

Minutes of the Iron County Watershed Coalition

August 26, 2026, 4:00 pm
Conference Rm., West Iron District Library

"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 Premo, Rich Sloat, Doug Felger, Maggie Scheffer, Don Litner, Becky Jorgensen, Dave Martwick,

Approval of June meeting minutes; moved by: Doug supported by: Maggie; motion passed

Approval of Treasurer's report; moved by: Dave supported by: Rich; motion passed

Approval of Agenda; Rich added two items. moved by: Rich supported by: David; motion passed

Old Business:

- Bette received correspondence from Chip Kosloski, Fish Habitat Program leading to an extension of their portion of the funds for the Wild River Culvert Project . Bette will submit updates.
- Float on Golden Lake: Successes? Good Turn-out, with about 20 people on the lake and 30 people picnicking. Bette and Dean played music and a tour of the Cooks Run site was provided.
- Hiccups? Golden Lake Association complained that the boat washing station wasn't used before participants launched canoes and kayaks into the lake. Bette addressed the problem with the President of the Lake Association and found an opportunity to partner with them on another issue concerning making the lake a "No Wake Lake". Rich moved to provide a letter of support for a moratorium on Wake boats. Doug supported and the motion passed.
- Cook's Run update:
 1. **June, July and August BOC actions:** Mark Sarder presented at the July BOC meeting regarding the history of Cooks Run and the merits of restoring the site for public use. BOC minutes from that meeting indicated that rather than being tabled, the RFP for Cooks Run Management had been re-opened. At the August BOC meeting Brock VanOss presented the merits of the Forest Park proposal to harvest the timber at the site. Don Lintner's presentation of the Friends of Cooks Run Proposal is slated to occur at the September 8 BOC meeting.

New RFPs are due on August 31. Friends of Cooks Run proposal has been modified to address questions and requests of the commissioners and will be submitted. The BOC is expected to select one of the submitted proposals on September 8.

2. Next steps, leading up to September BOC meeting:

- A full page advertisement will be in the Reporter the week before the meeting, summarizing the Friends' intentions in the management of Cooks Run.
- Paperwork for 501c3 status has been initiated;
- A donor, Mark Sarder, has pledged \$10,000 as seed money in the event the Friends' proposal is accepted by the county. ICWC will hold the funds as fiscal sponsor for the Friends. Additional monetary gifts may be accepted and deposited to the Cooks Run Fund. At such time as the IRS approves the 501c3, the funds will be turned over to the FoCR to set up their own account. Doug moved to approve the fiscal sponsorship agreement as written (see attachment); Rich supported, and the motion passed.
- Old Growth Forest Network sent the regional director for the Great Lakes states. She walked on the site at Cooks Run and determined that the forest would be characterized as "mature 2nd growth forest with old growth characteristics". She added that the forest could be characterized as a "Threatened Forest". Rich read a letter that he will be prepared to read for public comment, correcting comments that Brock had made at his presentation at the last BOC meeting.
- Don: in the event the F.P. school district proposal is awarded, the Friends' group could propose to DNR to partner with us and keep the site public, while the Friends proceed with the deliverables as outlined in the proposal.

3. FOIA and MEPA direction (tabled)

New Business:

- Appeal to someone to represent ICWC on the Friends board, if approved. Dave offered to be a representative of ICWC, along with Maggie as secretary.
- Rich reported difficulty with viewing content on the ICWC website. Several suggestions were offered, and if unresolved, Doug will bring it to Marla's attention.

Meeting adjourned at: 6:00 pm

Next meeting: September 23, 4:00 pm, West Iron District Library