

PICKEREL/CRANE LAKE PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT
SPRING MEETING MINUTES
MAY 18, 2024 9:00 AM
TOWN OF NASHVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER
1038 CTH "Q" PICKEREL, WI

1. Call to Order: Chairman Chuck Sleeter called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Welcome New Members to the Meeting: Jerry Weyers
4. Introduction of Commissioners: Board members present were Chairperson Chuck Sleeter, Vice-Chairperson Noah Pearson, Treasurer Kathy Kupfer, Secretary Dan Stoehr, and Commissioner John Shuppe.
5. Approve Fall 2023 Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Craig Farah and seconded by Curt Haga to approve the fall 2023 meeting minutes. No discussion. Motion carried.
6. Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Kathy Kupfer reported that as of May 16, 2024, the district has spent \$7,816.44 of its \$35,800 budget. She also reported that at the Board of Commissioner's Meeting on March 4, 2024, the 2024 budget was amended to \$35,800 which is actually \$1,000 less than the originally proposed budget of \$36,800.
7. Volunteers, Jim and Phyllis Huss, Jerry ("Hotdog") Hietpas: Chairman Chuck Sleeter presented a Volunteer Service Appreciation Award on behalf of the board to Jim and Phyllis Huss for their many years of volunteer service to the Lake District. Also, two large red signs will be placed on the weed harvester designating it "The USS JAMES HUSS". Jerry ("Hotdog") Hietpas was also recognized by Chairman Chuck Sleeter on behalf of the board with a Volunteer Service Appreciation Award for his many years of volunteer service with the aeration program.
8. Old Business
 - a. Aeration Report for 2023-2024 (Jerry Hietpas): "Hotdog" reported that there was no aeration this past winter due to mild conditions and unsafe ice. He also reported that since he is stepping down from being the aeration boss, a group of 5-6 volunteers have stepped up to take over the running of the aeration program.
 - b. Weed Harvester Report (John Shuppe): John introduced himself as the new weed harvester chairman and thanked Jim and Phyllis Huss for their many years of service. He reported that there were 61 loads of weeds taken from Pickerel Lake last year and that due to the mild winter, he is expecting this summer to be very busy. He also mentioned that due to a grant from the Wisconsin DNR and to avoid the spread of the Eurasian milfoil, the weeds on Crane Lake will not be harvested again this summer. John is looking for volunteers to help with the weed harvesting program, so if you're interested; please contact him by calling (608) 698-3061.

- c. Audit Report (Fred & Linda Maas and Margie Shuppe): After reviewing the Pickerel/Crane Lake Treasurer's books, Margie Shuppe reported that the 3 of them found no discrepancies and the books are in order.
- d. Crane Lake Limnologist Study Update (Dean Primo): Dean Primo of White Water Associates, Inc., presented a summary of the Crane Lake Limnology Study to the Lake District board and its members. He mainly discussed the 15 parts of the Crane Lake water quality findings that were done in 2023. He thanked the many volunteers who took quality measurements and provided the valuable data for the study. The board was given a copy of the study and anyone can access the results of the study by going to the Pickerel/Crane Lake website: www.pickerelcranelakedistrict.org.
- e. Bullhead Removal (Brad Kupfer): Brad reported that after talking with Greg Matzke of the DNR, unless there is more volunteer participation in the removal of the juvenile bullheads, there will be little future help from the DNR. Therefore, volunteers will again be needed to capture the swarms of juvenile bullheads. The nets used last summer for scooping up of the juvenile bullheads were ineffective due to the nets not having a fine enough mesh. Kathy Kupfer will order 20 new nets with a much finer mesh and will have them available as soon as possible.
Brad also reported that on May 28, 2024, Mike Pruel of the Mole Lake Fisheries, has agreed to place 16 Fyke nets for the removal of bullheads on Crane Lake. About 1-2 days after the fyke nets are in place, we will need about 20 volunteers to help unload the nets over a period of about 10 days. Please contact Brad Kupfer at (715) 484-2520) if you are able to help with either the juvenile removal or the adult removal programs.
- f. Boat Landing Project Update (Curt Haga): Curt Haga reported that all 3 boat landings are completed and working well. He said that the Crane Lake landing may require gravel added periodically to the approach due to wet and soft soil conditions, especially in the spring. He thanked the following for their donations to have this worked completed: Wisconsin DNR, Forest County Tourism, Pickerel/Crane Lake District, and the Town of Nashville. Thank you, Curt, for heading up this much-needed project.

9. New Business

- a. 3-year Plan: Kathy reported that the board has approved a 3-year financial plan that would continue to budget \$10,000 for the Lake Management Plan and \$10,000 for the Weed Harvester through 2026.
- b. Potential Filamentous Algae Removal on Crane Lake (Brad Kupfer): Brad discussed what filamentous algae is and how it has increased over the last several years on Crane Lake. Dean Primo of White Water Associates, Inc., explained that you may be able to control the algae by physically removing it from the lake with the use of a harvester that skims it off of the surface of the lake. Brad looked into what this would entail and found a company that would charge \$1,000 to bring the harvester to Crane Lake and then charge \$2,500 per day for its removal. After discussion, Phil LaBlanc made a motion to spend up to \$8,500 for the removal of the filamentous algae from Crane Lake. It was seconded by Melinda Pearson. This would include the mobilization fee of \$1,000 and a maximum of 3 days of harvesting. Brad commented

- that he personally would observe the operation and if it appears that after one day the harvester has not effectively removed the algae, then he would not have it continue and the district would only pay for the one day of operation. After discussion, the motion carried.
- c. Candidates for the Fall Election: Chuck announced the office of Chairperson is up for election this fall.
 - d. Nomination Committee for Fall Election: Chuck appointed Craig Farah as the nomination committee for the fall election. Please contact Craig at 920-470-8845 if you are interested in the chairperson position or know of somebody who is.
10. Public Comment: Doug Neumann discussed how to proceed with having a town ordinance prohibiting the use of wake boats on Crane and Pickerel Lakes. He mentioned that a letter of support from the lake district will be needed,. Therefore, George Rock made a motion to prohibit the use of wake boats on Crane and Pickerel lakes. Margie Shuppie seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The board will then proceed with their recommendation to the Town of Nashville.
11. Announcement of Raffle Winners: The following were winners of a door prize supplied by John Shuppe: Phil LaBlanc, Keith Verhagen, and Dennis Welhouse.
12. Adjourn: George Rock made a motion to adjourn and Craig Farah seconded. Motion carried and meeting was adjourned by Chairman Chuck Sleeter at 11:10 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dan Stoehr, Secretary
Pickerel/Crane Lake P&R District