

Proposed Process for developing the Lake Wausau Lake Management Plan (LMP)

Working Draft - August 10, 2017

The structure of the planning process to develop a lake management plan is critical to success in implementing a plan. Because many entities are involved either directly in lake management or less directly in making decisions that affect lake health, these parties as well as the public should be involved in the informational meetings and discussions that take place for the identification of the vision for the lake, goals, and associated tasks. This leads to many partners taking responsibility for tasks identified in the plan and the partnership as a whole.

In the past, plans had been developed with a small group of dedicated people and then presented to the public for feedback and comment. Over the years, we have learned that this structure frequently leads to minimal implementation of lake plans and burnout by those trying to implement it on their own. Due to a variety of factors that include missed opportunities to engage all available community resources (additional volunteers, financial commitments, expertise, and local support for lake protection and restoration efforts) and the lack of transparency in how decisions are made concerning a public waterbody that can create conflict that prevents moving forward with recommended actions.

In the case of Lake Wausau, all meetings to develop the LMP should invite participation from the public through press releases and municipalities should be informed of the process and invited to attend. Critical participants for each topic to be covered in the LMP are identified below. Ideally, the critical participants would attend the topic meeting; however, in some situations timing and logistics may prevent their attendance. In these situations, UWSP will contact the critical participants to obtain the necessary information to be shared at the meetings and incorporated into the LMP. To help clarify who will be responding to the series of questions, the primary expert is identified

I. Topics Needed to Address in the LMP, Primary Questions, and Critical Participants to Respond to the Questions

Topic: Aquatic Plant Management

Primary questions to answer:

1. What have we learned from the most recent PI survey? What has changed since the last survey? Is the current aquatic plant management harvesting strategy for recreation sufficient? Timeline for repeat? What are the measures of success?
Primary experts: RC&D, Turyk, WDNR aquatic plant biologist
2. Which AIS are present? Does the AIS appear to be under control? If not, where is the problem and what are the management options? Are there costs? What are funding options? Who will take the lead? What is the measure of success?
Primary experts: RC&D, Turyk, WDNR aquatic plant biologist
3. What is the long-term plan for monitoring for changes to AIS and new AIS? What are the prevention strategies (spreading AIS from L. Wausau and to L. Wausau)? What are staffing options? (fishing clubs, school groups, LWA, etc.) Who will take the lead?
4. ACE MEETING: What are the aquatic plant management options recommended by the ACE to improve flow for better water quality conditions near the golf course? Associated costs? Likelihood of success? What are funding options? Which options should be considered? Who will take the lead? What are the measures of success?
Anticipated timeline?
Primary expert: ACE

Critical participants: WDNR Aquatic plant biologist, Golden Sands RC&D, municipalities, harvesting contractor?

Notes: PI maps, harvesting maps, bathymetric map

Topic: Lake Wausau Fishery

Primary questions to answer:

1. What is the most recent information about the fishery community? Has it changed over time? Are some species out of balance and what would be needed to get them into balance? Is there support for management? Are there costs associated or regulatory changes warranted? What are the measures of success?
Primary expert: WDNR fishery biologist
2. Based on the habitat study results, are there specific areas within L. Wausau that are in need of protection or that can be managed differently for a positive effect on the fishery? What are the specifics (addition of CWH, gravel/rock, etc.) Who will take the lead on this work? Are there funding needs and sources? What are the measures of success? What is the timeline for this work?
Primary expert: WDNR fishery biologist and Turyk
3. ACE MEETING: Based on the ACE modeling results, can the upper end of L. Wausau, are there management steps to be taken to improve fishery habitat? What is needed to accomplish this management? Who can take the lead? What are potential funding needs and sources? What are the measures of success? Anticipated timeline?
Primary expert: ACE

Critical participants: WDNR Fishery biologist, ACE

Topic: Watersheds and Water Quality

Primary questions to answer:

1. ACE MEETING: What did the ACE learn about water quality improvement options for the golf course area and which options will be pursued? Who will take the lead? What are the funding needs and sources? Timeline? Measures of success? Primary expert: ACE
2. What was learned from the TMDL modeling process about water quality entering and exiting L. Wausau? Were localized inputs identified? What is the timeline for the TMDL and how can input be provided about the TMDL implementation? Are there measures of success? Primary response: WDNR TMDL coordinator
3. What did the citizen monitoring data indicate about water quality in L. Wausau?
Primary expert: Turyk
4. What is the monitoring strategy (what, where, when) to determine if water quality changes are occurring in L. Wausau? Who will take the lead? Who will provide funding? What are the measures of success?
Primary expert: Turyk
5. What are the stormwater management strategies for the culverts that discharge to L. Wausau? What are the measures of success?
Primary expert: NCSC (UWSP will contact for written response)
6. What is being done to minimize local water quality problems/inputs through local runoff management and healthy shoreland initiatives? Are there funding needs and sources? Are there incentive programs and educational efforts? Are there success stories to share? What are the measures of success? What are the communication strategies and what will be imbedded into daily operations? Pertains to municipalities, businesses, residents.
**Because of the number of partners involved in this, UWSP will contact many of them to obtain written responses to be shared at the meeting and incorporated in the plan.

7. Golf course water quality issue. What are the ACE recommendations? Which options should be pursued? What are costs and sources of funding? Who will take the lead?
Primary expert: ACE

Critical participants: ACE, Northcentral Stormwater coalition (NCSC) local reps, WDNR TMDL specialist, municipalities (planning & zoning and Marathon County CPZ)

Topic: Partnerships and Plan Implementation

Primary questions to answer:

1. Who is the primary keeper of the plan and will take the lead on coordination of partners? Will the partnership be formalized? How frequently should partners meet to discuss priorities, strategies, successes, and challenges? Are there ways to streamline funding needs and requests?
2. How will annual updates to the plan be conducted? Who is the lead? Are there associated costs and if so, how will they be shared?
3. The public is interested. How will communication about implementation occur? Is there a plan or as needed? Is there a unified voice or multiple voices?

Lead: LWA

Critical participants: key partners named in the plan

Topic: Recreation (address w/location maps, links on websites, social survey results)

II. Planning Meetings

1. Communication strategies
 - a. Inviting members (email, website, facebook) - LWA
 - b. Inviting partners (municipalities, businesses) - LWA
 - c. Inviting community –press releases, facebook posts - LWA
 - d. Inviting experts and guests - UWSP
2. Set meeting dates and topics (with understanding that topics may change)
 - a. Aquatic Plants – current conditions and recreation (Sept 27, 6pm combined w/ topic b.)
 - i. PI survey results
 - ii. Discussion about any changes to harvesting strategy for recreation
 - iii. Discuss AIS strategies
 - b. Fisheries and Habitat (Sept 27, 6pm combined w/ topic a.)
 - i. Fish community and habitat survey results
 - ii. Discussion
 - c. ACE modeling results (Oct 28, 11am combined with topic d.)
 - i. Involves fishery, aquatic plant, and water quality management – include invitees from all topic areas.
 - ii. Discussion of big picture - options, costs, funding, prioritize options, identify leads and partnerships
 - iii. May need to refine at a later meeting
 - d. Water Quality and Land Use (Oct 28, 11 am combined with topic c.)
 - i. Learn about citizen monitoring and TMDL results
 - ii. Learn about and discuss stormwater strategies
 - iii. Discuss shoreland health strategies
 - e. Review plan (Nov 28, 6pm)
3. Finalize plan and approvals (early-mid Dec) - LWA