

Meeting Minutes
Forest County Association of Lakes
Friday, January 15th, 2016

1. The call to order was made by Vice President Lee Lamers at 9:00 a.m. in the Crandon Public library.
2. All in attendance introduced themselves. They were; Lee Lamers, Pam LaBine Larry Sommer, Stu McPherson, Mick Elsinger, Tom Palmer, Del Baumgartner, Mary Sprenger, John Preuss, Mike Henderson, Harry Resch, and Mark Smith.
3. Motion by Larry Sommer to approve the agenda, second by Mike Henderson with corrections to the dates of future meetings, all in favor, motion approved.
4. Motion by Harry Resch to approve the treasurer's report as read by Lee Lamers, second by Mark Smith, all in favor, motion approved.
5. Discussion was held on membership. Lee Lamers said they sent out 231 membership renewals. He reminded everyone that you need not live on a lake to be a member. Pam LaBine said there is a better chance of publishing a Land and Water paper this year with membership information and forms.
6. Discussions under Old Business.
 - AIS; Harry Resch informed the gathering that the DNR won't let the Metonga Lake Association treat the lake for five years. They have raised money for this and now are unsure of how to spend it. He noted that the spraying did not knock back the weeds as expected and cost \$42,000 a year. Lee Lamers told the group that the rusty crayfish are not coming back in Roberts Lake. Mike Henderson on Lily Lake said there was less rusty crayfish there. He also described the weed pulling they bought for \$1000. Mr. Lamers then went on to describe the conversations with the Land and Water Advisory Committee concerning dredging and suction weed harvesting. This is planned as a goal in the county's Land and Water Plan.
 - John Preuss discussed the upcoming poster contest that is coming up in May for the 4-8th grades. John also informed the participants about setting up locations for the mussel and snail workshops. He was surprised how many native snails and mussels there were in our waters. The workshop will be in Langlade County in the morning and spend the afternoon in Forest County. A date will be set for June or July.
 - The 2016 meeting schedule is finalized as follows: No meeting in February, Regular meetings in March 19th, April 15th, May 20th, June 17th, July 15th, August 20th Fall Forum, October 1st Annual Meeting, Nov 11th, and no December meeting.
7. New Business discussion

- Committee Signups-Motion by Pam LaBine to table committee sign ups until next meeting, second by Larry Sommer, all in favor, motion approved.
- County Report-A lengthy discussion was held by all members concerning AB 600 and SB 459. It was generally agreed after discussion concerning the health of our lakes that these two bills would actually be good for the lakes in Forest County. Members asked for talking points on the bills to send letters to other legislators as we know where ours stand.
- Essay Contest- This year's essay is "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly of Forest County lakes and Streams".
- Wisconsin Lakes Convention- Forest County tries to send at least two people to the convention every year. If Pam and Alan Schroeder don't want to go, Lee and Vi Lamers might attend.
- Newsletter articles needed for the newsletter in May. Please get your articles for the May newsletter to Vi Lamers in March.
- Letter to legislators regarding a shift in thought;
- The Department (DNR) is not in favor of lakes being dredged to remove muck. The County has moved to a new position of advocacy for maintaining the health of our lakes and we should also. A letter will be drafted for the next board meeting.
- Date of Gardening Conference; Pam LaBine is on the Florence Gardening Conference committee to learn how it is operated so in the future a similar conference can be held in Forest County. The date for the 2016 Conference is April 16th. Many people attend and stay in town to shop and eat.
- Other.
- Emily has the invasive plant website up. This is a joint effort between Michigan and WI counties.
- John Preuss brought two donated books on invasive species for the library.
- Cindy Edlund is to have an environmental summer class. She is also instrumental with FCAL summer classes.
- North Hiles will have its biannual rummage sale on July 15th and 16th this year. Opens at 9:00 a.m. and closes at 3:00 p.m.

Motion by Stu McPherson to adjourn, second by Tom Palmer, all in favor, motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Pam LaBine, Board Member