

Unified Lower Eagle River Chain of Lakes Commission  
Meeting Minutes

August 1, 2024

Meeting called to order by Bill Lochte at 1:03PM at the Eagle River City Hall. Bill Lochte has agreed to chair the meeting in Ron Kressin's place who has resigned from the City of Eagle River Board.

All in attendance stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Verification of posting and approval to follow the agenda in any order. Motion by Carole Linn and 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; and Bill Lochte, Lincoln Township.

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 Wagner, ERCLA Catfish Lake Captain, George Katich, ERCLA Yellow Birch Lake Captain; Bill Marshall, Lincoln Township Supervisor; Chuck Berg, ERCLA President; Steve Skora, Catfish Lake Co-captain; and Jody Voight, ERCLA VP and Otter Lake Co-captain.

The commission was asked for comment regarding the February 15, 2024, meeting minutes. Carole Linn asked for clarification regarding whether the ERCLA sponsored management plan on page 2 is the Aquatic Plant Management or the Lake Management Plan. Marc Groth confirmed it is the Aquatic Plant Management Plan. Carole also asked for clarification of whose Healthy Lakes and Rivers grant was approved by the DNR. Marc Groth responded it is ERCLA's. Motion made by Carole Linn to approve the minutes with the noted clarification. Motion seconded by Francine Gough. All voting ayes. Motion passes.

**ULERCLC Commission Business:**

**Treasurer report** by Dave Mueller.

ULERCLC has a balance of \$24,530.46 after the interest income of \$66.66 from our checking account and expenditures adding up to \$2,680.00

DNR grant funds remaining after the 15% increase requested by Dave Mueller is \$19,363.43.

Motion to accept the Treasurer Report by Carole Linn; motion seconded by Francine Gough. All voting ayes. Motion passed.

## 2024 Project Summary

Dave Mueller submitted a request to the DNR for 25% of the original grant amount of \$112,707.40. The DNR policy for additional funds is now 15%, so we did get an additional 15% in the amount of \$16,906.11. Therefore, we have enough in our treasury to handle the 2024 projects.

Grant funds remaining are \$2457.32. Add the \$16,906.11 to this amount for a total of \$19,363.43.

Total treasury amount is \$24,838.91. Add the \$16,906.11 equals \$41,745.02.

Add that total with the incoming funds from ERCLA, the City of Eagle River and the three townships allows for adequate funds for 2024. Invoices are sent to the City of Eagle River and the three townships after we receive our final costs from Onterra and DASH LLC. The existing DNR grant expires on 12/31/24.

The ER Chain is due for an aquatic plant management update. ERCLA will apply for the planning grant in the fall of 2024. Estimated cost for the planning grant is \$50,000. Surveys will start in the spring of 2025 with riparians and non-riparians. Feedback from these surveys will be critical. A control grant will also be applied for in the fall of 2024 sponsored by the Commission. 67% of the expected cost will be covered by the grant if approved. The pre-application for both grants is due by 9/15/24 with the final grant applications due by 11/15/24. There is a limit of \$50K per control grant. We will rely on Onterra to determine how many grants we apply for.

The control grant is for hand harvesting only per our existing management plan. Any future chemical treatment will have to be applied for in 2025 to be able to execute in 2026. Strategy is to avoid chemical treatment as much as possible.

A brief discussion was had regarding the optimal time for hand harvesting. Dave Mueller explained that the hand harvesting is typically done around June 1. It was delayed this year due to mechanical issues with DASH's equipment. It was also mentioned that the optimal depth for harvesting is 4-8 feet therefore the areas close to shore are more difficult to harvest.

Dave has agreed to develop a schedule of activities for the control grant to be provided to the commission members.

The commission agreed to hold the 2024 EWM Project Results Presentation at the Washington Township Town Hall on November 20 at 7:00 PM. Bill Marshall offered up the Lincoln Township Town Hall as a backup. At this year's meeting we will attempt to hold a ZOOM meeting for those who cannot attend.

There were no letters or communications received since the last meeting.

Discussion regarding Ron Kressin's replacement from the City of Eagle River. Marc Groth reporting that Ron was on multiple committees so it will take some time to determine

his replacement for all the committees. The City of Eagle River will inform Marc when a replacement has been determined.

The next meeting date will be on August 29 at 9:00 AM. The meeting's objective is for the commission to approve the resolution letter for the upcoming commission sponsored control grant. It will be strictly a ZOOM meeting which will be very brief.

The next in person meeting will be held on October 17, 2024 at 10:00 AM in the Eagle River City Hall.

Motion to adjourn by Carole Linn at 2:05PM. Motion seconded by Francine Gough. All voting ayes. Motion to adjourn approved.