

# July 16, 2025, 4:00 pm Petrucelli Law Office Conference

## Room Minutes of the Iron County Watershed Coalition

"ICWC works to ensure the highest possible water quality in Iron County lakes, streams and wetlands by educating and engaging our communities in projects that will restore and preserve our watersheds for future generations."

### Call to Order at 4:00

**Attending:** Bette, Doug, Rich, Dave, Tom, Jim, Dorian, Maggie

**Review and Approval of minutes & Agenda:** Tom moved to approve and Dave 2nd. Motion passed for both.

**Treasurer's Report:** Doug hasn't received statements and will send it by email.

**Correspondence:** none

### Old Business:

- **"Float on Fire" preparations for Aug. 2nd:** A Press release will be in next week's paper, asking for rsvp. Jim will bring a table for the picnic portion of the event and get a number of participants from silent sporters. We will reschedule if we have inclement weather.
- **Miskwaagaamiwiziibi Shelter workbees:** Scheduled for Sunday, July 20th and Saturday, July 26th. Sara Basso will provide refreshments both days. Nine people are signed up for the 20th, and 3-4 for the 26th. Rich is getting supplies. Girl Scouts have been completing initial work on a trail along the river and will return to do more work.
- **Shelter Maintenance:** Rich had to jack up the eaves over the doorway of the shelter. The roof is settling and compression is causing the door to jam on the eave.
- **Dober Site update:** Bette reported recent action with Rep. Markinnan's and Senator McBroom have submitted into the budget bill for next year, a request for \$5-7 million as an EGLE appropriation.
- **Wild River Road Culvert update:** Bette reports that Sarah Topp of Trout Unlimited received \$200 K to earmark for additional culvert. She still has \$500K to put towards installation.
- **Cooks Run updates:**

- Bette and Rich attended the IC Rec committee on June 24th. Bette read the mission statement the Rec committee had written. Rich described the application process to designate a forest as "Old Growth". He will see if the Parks and Rec committee would like to submit the application. The area will be apx. 67 acres.
- The county board has "limited resources" and would prefer another entity take responsibility to turn it into a recreational site and maintain it. Dan Hinch spoke with Jessica Mistak of the DNR, who wants to have a conversation about Cooks Run, and assured Dan the DNR is aware of it.
- Commission Chair, Mark Stauber, Parks and Rec chair, Dan Hinch, and Mike Golas of Trout Unlimited attended a meeting with Carl Lindquist of Superior Watershed to discuss ideas. Lindquist requested a mission statement. Bette will work on a description of the parcel which is required as part of the application with Superior Watershed.
- Rich asked the county board if they would refrain from cutting the five acres. They didn't give a definite answer, other than to ask if trees are marked. They are not, other than the parameter, which indicates a clear cut. The question remains unresolved, lacking clarification on commissioners' intent.
- The county has an agreement with the Road Commissioners to repair the main road into Cooks Run. All agree it would make sense to repair the access road at the same time and the county has given an estimate of \$26,000 for hauling gravel and required culverts for that additional work. Bette suggested inquiring with WEnergies Mitigation Enhancement Fund for a grant to cover it.
- Bette and Rich asked the county to consider conducting an Assessment of Diverse Public Recreational Opportunities at the Cooks Run site. Bette recommends that Dan discuss having this done with Superior Watershed Coalition's support.
- Maggie will contact Joe Hovel of Northwoods Alliance to invite him to meet with us to discuss steps to take towards site conservation.
- Any public awareness event at the cooks run site will be put off until the above issues are addressed.

## New Business:

- **Website discussion:** moved to next meeting.

## Date of Next Meeting

August 27th. (Rescheduled for Sept. 3rd, 2025.)

## Adjourn

Doug moved to adjourn, Rich 2nd and motion passed.

**Submitted by Secretary, Maggie Scheffer**