

**Not Approved**  
**Post Lakes Protection & Rehabilitation District**  
**Commissioner's Quarterly Meeting December 2, 2023**  
**Minutes**

1. **The PLP&RD commissioners' quarterly meeting** was held at the PLIA Building on December 2, 2024. John Steber called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. Board members present: John Steber - Chairman; Tim Prunty- Treasurer, Phil McGrath- Recording Secretary, Andy Joswiak – Commissioner, and Jeff McKinney – Town of Elcho. In attendance were Steve Brettingen – District Bookkeeper, Ralph Eberle - Dam Tender, Chris Heinzen – PLIA Chairman and 5 others.
2. **Approval of previous meeting Minutes:**
  - A. August 5, 2023, Quarterly commissioner's meeting – The Minutes were distributed to the commissioners in advance. Edits had been submitted prior to this meeting. A motion to approve the Quarterly Minutes was passed with no additional changes.
  - B. August 5, 2023, Annual District meeting - Edits had been submitted prior to this meeting. There was no discussion. The Annual meeting Minutes will be submitted for approval at the 2024 Annual Meeting.
3. **Review of Recent Correspondence.**
  - A. John Steber led a discussion on the Action Alert received from Wisconsin Lakes, *"Proposed WakeSports Bill Falls Short."* The Action Alert states the proposed legislation does not provide any meaningful protection against the activities' impacts. (Addendum I).
    - i. Comments from commissioners and meeting attendees were all in agreement with the message in the Action Alert findings; the proposed bill is not strong enough on defining the distant from shore and the depth of the lakes for operating these types of watercrafts.
  - B. The Action Alert was informative for Lake Districts. No action was taken.
4. **The Treasurer's report** was presented by Steve Brettingen.
  - A. From the Statement of Financial Position, the year to date balances as of Oct. 31, 2023: \$176,677.23 for Total Assets; \$100,045.90 for Total Liabilities; \$76,631.33 for Total Equity. From the Profit & Loss Budget: \$113,051.49 for Total Income; \$56,420.16 for Total Expenses; \$56,631.33 for Net Income.

- B. Steve commented on the reports, included:
    - i. Real estate taxes have been deposited for this year.
    - ii. The Boat Landing project went extremely well, financially.
    - iii. The district remains in good financial shape.
  - C. It was pointed out that on the Profit & Loss Budget Performance, Oct. 2023, the line labeled Lake Study Grant (\$255,330.00), includes the Federal and State grants for the Boat Landing Project.
  - D. A motion to accept the Treasurer reports was approved, without comment.
5. **Old Business**
- A. None discussed.
6. **Committee Reports**
- A. Boat Landing Committee – John Steber led the discussion.
    - i. Upper Post South Shore landing project is now complete, coming in under budget and on time. This landing will not be plowed during the winter, thus limiting activity around it.
    - ii. Upper Post West Shore Landing -John Steber described the damage to ramps caused by last winter’s ice. Kreuger and Steinfest completed maintenance in August to level the approach. The metal connectors that connect the cement were busted with the ice movement. These were unable to be fixed. We’ll monitor this going forward and provide maintenance as needed.
    - iii. Isle of Pine Landing on Lower Post had significant prop wash damage in 2023. It was pointed out in 2023 this landing experienced heavier than normal activity during the South Shore project. It is believed that this damage is due to people power loading their boats onto trailers and will likely reoccur if people continue to load boats under power of the motor. Also, a pier construction company frequently used this landing to launch their larger than normal equipment. Jeff McKinney reported that Krueger Steinfest recently completed repairs adding larger stone to the washed out area.
    - iv. The committee will monitor these two landings in 2024 to see how effective the maintenance work holds up after the winter ice goes out.
  - B. Lake Management Committee – John Steber gave the report.
    - i. John is in contact with the DNR to gather information on required updates to Post Lakes’ 5-year Lake Management Plan, currently scheduled to be updated in 2025. The plan updates will likely include a Lake Use Survey and a Weed Survey. These studies provide valuable information on managing the lake and are a requirement when applying for the permit to harvest weeds.

- C. Weed Harvesting – John Steber led the discussion.
  - i. John Raisleger no longer sits on the board and he resigned as Chair of Weed Harvesting. John also oversaw most of the weed harvesting operations.
  - ii. There was discussion on what will become of the weed harvesting effort. Mike Misterek (property owner on Lower Post) commented that we should keep the program going and he will continue to support the committee as a volunteer. Mike indicated that he might be interested in serving as the lead person for the harvesting program. He is going to contact Brian Kleiman, who has an excellent mechanical background, to see if he might be interested in providing support. Paul Veldman's name was mentioned as well.
  - iii. After the first of the year, John Steber will apply for the 3-year harvesting permit.
- D. Lake Safety – Andy Joswiak gave the report.
  - i. He will be purchasing several replacement winter buoys.
- E. Dam Management Committee – John Steber led the discussion.
  - i. Ralph Eberle the Dam tender reported the lake water level is within the requirement set by the DNR, the level is slightly lower, which is normal for fall.
    - 1. Kay Provance (an attendee) offered to lead an effort to build and install a fish ladder at the dam. It was pointed out this most likely will require approval from the DNR. The same topic came up at our August Quarterly (changed from Annual) meeting. It was already planned to invite the DNR to our May 2024 (changed from March) meeting, where we can hear their opinion and required next steps on a project like this.
- F. Citizen Lakes Monitoring Network – Andy Joswiak gave the report.
  - i. Andy water sample collections took place in June, July, and August. The test results reported normal conditions in 2023.
  - ii. A brief discussion followed on the state of the fishery, walleye, and bullheads. The PLIA Bullhead tournament continues to be a successful event for PLIA; several folks commented they believe it is helping to lower their count.
- G. Website Development – The commissioners will begin using .gov emails going forward. We should begin sending correspondence through these emails. This is being done because of the open records act and cyber security features with .gov.

## 7. New Business –

- A. John Steber stated that there is one seat open on the PLP&RD board.
- B. Management of the Boat Landings - John Steber reported he received several complaints when the docks at the boat landings were removed for the winter too early. Signage at the landings states piers will be removed Oct.10. The Town of Elcho performs this work. There was a brief discussion, and it was decided no action would be taken.
- C. Close out of the Upper Post South Shore Boat Landing Project – Tim Prunty led the discussion.
  - i. The overall project cost \$306,876.68, coming in under budget. PLP&RD took a loan for \$100,000.00 (added a zero) to cover its portion of the expenses; but only used \$40,000.00 of it. No action was taken to accelerate the pay off of the loan.
  - ii. During the discussion on the project finances, Steve recommended that the PLP&RD have a “close out” project document with the Town of Elcho. After that Tim Prunty made a motion, “I move the Board approve the payment to the Town of Elcho in the amount of \$10,046.31, which is the difference between the grant reimbursement and the final bill submitted by Mussen, as the final amount due to close out the boat landing project.” The motion was approved.
  - iii. Jeremy Holtz (DNR) is working with the Town of Elcho on the reimbursement of the Federal and State grant monies. The state grant money reimbursement application appears to be in order. The Federal grant has a pending decision until the documentation is approved on the matching wages for the project. This is being delayed because Jeremy is currently out on medical leave.
  - iv. At the time of this meeting, the Town of Elcho had not received their grant reimbursement money, federal or state. Mussen has been paid for by the Town of Elcho.
- D. DNR Buoy Permits - John Steber led the discussion.
  - i. At the August meeting a resident on the Wolf River north of Upper Post raised the issue that boaters were not adhering to the “No Wake” buoys on that section of the river. We contacted the DNR for assistance and it raised a question on the number of Buoy permits that have been issued for the district. Andy will review our files to clarify any discrepancies with the DNR.

- E. Social Media presence for PLP&RD – John Steber led the discussion.
  - i. During the discussion it was pointed out, Facebook does allow us to connect with more residents of the district. Currently Andy is monitoring the activity on the Facebook page for “Friends of Post Lake” and providing commentary when necessary. The PLIA also has a Facebook page. Chris Heinzen (President PLIA) said they have a person monitoring activity on their site and commenting when needed. Phil will reach out to Wisconsin Lake’s to see if they have issued guidance on this topic for lake districts.
  - ii. John suggested we post meeting agendas and Minutes on Facebook. Going forward, Phil will forward to Andy the link to our website for the meeting agenda and Minutes, so that he can post it on the Friends of Post Lake Facebook page.
- F. Resolution to call for the Establishment of the Pelican River Forest. Tim Prunty led the discussion. See attachment.
  - i. During the discussion two important provisions were identified from the resolution: keeping the water shed intact and protection against metallic mining.
  - ii. A motion was made to pass this resolution. The motion passed.
- 8. **Non-action items that can legally be discussed** – None was discussed.
- 9. **Meeting Schedule for 2024** – to be held at PLIA Building, starting at 9:00 a.m.
  - A. Approved: March 16; May 18; August 3; December 7
- 10. **Adjourn** - This meeting was adjourned at 11.02 a.m.

## Addendum I

Commissioner's Quarterly Meeting December 2, 2023



### **ACTION ALERT: PROPOSED WAKESPORTS BILL FALLS SHORT**

**CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS TO LET THEM KNOW LRB-3518 IS NOT SUFFICIENT TO PROTECT WISCONSIN'S LAKES AND THOSE THAT USE THEM**

A bill proposed by Rep. Robert Swearingen (R-Rhineland) and Sen. Mary Felzkowski (R-Irma) to regulate wakesurfing and wakeboarding fails to provide any meaningful protection against the activities' impacts. While Wisconsin Lakes is pleased to see this issue being addressed, the bill falls far short of what is needed and even makes things worse by undercutting local efforts to manage impacts to lakes and streams. Rather than setting minimum levels or protection for Wisconsin, the bill as written would actually limit the regulation of wakesports.

**Wisconsin Lakes encourages everyone to let your legislators know that this bill, LRB-3518, fails at what it claims to do and does not deserve their support** (Find your legislators [here](#)). This is true even as we should be, as a state, considering meaningful legislation to protect private property, public safety and enjoyment, and aquatic environments from the impacts of wakesports while balancing the rights of *everyone* to recreate on our waters.

The bill as currently written fails on several grounds:

- Despite setting standards, *the bill fails to protect private property, public safety and enjoyment, and aquatic environments by allowing*

*local governments to set their own weaker standards.* Rather than set minimum standards for protection the bill sets maximum standards allowed to regulate wakesports. **Wisconsin's local governments deserve local control to set their own standards for protection beyond state minimums**

- *The bill prohibits wakesurfing and wakeboarding within 200 feet of the shore or structures like piers and swim rafts.* The overwhelming majority of studies say that at least 500 feet is required for these "enhanced wakes" to lose their size and power. **The minimum standard for Wisconsin should prohibit enhanced wake creation within 500 feet of the shore**
- Current studies are showing that impacts from the creation of enhanced wakes are seen to lakebeds to depths of at least 20 feet. Lakes across Wisconsin are seeing pollutants in the lakebed kicked up into the water column and aquatic vegetation being scoured. *The bill fails to include a standard related to depth.* **The minimum standard for Wisconsin should prohibit enhanced wake creation in waters shallower than at least 30 feet**
- *The bill simply repeats standards already in place in other statutes.* For instance, it prohibits wakesports on lakes of 50 acres or less, but *all* boats are prohibited from creating wakes on most lakes that are of that size in Wisconsin already.

Rather than support a bill that undercuts protection for private property, public safety and enjoyment, and aquatic environments from the impacts of wakesports, Wisconsin Lakes encourages our lawmakers to engage in meaningful discussion to pass minimum state standards that balance the right of everyone to recreate on our waters.

*Useful links:*

[Find your legislators in Wisconsin](#)

[Read Wisconsin Lakes' policy recommendations regarding enhanced wakes](#)