

MINUTES OF MARCH 15, 2011 MEETING - BOARD OF ISCCW (LAKEGUARDS)

9:00 AM USFS Watersmeet Ranger District conference room

Board Members present: Dudley Pierce (Pres), Ken Wendt (V-Pres), Steve Wilkinson (Treas), Bill Rehling, Arnold Domanus, Jim Floriano, Bob Turnquist, Bill Rehling, Bob Zelinski, Jim Okraszewski, and Joe LoMastro.

Others present: Diana Mehlhop, Ian Shackelford, Warren Kobilca, Daniel M. Straszewski, John and Cheryl Newman, Wes Kiley, Kristi Pottada, Marvin Schwinn, George Beck, Todd Buck, Sandra Butelewski, and Pat Oltz.

Ian volunteered to keep notes.

1. PRESIDENT'S REPORTS

Dudley summarized some correspondence he has had with Barb Gajewski (provided with agenda). She is working on a Gogebic RAC proposal for the point intercept survey Bill Artwich discussed at our last meeting. They would resurvey the [16 lakes surveyed by the Army Corp of Engineers in 2002](#), to see if any changes to the aquatic plant communities have occurred. They don't have a draft yet. The RAC applications are due March 31, so we'll be able to see her application at our April meeting.

Dudley also summarized communication with Nancy Cushing of [EnviroScience](#) (provided with agenda). If we want herbicide and weevils she suggests contracting with a local herbicide applicator in 2011 and then beginning the weevil work in 2012. She also mentioned the \$2,632 unpaid balance from the 2009 Bass Lake EnviroScience survey. Might ISCCW be willing to pay that balance?

Joe LoMastro interrupted saying he contacted [Aquatic Biologists](#). He passed out a proposal for Bass Lake from them. Their biologist (Robert Langjahr) would be willing to come to the ISCCW April meeting to present their proposal. More in Bass Lake Update.

Lastly, Dudley talked about plans to offer boat washing when the LVD Band begins spear fishing after ice out. He is working with Roger LaBine. There is a list of lakes where they are planning to spear this spring. It includes three lakes with Eurasian Water Milfoil. Boats are expected to gather together the evening before, probably in the tribal parking lot. ISCCW would like to make one boat washer available then. They would like to discourage lake jumping, and to avoid spearing EM infected lakes first.

2. VICE PRESIDENTS REPORT

Ken said he met with Ian Shackelford & Norm Nass on March 10 to discuss the Bass Lake RAC proposal which had been approved at \$50,000 for Bass Lake. However, the FS didn't approve the project, saying it didn't meet the intent of RAC because it would not benefit National Forest land. More on that in grants update.

Kathy Peterson wrote to him and said she is interested in the education coordinator position.

Ken spoke with Watersmeet Township Supervisor Frank Kuchevar. He provided two Township mailing lists. One is a list of property addresses, and one is a list of mailing addresses. The lists are pages of mailing labels, so it will take some work to get them in a more usable spreadsheet format.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT.

Steve said there was not much activity. Summarizing his written report with a starting balance of \$87,164.55, income of \$1.325, expenditures of \$36.18, our balance as of March 14th was hand is \$88,453.37. With today's checks we have an additional \$200.00 in un-deposited funds.

4. FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

The petition paperwork was presented to the Watersmeet Township Board on February 16. They took it cordially, without a lot of discussion. One person asked where the money would come from. Ken suggested

from the Township's surplus. Ken spoke with Frank since then who said they put \$15,000 in the budget, with another \$5,000 from Tribal 2% money. ISCCW is also planning on making a request for 2% money.

The Township Board will meet on March 30th for there annual budget public hearing. Their budget must be approved by April 1. Ken suggested getting as many people as possible at the March 30th meeting. People from Bass Lake would be helpful too. The meeting will probably start at 6:30 PM in the School library. Every Board member should attend. Tell them we need that money. Notice will be posted at the post office and in the newspaper.

Ken was asked "How are we with the IRS issue of last year?" Ken said we had responded to them and haven't heard since. We would have received a notice of change if we had anything wrong.

5. MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Diana provided a handout. We currently have 265 memberships, including 246 individual/family and 19 organization/business memberships. We are still receiving renewals from the 79 reminder letters sent out in February. We still have 54 members not renewed. The Committee plans a Township-wide mailing in May, using the township list Ken received. She hopes Ken will write the letter so we can mail by June 1st.

6. EDUCATION & PR COMMITTEE

No meeting in scheduled for March or April, next meeting in May. Barb Wilkinson drafted a nice letter to the editor for later use. It was asked if we have received the new "fish ruler" tapes - we have 1,000. Ottawa NF Visitors Center has a supply for sale and we will begin our distributing in spring. New public service announcements were recorded by Will Buergey, Steve Wilkinson, Diana Mehlhop, Helen Hayhurst.

ALL COMMITTEE & OFFICER REPORTS WERE ACCEPTED AS SUBMITTED.

7. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 15, 2011 MINUTES.

There was a question about the Duck Lake & Bass Lake grant proposal mentioned in the finance committee report. How is Duck Lake included? Jim Okraszewski said while most of the monies would be for Bass Lake there is set asides for the lake efforts we have traditionally supported in the past. There were minor changes made to the membership and contribution numbers.

FEBRUARY 15, 2011 MINUTES WERE APPROVED AS AMENDED.

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Warren Kobilca, President of Marion Lake, introduced himself and discussed activities and ideas from Marion Lake. They want to prevent invasive species from getting into the lake. In the past they worked with ISCCW on educating their landowners and with Bob Evans on a boat launch sign. By divided the lake into quadrants members have found it easier to monitor for EWM. They appreciate the help from ISCCW. They have been doing supplemental campground education. They hope to be more supportive than they have in the past. They feel more can be done. They are clean now. Want to stay clean. Warren proposed:

1. Limited access points for Marion Lake. They have 2 now.
2. Some kind of boat wash available on the lake at all times. Warren spoke with Ian Shackelford and knows the USFS is proposing boat wash stations for Black River Harbor and Hagerman Lake. They sound fancy and expensive: a "silver chalice." Marion Lake doesn't need anything so fancy. He spoke with someone he knows (Bill Spence?). They think for less than \$500 they could build something simple. They would need to tie into water and electricity. The road at the north end of Marion Lake leads to both boat launches, and he knows of a good location to put a wash station.
3. Could the township pass an ordinance requiring people to wash their boats before launching on Marion Lake? Signage could be erected notifying people of the rule. If this was put in place it would limit the chances of anything getting into the lake and would be a lot cheaper to do than treating the EW milfoil if it does gets in. Marion Lake is not looking for money but could use some help working with USFS and the

township. May be this could be done at lakes throughout the township. Warren said he spoke to a person from Sunset Lake about their washer who said washing is required before launching. that may not be true.

Ken asked if a boat wash is to an effective deterrent don't you need pressure and heat? Ian Shackleford noted the FS portable washers heat the water. [I should have noted that the plans for our fancy permanent boat washers will not heat the water.] A comment was made that adding heated water to a self-serve washer could add a new liability factor to consider. It was noted the ISCCW boat wash never went to Marion Lake last year. It was added that all lakes should be as ready as Marion Lake; they're doing a great job.

Todd Buck, a property owner on Bass Lake introduced himself. He asked who else was present from Bass Lake and several others raised their hand. He said he tries to stay apprised of matters on Bass Lake. Although he doesn't have a structure on his property he is very concerned and is waiting to see what happens before building. He heard about the milfoil in Bass Lake in 2005. He would like to get a grasp on why we haven't been able to take action, is it money, cooperation, or apathy? What can he do to help?

Ken offered comments from ISCCW's perspective. ISCCW was a financial participant in the 2005 Bass Lake weevil effort. Bass Lake owners couldn't get together and the effort failed. ISCCW has committed itself to developing a program to address Bass Lake which we will talk more about later today. ISCCW will probably take the lead, but will need support from riparian owners, preferably through a lake association. We need a cohesive unit of bass lake landowners. Disagreements need to be worked out. If someone from Bass Lake comes to an ISCCW meeting, it would be good if they could speak for all Bass Lake residents. ISCCW has been discussing a 5-year plan for Bass Lake. We are considering weevils, weevils & herbicide, or just herbicide. Is anyone on Bass Lake opposed to chemicals? ISCCW needs to know. Comments were made that some owners have been opposed to herbicide use and riparian rights precluded a large chemical treatment. At the time it was still thought the infestation was only in front of the boat launch.

Daniel Straszewski commented that there was once a Lake Association, the "Bass Lakers." Shirley Hibbeln was involved. At the time it was suggested that if the Bass Lakers proceeded with an herbicide treatment they would get a nuisance lawsuit. This left harvest or weevils as the only options. So our effort was guided by the opposition of just 2 families. He now thinks they could do chemical treatments legally. He also mentioned a Township meeting where they asked Bass Lake people to attend; he was the only one from the Lake that came. They haven't heard from Shirley Hibbeln for some time.

Arny Domanus spoke. He is on the Gogebic Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) and stated that the problem for the last few years is that there has been little support from Bass Lake. RAC recently awarded \$50,000 to Bass Lake (although the acting Forest Supervisor rejected it). There was a public comment period during the January 6, 2011, meeting. No one came and spoke in favor of the Bass Lake proposal. A revised proposal has been made with the next meeting on May 19, 2011, in Marenisco. People from Bass Lake should come. There was a question from Bass Lake resident about the RAC money. A brief answer, noting we'll talk more about Bass Lake later.

Ian Shackleford, USFS representative. Ian offered an update from [WePIC](#) and the Ottawa National Forest. He still doesn't have a draft Memo of Understanding (MOU) for WePIC. Congress still hasn't passed a FY2011 budget, so we currently have no GLRI funds to pay for staffing the boat washers this year. He hopes to submit a DEQ herbicide application this week for a small treatment at Crooked Lake. He is waiting for information from John Skogerboe for the Langford Lake permit application. He's worried how late it is. Ian reminded people Gogebic 2nd round RAC proposals are due March 31. The Gogebic Conservation District received a \$15,000 RAC grant. Some is for garlic mustard work and some is for general invasive species coordination in Gogebic County. If you have ideas on what the Conservation District could do send them to Ian or Mary Powell who is the Conservation Dist. Administrator.

Arny Domanus shared news on a Gogebic RAC proposal for boat washing whereby a RAC grant would pay for staffing boat washers in Gogebic County (not just the ISCCW washers). Ian said the Forest Service had funding for their own washer out of Ironwood, but Lake Gogebic could use funding to staff their washer.

END OF PUBLIC COMMENTS.

9. AGENDA CHANGES/APPROVAL OF AGENDA.

Ken requested adding the Education/Coordinator position as item E under old business.

AGENDA APPROVED AS AMENDED.

10. OLD BUSINESS.

A. "Point Intercept Survey" Proposal Update

Dudley read data received from Barb Gajewski 3/13/2011 (copy included with agenda). John Skogerboe supports the project. Barb has questions for Nancy Cushing concerning the weevil proposal

Dudley asked if ISCCW should support Barb's proposal? Arny made a motion, Ken seconded. Question raised if ISCCW is applying for too many RAC grants? Arny said no and added that the more organizations that put their name on an application the better. Question raised would ISCCW be an applicant or just offer a letter of support? Dudley will ask Barb what she prefers.

BOARD VOTED IN FAVOR OF SUPPORTING POINT INTERCEPT RAC PROPOSAL.

B. Bass Lake Update.

Joe LoMastro began. He reviewed how Nancy Cushing from EnviroScience gave a presentation (11/16/2010) on their recommendations for Bass Lake, particularly the use of the milfoil weevil. It's 3-5 year endeavor. Cost would be about \$145,000. He asked for a second opinion from Aquatic Biologists. Duck Lake uses them and they get good results. See letter from Aquatic Biologists dated 2/28/2011. Joe made a motion that Robert Langjahr be invited to the April ISCCW meeting to present their proposal using the herbicide fluridone. The cost of just the herbicide would be \$13,58; application would be another \$2,500 with FasTEST sampling after the application adding another \$1,500 (8 test w/shipping costs). Round number is \$17,584 (+ or -) to treat Bass Lake in 2011 with fluridone with permits being extra. Question asked of what is the cutoff date for permit applications? [\[Answer = August 15.\]](#) Would the Board receive Aquatic Biologists at the next meeting? Ken seconded the motion to have Aquatic Biologists come present their proposal and noted we may be running out of time to apply for a 2011 permit. Ken then suggested a special Bass Lake meeting which would also address the complete 2011 plan of work.

Is fluridone approved in Michigan? Ian Shackelford said yes but noted that fluridone is not approved by the Ottawa National Forest in their [Non-Native Invasive Plant Control Project](#) back in 2005. Therefore, if the Gogebic RAC and then the Forest Service were to approve the \$50,000 re-submitted for Bass Lake it could not be used for a fluridone treatment.

Ken asked if the \$28,000 2-4-D estimate on the second page was accurate. Mentioning that in the past chemical treatments cost \$500 an acre just for application. Ken suspected the total bill for fluridone could be considerable more than the \$17,500 Joe mentioned. Joe noted the fluridone manufacturer offers a performance guarantee.

The question was asked as to where the property owners stood? John Newman spoke. First he returned to the earlier comments by Arny Domanus. Yes, there should have been Bass Lake owners at the January RAC meeting. But Bass Lake owners were not aware of the Ironwood meeting. There's been a lack of communication. Ken notes he was not aware that a personal presence was recommended. Better communication would help. John thanked Ken, Joe, and ISCCW for help with Bass Lake. John said he sent out letters to all Bass Lake riparian owners. He only got 11 responses. There is some apathy on Bass Lake. He thinks opposition to chemicals has subsided except for possibly one family. He received no negative responses to the idea of using chemicals in his letter. Several owners want to start treating the milfoil themselves. 80% of lake is absent from lake in the winter, there are very few permanent lake owners. John was interested that fluridone hasn't been brought to the table before.

Wes Kiley spoke saying many Lake Associations are successful with memberships of less than half of the landowners. He encourages Bass Lake to go ahead and form an association despite starting with just a few

members, 40% can still be very successful. Wes also thought that you may not need permission from everyone to do a whole-lake chemical treatment.

John Newman spoke again. He is not a weevil fan. He cites a report he had about the use of weevils in a lake in New York, from 2001 to 2009. The weevils work, but who can afford to keep firing weevils into a lake year after year? People will push their company's product. EnviroScience will push weevils while applicators will push chemicals. Is there any independent scientific research?

Ken had these comments: ISCCW tried to develop the best plan they could. Weevils became the plan based on opposition to chemicals. Ken added weevils are not intended to be an eradication system. Over time they will get EM under control. Once it is at a controllable level weevils will keep it there. Certainly how we proceed will depend on what Bass Lake wants. As far as communications Ken noted he has only seven emails for Bass Lake residents. John said he has eleven. Ken asked John for his Bass Lake contact information. If in the past people from Bass Lake said they didn't want a lake association telling them what to do, Ken asked residents to remember lake associations have no legal standing, they are just advisory. He suggested Bass Lake to start an association even with only a few members, in time it will grow. Lastly he noted we don't necessarily need the RAC money for Bass Lake if it is not approved, there are other grants and funding opportunities.

Dudley noted there was still a motion on the floor, on whether or not to have Aquatic Biologists come to the April meeting.

BOARD VOTED IN FAVOR OF INVITING AQUATIC BIOLOGISTS TO PRESENT AT THE APRIL ISCCW MEETING. Joe noted Robert Langjahr would like to be compensated for travel time. Steve Wilkinson made a motion, Joe LoMastro seconded. BOARD VOTED IN FAVOR OF REIMBURSEING MILEAGE TO ROBERT LANGJARH.

Dudley spoke. If we proceed... we will stick with it. But we need an agreement with property owners.

John Newman said there is a small group that wants to form a Lake Association. He is getting conflicting answers from one lake owner about opposition to chemicals, but he again noted no one responded to his mailing saying they were opposed to the use of herbicide. Bass Lake is becoming a swamp, not a lake. He will send letters to everyone again. Dudley asked John to please emphasize a whole lake treatment is being considered in the letter and to mention the next ISCCW meeting is April 19 and Bass Lake residents should come. A Bass Lake resident noted another problem is that some lake owners are working during this time.

Someone from Duck Lake said they didn't have an association when they started. They just started as a committee about milfoil. A lake association grew from that.

Warren Kobilca said there were concerns on Marion Lake about the role of an association. They put in their bylaws that the association was set up to deal with water problems and concerns only.

Ken suggested that at the April 19 meeting the Board schedule a special meeting to form a final plan of action for Bass Lake. This could be held in the evening or on a Saturday so more people from Bass Lake could attend.

John Newman said he met with the tribal council about Bass Lake & other lakes. He thinks council will support the work in Bass Lake.

C. RAC UPDATE.

There were three different RAC proposals submitted: (1) ISCCW Bass Lake Proposal (submitted in first round) and (2) ISCCW staffing for portable boat washers and (3) Barbara Gajewski's proposal for a new 16-Lake Point Intercept Survey

Ken summarized the Bass Lake RAC status. He met with Norman Nass and Ian Shackleford on March 10. Norm explained why the Forest Service rejected the RAC approved Bass Lake proposal because they didn't think it met the criteria for benefit to National Forest land. He gave some ideas on how to re-write the proposal to address those concerns. The rewrite is in progress.

Arny discussed the boat washer proposal. This would be in lieu of the GLRI funding received in 2010. Steve Wilkinson made a motion to support this RAC grant application. Joe LoMastro gave a second. BOARD VOTED IN FAVOR OF SUPPORTING THE BOAT WASH RAC GRANT APPLICATION.

Dudley explained Barb's proposal as a re-do of the 2002 Army Corp of Engineers survey.

D. Grants Update.

Jim Okraszewski spoke about the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation "[Sustain Our Great Lakes](#)" grant he submitted. He made a \$64,000 request which requires a 1:1 match excluding federal money. We should have sufficient non-federal funds to do this. The proposal is for weevils in Bass Lake and five acres of herbicide work in Duck Lake, and a training session. Totals \$64,000. We have been notified that the pre-application was accepted but hasn't heard yet if we will be invited to submit a full proposal. He said there were 159 pre-proposals. NFWF will start reviewing next week. Jim noted he is new to grant applications and will need help on a full proposal if we are accepted. Final proposal is due April 21. There was some confusion about who is administering this grant, it is not the NFWF. "Sustain our Great Lake" is a program that includes the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation as one of several partner groups. Jim stated he needed contact information for Board members. Diana said she could get that to him.

E. Education/Coordinator.

Dudley asked if we should split the position, having the Educator and the Coordinator as different positions or keep as one. Steve Wilkinson suggested we don't review the positions and applicants as a whole board, that we do this by committee. Ken agreed and said he favors not splitting since we have willing candidates. We already have a biologist to be the biologist. Someone suggested that the review committee include Will Buergey. Dudley asked for a motion for keeping it as one position. Ken moved, Steve Wilkinson supported. BOARD VOTED IN FAVOR OF NOT SPLITTING THE POSITION OF EDUCATION/COORDINATOR.

Ken reiterated that he had a letter of interest from Kathy Peterson. He said she's in her late 40s, well educated, into the outdoors, and very interested in the position. Diana said she had an inquiry too (Christine Congdon). Dudley also said he had an inquiry.

11. NEW BUSINESS

A. Spring boat wash schedule.

Dudley asked Joe LoMastro how long would it take to get the boat washers ready? Joe said approximately 4 hours each. George Beck was asked when the tribe begins spearing? George said as soon as ice out. Ken and Joe will coordinate getting one boat washer ready. Dudley said he was promised 48 hours notice before spearing begins and would notify Joe.

Dudley asked which boat washers would be coming back this summer? Marvin said he would like to come back and that Frank Puffer is available too. No one knew about Dennis Bolton.

Ken Wendt made a motion to contract with Marvin and/or Frank as boat washers through May 15 at same rate as last year. Steve Wilkinson gave a second. BOARD VOTED IN FAVOR.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting will be April 19, 2011, 9am, at the Watersmeet Ranger District.