

Unified Lower Eagle River Chain of Lakes Commission Meeting Minutes

April 30, 2025

Meeting called to order by Commission Chair Bill Lochte at 9:01am at the Eagle River City Hall.

All in attendance stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Verification of posting by Secretary Marc Groth, and verification of a quorum was confirmed by Bill Lochte along with the rest of the Commission representatives.

Motion by Carole Linn for the agenda to be discussed in any order at the discretion of the chair. Motion seconded by Francine Gough. All voting ayes. Motion approved.

Bill Lochte asked for a roll call and introductions. Commission members in attendance - Francine Gough, Cloverland Township; Carole Linn, Washington Township; Bill Lochte, Lincoln Township; and Dan Dumas, City of Eagle River.

Also in attendance:

Dave Mueller, Commission Treasurer, the Commission/ERCLA AIS Coordinator and Otter Lake Captain; Marc Groth, Commission Secretary, ERCLA Shoreline Restoration Chair, and the Duck Lake Captain; Steve Skora, Catfish Lake Co-captain; Al Wirt, Vilas County Land and Water Conservation Department; Chuck Berg, ERCLA President; Jody Voight, ERCLA Vice President; Steve Wagner, Catfish Lake Captain.

Approval of the March 20, 2025, meeting minutes.

Chuck Berg commented that the following statement "Onterra expects to submit the final report by the end of April 2024" under the 2024 Treasurer's report be changed to "Onterra expects to submit the final report by the end of April 2025."

Motion by Francine Gough to approve the March 20, 2025, meeting minutes with the change highlighted by Chuck. Motion seconded by Dan Dumas. All voting ayes. Motion approved.

ULERCLC Commission Business:

The 2024 Treasurer report by Dave Mueller.

On April 11th an advance payment of \$25,000 from the recent approved control grant was deposited.

DNR held 20% of payment from the last approved control grant until they receive the final report. The Onterra final report was sent to the DNR. Dave will follow up with the DNR regarding timing to submit a final payment request.

Review and payment of bills

Expenditures – the remaining \$12,000 due to DASH LLC was paid. Cash balance is \$15,303.63 in our account.

Motion by Francine Gough to approve the April 29th Treasurer's Report. Motion seconded by Dan Dumas. All voting ayes. Motion approved.

2025 AIS Program Overall Schedule of Events and Deliverables

- A. Early hand removal – end of June if applicable. (Weeds are down right now.)
- B. Onterra Spring survey – week after July 4th which will help determine the primary areas for hand harvesting.
- C. July/August – DASH hand harvesting.
- D. Late August – ERCLA volunteers execute peak biomass survey looking for EWM that Onterra did not highlight.
- E. Early September - Onterra completes their final survey.

Dave will have a calendar of events for the next meeting.

Dave presented the 2025 projects costs dated April 30, 2025. See attached.

Bill inquired about our Clean Boats/Clean Waters (CB/CW) program this summer. Dave responded that we are using the Vilas County Land and Water Conservation department's intern. ERCLA has arranged for 36 hours of coverage during the July 4th week at Eagle Lake County Park landing, the T-docks landing on Yellow Birch Lake, and the Braywood landing on Catfish Lake. The contract is signed for 2025. Different CB/CW resource alternatives will be investigated for 2026.

Aquatic Plant Management Plan (APMP) 2025 Education Program

Marc presented a plan for education which began in the ERCLA spring 2025 newsletter. The plan is to educate residents and non-residents regarding EWM and the Aquatic Plant Management Plan. The first phase was included in the ERCLA Spring Newsletter. The next two phases will be in July/August 2025 and in early 2026. The aquatic plant management plan grant pre-application is due by September 15, 2025, and the final grant application is due by November 15, 2025. Additional activities required to complete the grant in 2025 and the plan itself in 2026 are in the process of being developed and will be presented to the Commission when completed.

2025 Invasive Species Action Award

Marc Groth announced that Dave Mueller has been awarded the 2025 Invasive Species Action Award in the category of voluntary individual from the DNR Invasive Species Council. Dave and Marc will be attending a special recognition ceremony on June 4th at the DNR Cranberry Research Station in Black River Falls, WI. The Commission congratulates Dave for the recognition.

Letters and Communication

We received the notification announcing Daves's award. No other letters and communications received.

Open Forum

A brief discussion was had regarding having our own DASH boat and volunteer divers to provide additional hand pulling resources. It was agreed that the Commission will go forward to investigate what it will take to implement the project.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 28th at 11:00 am at the Eagle River City Hall.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:11am by Dan Dumas. Motion seconded by Francine Gough. All voting ayes. Motion approved.