ed Brodsky

Review of prior year:

A map of Van Vliet Lake, depicting the 200 foot no wake zone, was installed on the landing kiosk in August 2011. Ronie circulated a printout of the map.

Clean Boats, Clean Waters volunteer efforts:

Year	Days	Hours	Boats	Volunteers
2009	9	61	55	17
2010	11	63	70	10
2011	13	74	59	12
2012 thru 6/30	5	27	26	4

Anecdotes related to his experiences at boat landings were shared by Marty Kiepke. Ronie reminded us that the purpose of CBCW is education. Ronie also relayed recently received information comparing real estate values on eurasion milfoil infested lakes vs lakes with none of the invasive present.

Ronie also advised that 15 people attended the Van Vliet Hemlocks hike in August 2011, led by John Bates and sponsored by the VVLA. Several additional successful hikes have also been held in the Hemlocks throughout the past year. An update about the Friends of the Van Vliet Hemlocks was presented by Paul. He explained the background of acquisition by the DNR and the area's addition to the Northern Highland American Legion State Forest with the long term hope it will be designated a State Natural Area. He stated that the Friend's role is very important, along with the role of the Discovery Center, a partner in this endeavor. Tom Olson is serving as President, Paul as Treasurer, and Ronie as VVLA representative, Sarah Johnson represents the Discovery Center and Al Eschenbach represents the Last Wilderness Conservation Association (LWCA) and along with general members Ed Brodsky, Al Drum and Bob Horswill they comprise the Board of Directors of the Friends of the Van Vliet Hemlocks. Jill Wilm was instrumental during set-up but is no longer serving as a board member. 55 members, including 4 lake Associations (Carlin, Crab, Van Vliet & Armour) joined during the first membership drive for a total of \$12,000 in funds; \$1500 has been donated to date in 2012. Membership in the group is \$25.00 for annual dues. Four students from UW Stevens Point worked on a marketing media project for the area during the past semester. It will be available for distribution in the near future and also hope to have the program next semester. There is an informational website available thru the Discovery Center with a link to the VVLA website. Don Trimbell advised there's a bear family near the east hemlock area and Ed also advised care in the Hemlock areas during hunting seasons as they are open for that use.

Mike Czarny presented an update on the Van Vliet Lake Aquatic Plant Management Plan secured through the Presque Isle Town Lakes Committee. His notes are attached. The APMP has been completed, accepted by the DNR & filed in March 2012. PITLC is working to secure a grant for upkeep of the lake.

In addition, some board members toured the lake w/Kevin Gauthier and Sandy Wickman in 2011 in order to address weed concerns as requested by some VVLA members. Mike advises the DNR will no longer deal with property owners individually but will work with PITLC and through Lake Associations only. Any application to the DNR for weed control issues must include: lake management permit, GPS coordinates, and funds to pay for any plant removal. The DNR is not strongly disposed toward harvesting nuisance plants of native species. During 2011, the DNR issued a total of 6 permits in 6 counties: 5 nuisance plants; 1 invasive. Jeff mentioned "floaters" those plants that detach, deteriorate and become part of the slime layer - what about just removing those from the top of the lake? Jim Sprester opined the weed problem has increased over the years due to additional traffic chopping up the weeds at the boat landing. Has DNR been asked about a study to this effect? Mike said he has found no papers re boat traffic cutting up weeds vs less used waters. Mike states he agrees with the theory but thinks a group from the Lake Association should be set up to review. Jim suggests a co-chair with Mike. Jeff will work on this also. Barb Novak agrees on the process. Skimming instead of cutting may

be a way to go.

2012 Plans:

Signup sheets for CBCW for July 7, Sep 1, Sep 7, 8, 9, or date of your choice.
Target dates for most active days. Random dates may be added to keep the effort going.

Loon talk by Mike Meyer on July 17 at 6 p.m. at the PI Community Center.
Could our lake have a nesting platform in the future?

Another August hike?

Would membership like to sponsor additional hikes? (There is a geological hike in October sponsored by Friends of VVH). With a motion by Ed, 2nd by Diane Schroeder, an additional hike will be scheduled for later this year

Picnic at Ronie and Mike's on Sunday, Sept 2 beginning at 5 p.m.

There being no more business to conduct, the business portion of the annual meeting adjourned by Ronie @ 11:05am.

Speaker – Marty Kiepke, Fisheries Management Technician with the DNR's Treaty Fisheries Assessment Team, on the creel survey underway on the Presque Isle chain.

Respectfully submitted,
Jorja Burke. Secretary

Van Vliet Lake Association 2012 Annual Meeting / Talking Points - - APMP Section

1. The Van Vliet Lake APMP was officially accepted by the WI DNR in early 2012. We now have in place a document that the DNR can reference and address any future lake issues.

2. Members of the VVLA Board have developed and established good relations with the local DNR decision-makers in Rhinelander.

3. What does this mean and potential future steps ?

a. Members of the VVLA Board will maintain contact with WI DNR and PITLC to understand the scope, process, and grant funding required to maintain currency with our APMP with follow-up plant surveys.

b. With conversations during our DNR lake tour in September 28, 2011 and with follow-up conversations during the 11-2011 to 5-2102 timeframe, we now have a better understanding of future DNR guidelines for managing any potential nuisance weed harvesting issues.

i. The WI DNR will no longer be addressing individual landowner nuisance weed issues with individual cutting permits. The WI DNR will be managing all future efforts in concert with the respective lake association and with the recently filed APMP for Van Vliet Lake.

ii. The documented science for nuisance weed cutting is not well established. Limited formal published studies can conclude both (+) and (-) benefits on weed and fish populations.

iii. The WI DNR is primarily focused on weed harvesting permits focused on AIS issues. However, in 2012, they have issued a total of 6 harvesting permits in a 6 county area; (Vilas, Forest, Florence, Oneida, Lincoln, Langlade). 5 Permits were for native nuisance weeds and 1 was for Invasive nuisance weeds.

c. Any future proposal to the WI DNR, for a native nuisance weed harvesting permit would require:

i. Lake Association approval.

ii. GPS based harvesting proposal constructed by a DNR recognized weed harvester.

iii. Funding from the lake membership, since the DNR no longer supports grant proposals for cutting of navigational channels in a lake with no invasive species.