

TOPICS for planning meeting

Need everyone to help identify additional board members (currently down 1, but also need to find a replacement for Carol)

- We are heavy on representation from north-west corner of county and Eagle River. Could use representation of north-eastern part (Land O'Lakes, Phelps, Conover) and south-western part (St. Germain, Arbor Vitae) of county. Also a river dweller?

How can we be more effective during the pandemic?

- We still gave out a scholarship and a Blue Heron Award
- We held the Seven-county lakes & rivers Zoom meeting, but participation was low (72, well less than last year's in-person event)
- We have done numerous web-based engagements (10 blog articles in 2020, a newsletter, "Greet your Neighbor" rollout)
- Online membership (join or renew by check or credit card) was implemented in 2020
- No public exhibits or opportunities to speak at LA meetings (most everything cancelled)

How we can better support Vilas County Land and Water Conservation for the coming year:

- We got a grant for the DO meter and have provided letters of support for their grant proposals
- We are exploring a partnering opportunity on AIS prevention outreach (Cathy Higley)

How can we better support youth education

- We give an annual scholarship to an area HS student and publicized it in the papers
- We occasionally hear from students that found our "*Useful Links*" helpful for a school project.
- Many more students are studying from home due to Covid-19 and benefit from online learning – a missed opportunity! We've discussed a *kid's webpage* (content similar to our former *grandparents' corner*).

Susan suggested displaying signs on lake properties of Blue Heron Awardees to promote shoreline excellence (she saw this done in Minnesota).

Suggestion from member Dave Slezewski, Big Portage Lake (who BTW is a north-east corner dweller)

- Is anyone tackling lake human problems associated with fireworks, excessive noise, etc. and related wildlife disruption and human quality of lake life.
- How about an AIS prevention billboard at each of the main highway arteries into Vilas County, i.e., US 45, WI 17 and 70, etc.? Too many boaters (especially out-of-staters) still unaware of issues.
- Note: Susan will check the literature and poll the Center for Limnology faculty