

Winter Lakes Alliance
Meeting Minutes
July 13, 2024

Hi all, enclosed are the meeting minutes and updates from our July 13th Winter Lakes Alliance meeting.

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 by Deb

2. Our speaker for the day was Max Wolter (DNR Fishery biologist Hayward Office)
Max reviewed this year's survey results:

Barber Lake, Success! very good stocking results with good numbers of walleyes. A primary example lake of how stocking can really become a success. High natural reproduction of walleyes and muskie. Found a small sampling of Northern Pike but size was impressive with many of the few fish over 25 inches. Max's thoughts were of a very good muskie and walleye lake.

Barker Lake: Really nice sized crappie up to 14 inches. Many in the 10-to-14-inch range. One of the best size lakes in this part of the region. Very large numbers of good-sized small mouth bass. Small number of northern pike and also small sizes. Only caught 1 muskie but it was a very large one (not the right time of the year to sample muskie). Found walleye, catfish, and sturgeon. Some really big sturgeon and catfish. The pictures were amazing.

Lake Loretta: the draw down was in 2022. The lake was stocked with muskie, walleye, bass, and **NO** northern pike. Muskie stocking surveys were really good. Also, large numbers of panfish reproduction. Bass populations were a disappointment and an additional stocking would be great for the lake numbers.

Survey schedule: 2026 Lake Winter
2027 Blaisdell
2028 Loretta and Island

Budget cuts are hurting for numbers for stocking in the future!

All stocking and survey numbers can be looked up on the Wisconsin DNR website. (really worth a look)

His presentation was followed up by a question-and-answer session

3. Kid's fishing event was a huge success with 64 kids and over 245 fish caught. Thanks to all who helped out! Special thanks to our local sheriff's department for safety issues, fire department, local businesses, for their support for this awesome event. Over 200 hot dogs and brats, and many, many family- smiles at this event. Biggest fish was a 22-inch northern pike with some really nice largemouth bass also reeled in.

4. WLA sponsored a 4th of July parade float and also sponsored the kid's parade with Deb and Kathy as coordinators. Thanks to many sponsors who supplied bags of prizes for all the 74 kids. Also, thanks to all who helped with the float. And to Jerry and Judi providing their UTV to pull our float along with our dancing 7ft sharks who accompanied our float down the parade route!

5. Lake Loretta is on its way back. Good fish survey results. Looking for a great recreational lake again very soon.

6. Loon watch only seeing 2 loon chicks on our lakes! tough neighborhood to raise a family for loons with all the predators

7. Next meeting will be on August 10th, 2024 at the town hall. Hope to see you there!

If you haven't received a membership card please let me know. Also raffle tickets are getting few and far between. Please let me know if you need some and I'll send them to you

My computer crashed and I lost all responses from my last E-mail, including some that need to be erased. Sorry, let me know again and I'll take care of it.

Respectfully submitted,
Rick Hasselquist (Secretary)