

Commissioners' Meeting Minutes
Pickerel/Crane Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District
October 30, 2024 9:30AM
N9397 County Highway DD
Pickerel, WI

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by chairman Chuck Sleeter at 9:31 AM.
2. Roll Call: Board members present were Chairman Chuck Sleeter, Vice-chairman Noah Pearson, Treasurer Kathy Kupfer, Secretary Dan Stoehr, and Commissioner-at-large John Shuppe. Also present were lake district residents Curt Haga and Brad Kupfer.
3. Approve Fall Commissioners' Meeting Minutes and Discuss Fall Meeting Minutes:
 - A motion was made by Chuck and seconded by Noah to approve the August 24, 2024, Commissioners' Meeting Minutes with discussed clarifications. Motion carried.
 - The 2024 Fall Meeting Minutes were discussed and, after some minor changes, they will be presented to the district members for approval at the 2025 Spring Meeting.
4. Treasurer's Report: Kathy reported that we are currently over budget mostly due to increased costs in Insurance, Lake Management Plan, Walleye Restoration, and Weed Harvesting. By tapping from some of the reserve accounts and making some other minor adjustments, Kathy will be able to keep us on budget for 2024. Kathy reported that fuel costs have increased substantially this year due to the increase in weed harvester loads. Fuel costs for 2024 were \$2,873.44 compared to \$772.26 for 2023. She also passed out a new mileage report form for reporting district mileage. With regard to insurance costs, Kathy reported that the premiums have more than doubled in the last 9 years. The board thought we should look into other insurance options so Chuck offered to get some quotes from other insurance carriers. A motion was made by Dan and seconded by Noah to accept the treasurer's report. Motion carried.
5. Old Business
 - a. Wake Boating Responses: Chuck reported that at their last meeting, the Town of Nashville decided to table any action on the use of wake boats on area lakes. After some discussion, Brad Kupfer offered to contact the Town of Nashville in the spring and get on their agenda to voice our concerns. Any other concerned district members are encouraged to attend. Dan reported that after talking with Kerrie Groat, town chair of Ainsworth, she said that they would go along with whatever the Town of Nashville decides regarding the use of wake boats on Pickerel/Crane Lakes.
ACTION ITEM (BRAD KUPFER): Brad will look into getting on the agenda of the Town of Nashville next spring (2025).

- b. Discuss Pickerel Lake Road Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) Culvert Issue: Brad reported that per the DNR, we are not able to put any sign or buoy in the lake to warn boaters to remove weeds before entering the culvert. Noah investigated several other options including a warning sign placed just above the culvert entrance along with a possible flashing light. After discussion, it was decided to proceed into looking at just the sign options. A motion was made by Kathy to purchase a sign not to exceed \$200 to be placed just above the culvert entrance. The wording of the sign will be determined later. Dan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM (NOAH): Noah will look into purchasing a sign to remind boaters about removing weeds from all motors and anchors.

Noah also presented other options (creating a possible doorhanger or a general postcard mailing) to increase awareness of EWM and the need to keep it from spreading. After discussion, it was thought to possibly do both options. A motion was made by Chuck to have Noah look into the costs of getting doorhangers and a mailer. John seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM (NOAH): Noah will investigate the costs of getting doorhangers and sending out a postcard mailer to all district residents explaining how to stop the spread of EWM.

6. New Business

- a. 2024 Harvester Report (John): Weed boss John Shuppe had the following 2024 harvester report:

- First day of weed harvesting was June 14, 2024
- 499.6 total hours on harvester
- 19 harvester volunteer captains
- 177 loads weighing over 1 million pounds!
- 90+ truck hours (from launch to Huss's and back)
- Weed harvester removal date was September 13th due to lower sections of the front conveyor belt supports having worn out. To date, Don Albright and John have cut out all the bad belt support sections and are ready to weld in new sections of ¼" flat stock. To prevent the weeds from falling back out, Don and John will also add sections to the sides of the front conveyor. The materials needed from Wiedenbeck in Monona were estimated at \$500. Chuck made a motion to approve \$500 for materials to fix the harvester. Seconded by Dan. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM (JOHN): John will order the items needed to repair the harvester.

- 2nd in command, Don Albright, will apply for the 2025 harvester permit.
- Insurance has gone up considerably and Chuck has offered to looking at getting quotes from other insurance carriers.

ACTION ITEM (CHUCK): Chuck will look into getting quotes from other insurance carriers.

- b. Harvester Volunteer Donations: Chuck reported that Tom and Val of the Pickerel Point Resort donated a free dinner for all of the harvester volunteers a week after Labor Day. Numerous others donated cash to the event. Sally Ferguson donated \$100 to help recognize the harvester volunteers for all of their hard work. Chuck also said that Tom and Val want to again honor the volunteers in 2025 with details to follow. Thank you to Tom, Val, and Sally!

ACTION ITEM (DAN): Dan will send out thank you notes to Tom, Val, and Sandy.

- c. Discuss Purchasing Hats and T-shirts for All Volunteers (Chuck and Noah): Chuck thought that it would be a good idea to recognize our volunteers with a custom cap and/or t-shirt. Noah gave the board picture samples and costs to review. After discussion, the board thought that this would be a great idea to recognize the nearly 100 volunteers that we have in the Pickerel/Crane Lake District. Due to the cost, however, and that this currently is not a budgeted item, the caps and shirts will wait to be ordered until after we get suitable donations to cover the cost. A motion was made by Kathy and seconded by Chuck to approve the purchase of caps and shirts for all volunteers based on future donations. Motion carried.
- d. Discuss Cover for Aerator's New Trailer: Chuck reported that he had a cover that he would donate so that it could be used to cover the aerator's new trailer at no cost to the district. Thank you, Chuck!
- e. Update from Brad on the 2024 and 2025 Grant Process: Brad reported that he sent in the final submission for the last 25% of the 2022 grant from the DNR which will amount to \$1,700 being returned to the district. He is also finishing up a request for a 3-year grant from the DNR for a total of \$28,150. To apply for this 3-year grant, the board must approve a Grant Authorization Resolution. Kathy made a motion, seconded by Noah, allowing Brad Kupfer to submit a 3-year DNR grant totaling \$28,150 of which the district will receive \$13,150, if approved. Motion carried.
- f. Donations of (3) Fishing Line Deposit Boxes from FCAL (Curt Haga): Curt Haga reported that the Forest County Association of Lakes (FCAL) donated 3 fishing line deposit boxes that can be installed at each of our boat landings. Curt brought one of the tube-like containers to show the board; all the members were impressed. Brad Kupfer and John Shuppe offered to put them up next spring at each of the boat landings.

ACTION ITEM (BRAD AND JOHN): Brad and John will install the fishing line deposit boxes at each of the three boat landings.

ACTION ITEM (DAN): Dan will send a thank you to FCAL and also include an article and picture in the spring 2025 newsletter.

- g. 2025 Possible Budget Changes: Kathy reported that she would like to increase the 2025 budget from \$33,000 to \$37,500. This can be accomplished without changing the tax levy that was approved by the membership at the Annual Fall Meeting. John made a motion, seconded by Dan, to change the 2025 budget from \$33,000 to \$37,500 with no change in the tax levy. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM (KATHY): Kathy will send the amended budget to all Board members following today's meeting.

- h. Spring Meeting Agenda Items: Chuck asked for items that the board wanted to be included on the 2025 spring meeting agenda. Kathy will compile the items and send them out via an email for the board to review.

ACTION ITEM (KATHY): Kathy will compile the agenda items for the 2025 spring meeting and send the list to the board members via email for their review.

- i. Final Date to Furnish Spring Newsletter Articles and Reports to the Secretary (Dan): Dan asked the board that all their articles and reports be sent to him by April 5, 2025, so that the newsletter can be printed and sent out 2-3 weeks before the spring meeting on May 17, 2025.

7. Public Input

- a. Kathy reported that several weeks ago a resident of the Lake District called to inform her that there were no "boards" in the Pickerel Dam and wondered whether this was purposeful or not. After checking out the dam herself, she contacted the DNR and the Town of Ainsworth. Brad and Kathy are going to meet at the dam today (10/30/2024) at 1:00 PM with Forrest Van Asten of the DNR and Vern Lee of the Town of Ainsworth to evaluate the situation and determine whether the boards need to be reinstalled or not.

ACTION ITEM (KATHY): Kathy will share the findings at our next meeting.

- b. Review action items from the August 24, 2024, Commissioners' Meeting: All the action items were completed except the following:

ACTION ITEM NOT COMPLETED (JOHN AND CHUCK): Yearly timeline to be completed by the next Commissioners' meeting.

ACTION ITEM NOT COMPLETED (DAN): Dan will update the newsletter mailing list to include all those in the Pickerel/Crane Lake tax district by the time the 2025 spring newsletter goes out.

- 8. Adjourn: Dan made a motion, seconded by Kathy, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried and Chuck adjourned the meeting at 12:25 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

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