

**Lake Wausau Association, Inc.**  
**Weed & Algae Control Committee Meeting**  
**August 9, 2011 - 6:30 PM at Gulliver's Landing**

Attendees: Bill Goetz, Rick Parking, Ed Zagzebski, Dave Dalum, Jim Wagner, Sherri Wagner, Holly Kohl, and Jeff Jackson.

To open the meeting Bill Goetz introduced guest Matt Krueger from the River Alliance of Wisconsin, who joined us to understand more about our organization and to speak about their program and identify opportunities to work together. Bill also mentioned he previously brought up the use of chemicals to treat the weed & algae problems and that he recently discussed this with the DNR who informed him this would create more problems than it would solve. So the use of chemicals to treat weed & algae problems is not an appropriate method to use, but Scott Provist from the DNR had other options as part of a management plan (to be developed after phosphorus study). Bill mentioned the goal of the meeting was to 1) find a Chair for the committee and 2) create action items based on discussions with Matt Krueger with regard to our "next steps" in addressing weed & algae on the Lake.

Rick Parkin volunteered to Chair the committee and Holly Kohl volunteered to Co-Chair the committee.

The group discussed concerns about methods of treating weed & algae, as well as concerns about certain areas on the Lake that have significant weed & algae growth (most of those areas are where the storm sewers are positioned). The group also discussed how the first step should be a study of the Lake to determine the source points and the key areas producing weed & algae (Total Maximum Daily Load study (TMDL) – see <http://water.epa.gov/lawsregs/lawsguidance/cwa/tmdl/>) to learn more about the study). Jeff Jackson asked if there were private companies that performed these studies. Matt Krueger responded there were private companies that could perform the data collection for the study. Jeff also mentioned he is currently performing a water clarity study and questioned whether the DNR would use citizen data in performing their studies.

Matt gave some history on the River Alliance of Wisconsin ([www.wisconsinrivers.org](http://www.wisconsinrivers.org)), which is a state-wide non-profit environmental advocacy group based in Madison, Wisconsin. He mentioned they have 10 employees and have been around for 17 years. Their program areas include:

- Local Groups Assistance - Cultivating and working with water groups around the state (help to establish Boards, assist with fundraising, developing strategic plans, etc.).
- Aquatic Invasive Species - Results in monitors around the state who identify various species and report back to officials. This program includes training

groups such as ours to identify 15 - 20 different aquatic invasive species, learn how to report findings, and how to manage aquatic invasive species.

- Policy & Advocacy - They have a lobbyist up at the capital who's trying to get environmental legislation passed.
- River Restoration - Focus of this program is on urban rivers and the importance of restoration.

Matt discussed how they work heavily with the *Big Eau Pleine Citizens Organization* ([www.bigeaupleine.org](http://www.bigeaupleine.org)) and the *Petenwell and Castle Rock Stewards* ([www.pacrs.org](http://www.pacrs.org)) to address water quality. Both projects are significant and will take a length of time to clean up. This will also be the case for Lake Wausau. Matt discussed the Clean Water Act (<http://www.epa.gov/oecaagct/lcwa.html>) and "Phosphate Rules" which were passed in 2010, but were never put on the books. Matt suspects these rules will be reintroduced this fall.

Finally, we discussed certain "first steps" we can take in proceeding with this project, which include:

- Invite state legislators to our meetings and raise concern about the water quality - get to know the legislators and get them to work with us. *~ This is a group assignment and something our Civic Affairs Committee can assist with - consider this as we move forward.*
- Get business owners involved (i.e., marinas, realtors who sell lake front property, and other businesses who depend on the water quality) and learn how they have been affected by poor water quality. *~ Rick and Holly will contact Ralph Merwin as a start. Ed will talk to representatives from the Wausau Country Club to find out what they are using to treat their greens and encourage other members to take an interest in the Association.*
- Meet with other groups and organizations to build alliances. *~ There is a "Pontoon & Politics" event on Friday, August 19<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm which is expected to run until 4pm. The event is being held at the Lure Bar & Grill/Barnum Bay Marina in Nekoosa (1735 Anchor Lane). This event is sponsored by the PACRS and would be a great opportunity for us to meet with their group, other groups, and our state/local legislators. Bill and Rick indicated they may be able to attend this. Please confirm your interest in attending this event ASAP so we can advise them for purposes of accommodating us.*
- Meet local farmers and take tours of their farm land to understand how they treat their land and how this affects our water quality. *~ This was not assigned, but is something to consider in the future.*
- Learn of other studies on the Lake (DNR may have records of TMDL monitoring on Lake Wausau). *~ Rick will contact Scott Provist for discussion on this matter. Rick will also inquire of Domtar as to whether we could have access to the study that was performed several years ago.*
- Find out what the cost is of obtaining a TMDL study to determine our fundraising needs (discuss with Scott Provist and other organizations, and

review grant list). ~ *Matt will inquire of his associate and Bill will review the grant list. Rick will contact Scott Provist and will discuss this with him as well.*

- Work with representatives from the DNR (Scott Provist) to help us through the process - inquire as to whether citizen data gathering can be used in their studies (whatever citizens can do to aid in the study will be cost beneficial). ~ *Rick will contact Scott Provist for discussion on this matter.*

Our next Weed & Algae Committee meeting is scheduled for **6:30pm on Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup> at Gulliver's Landing** (in their banquet room). Please add this to your calendar. A reminder will be sent as we get closer to that date. We will have follow up discussion on the above actions, as well as determine our next action steps.