



Pickerel Crane Lake P&R District Fall, 2015

FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S DESK

CHUCK SLEETER

It must be true that the older you get the faster time flies. Well, here we are, and summer is almost gone for another year. I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank all the volunteers who assisted Jerry Heitpas, our aeration boss, with installing and removing the aeration system this winter and the volunteers who assisted Jim Huss, our weed boss, with the harvester activities. I also want to thank the folks who put in and take out the Lake District docks and the volunteers who do our water quality testing. Without all of our wonderful volunteers, the District could not operate without increasing the budget and raising the Lake District tax levy. We are so lucky because I know of some districts and associations that were not able put in their harvesters due to a lack of volunteers. You folks are the best!

I have asked WDNR fisheries biologist Greg Matzke, who is responsible for all of the great attention that has been given to our two lakes, to give us an overview of our walleye rehabilitation project. I have included his report in this newsletter. I am sure you will find it gives us a very good idea of what shape we are in as far as our walleyes are concerned. It appears to me that our past and future efforts are working, and I am very anxious to see the results of the upcoming fall fish surveys. I have been Chairman of this District for nearly 20 years and have never heard such positive walleye reports like I have this year. Folks for the first time in many years are seeing and catching walleyes of all sizes. Please note that Greg also gave us a Pickerel/ Crane Lake fisheries recap that will be included in the spring, 2016 newsletter.

Again, I would like to thank Greg Matzke for his tremendous efforts to improve our lakes and Brad Kupfer from Crane Lake who started the District's walleye restoration program.

On another note; do you have some history connected to your cottage or residence or maybe a story to tell about how your family first came to our area that you may want to share with us? We will be discussing this idea as a possible new addition to our newsletter at the Annual Meeting. Let us know what you think about the idea of sharing our personal stories with one another and learning more about what life was like on our lakes many years ago.

I would like to remind everyone to please attend the Pickerel/Crane Lake District Annual Meeting on September 5, 2015 at 9:30 am at the Nashville Community Center located at 1038 CTH "Q" Pickerel. At the Annual Meeting we will have a budget hearing, and we will adopt the 2016 tax levy. Also, at this meeting we will be voting for three commissioner positions on the board. Please consider joining our Board of Commissioners, we would love to have your ideas and input.

Lastly, if you will note on the agenda we will be discussing a zoning issue that has come to our attention. People have been voicing some concerns about several new garages and/or out buildings with living quarters being built on lake shore property. If you can remember, when the Town of Nashville had authority over shoreland property, these type of buildings were prohibited. The reason they were prohibited was due to the impact to our lakes. If one looks at the issue from an unbiased view, I'm sure you can understand that putting additional living quarters on existing lake lots amounts to twice the impact. This environmental impact is in the form of septic pollution, additional run off from covering too many impervious surfaces on the lot, increases in lake users from over development, etc. There was a valid reason why the Town enacted these local ordinances at the request of lake property owners. However, last year all towns in the State of Wisconsin lost their local zoning authority in regards to shoreland zoning, so now all of our shoreland zoning is being regulated by Forest County which doesn't have as strict an ordinance as the town had in regards to this issue.

The reason our two lakes formed a Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District years ago was to do just that, protect and rehabilitate, which is why we will be discussing this at the meeting. We have spent thousands of dollars and worked very hard to protect and improve our lakes. As lake owners, we have a responsibility to consider how our actions may or may not negatively impact our efforts and our lakes for future generations. I think people do better when they know better and so while it may be legal, it might not always be the best idea. Come join the discussion at the meeting.

Have a great fall and winter and be safe,

Chuck Sleeter

Initial meetings with your Lake District showed that there was a strong desire from the Pickerel-Crane Lake District to rehabilitate the walleye populations within the chain. We put a plan together that consisted of stocking larger sized walleye (7-8" fish rather than the 1.5-2" fish that had been stocked in the chain for decades). Initially the project was just going to be directed at Crane Lake because Crane Lake has always shown better survival of stocked walleye and has the majority of the spawning habitat on the chain. The Lake District began by stocking larger walleye at a rate of 10 fish/acre in Crane Lake annually, soon after the WDNR began to stock these same larger walleyes into Crane Lake (which relieved some of the burden from your Lake District). Very quickly after the initial rehabilitation project for Crane started the plan grew into a stocking program that involved both Crane and Pickerel Lakes. In order to conduct a project of this size we needed another partner and found that partner in the Mole Lake Chippewa Community who really stepped up to the plate. Mole Lake has been instrumental in raising and stocking walleye into both lakes. In fact, in recent years the tribe has been stocking "extra" fish that they have in their rearing ponds into both Pickerel and Crane Lakes. This June the Mole Lake Tribe stocked an estimated 72,500 small fingerling walleye into Crane Lake. A stocking of this size would be large enough to pull off a year class of walleye on its own, but on top of that this fall the WDNR will be stocking approximately 16,000 7-8" walleye into the chain. This is really "power stocking" at its finest and is coming at a great time as we try to fill a void created by a bullhead removal project that was just completed on the chain.

We found through our survey efforts in 2011-12 that these two lakes had an extremely large bullhead population. Bullhead are indiscriminant predators that will eat just about anything they can wrap their mouth around. In an attempt to increase survival of stocked walleye a massive bullhead removal project took place on Crane Lake (2013) and Pickerel Lake (2014). During this removal we removed a grand total of 9,137 bullhead from Crane Lake and 10,816 bullhead from Pickerel Lake.....that's a total of 19,953 bullheads weighing an estimated 12,600 pounds! A removal of this size would decrease the predation on stocked walleye and create a void in biomass that could be filled in by more desirable species (hopefully walleye).

Since the walleye rehabilitation project started we have been conducting annual walleye recruitment surveys. These surveys consist of electrofishing the shoreline of the lake in October and gathering data from age-0 and age-1 walleye to index abundance and survival of stocked walleye. We will be conducting these surveys again in the fall of 2015 and 2016. Then in 2017, we will conduct what we call a comprehensive survey of both lakes. During this survey we will set nets right after ice-out to estimate the adult walleye and northern pike populations, conduct another largemouth bass population estimate (like was done in 2012), put nets back in during late spring to assess the panfish populations, and also conduct the fall recruitment survey. The 2017 survey will paint a good picture of how the stocked walleye in Pickerel and Crane Lakes are surviving and give us a good understanding of how effective this project will be in the long-term. So far all signs

point to good survival of stocked walleye....we hope this continues. The ultimate goal for the rehabilitation project would be to regain natural reproduction of walleye in the chain. As of right now we do not know if that is a dream or a reality. If we can regain natural reproduction then we could see a strong walleye population that would be here to stay for the long-run.

I have really enjoyed my time working on Pickerel and Crane Lakes. My fish team has put in a tremendous amount of effort trying to "make fishing better" on Pickerel and Crane Lakes. We will continue to do everything we can to achieve positive results.

Lake District Docks

We would like to thank Dan Welhouse, Dennis Welhouse and Ron Fields for once again taking out the docks in the fall and placing them back in the water in the spring. We all do this annual dock migration at our cottages and homes but these folks not only do their own but use their equipment to install and remove three more docks miles from their homes. This was a job we all forget and just assume these docks move themselves.

Again, the board of commissioners and the entire lake community would like to say thank you!

WEED HARVEST REPORT

Weed Boss Jim Huss informed us that due to a lack of aquatic plants around the lakes, the harvester only took out 7 truckloads of weeds this summer compared to 68 loads last year. At the time of this report, there is only four weeks left until the harvester will be removed from the lake and placed in storage for another year.

We used the new weed truck to haul the first loads of weeds to the dump site. The idea was to make sure it would handle the load and dump it. We needed to know this before we installed the new side boards and did some welding. The truck passed the test, and the new side boards were installed by Chuck Sleeter. Hopefully, the truck will do the job for many years to come.

We also thank "Big Jim" Kruzitski of Pickerel Lake for donating a roll in dock for the weed harvesting program. This dock will be used on the west end at the elevator site. We now have two portable docks for the weed harvester folks to use in conjunction with the harvester.

We will have to decide whether or not to keep the old weed truck or to sell it. We have put it on the agenda for the September 5, 2015 Annual Meeting for discussion.

PROPOSED BUDGET

Notice has been given that the Pickerel/Crane Lakes Protection and Rehabilitation District will conduct a hearing on the proposed budget for 2016 and adopt a tax levy at the annual meeting September 5, 2015.

Expenditures	2015 Budget	2016 Proposed Budget
Administrative	200.00	150.00
Aeration	2,500.00	2,500.00
Boat Landings	1,000.00	1,000.00
Capital Purchases	3,450.00	2,250.00
Dues	100.00	100.00
Insurance	3,500.00	3,500.00
Lake Monitoring	500.00	500.00
Meetings/Mileage/Phone	500.00	1,000.00
Misc.	500.00	500.00
Office Rent	3,000.00	3,000.00
Postage	500.00	500.00
Printing Ads	50.00	300.00
Walleye Restoration Project	7,500.00	7,500.00
Web Page / Newsletter	500.00	500.00
Weed Harvesting	5,000.00	5,500.00
	\$28,800.00	\$28,800.00

2016 Proposed
Tax Levy
\$27,800

Percentage
of Change
0 %

Revenues	2015	Proposed 2016
Boat Landing Donations	200.00	200.00
Interest	800.00	800.00
Private Donations	0.00	0.00
Tax Levy	27,800.00	27,800.00
	\$28,800.00	\$28,800.00

**Treasurer's Report / Pickerel / Crane Lake
P & R District
Treasurer's Report 1/01/15 - 7/31/15**

Opening Balance

CD's Capital Purchases	44,789.17
CD Septic Inspections	13,383.07
CD Invasive Aquatic Plant Control	37,102.99
Savings	38,128.48
Checking	3,994.49
Variable Rate/Savings	12,636.93
Total	\$150,035.13

Revenues

Boat landing Donation	64.00
Credit (Chase Card Services)	52.30
Interest	438.94
Private Donations	3,100.00
Tax Levy	18,892.98
Subtotal	\$22,546.22

Expenditures

Aeration	1,010.03
Boat Landings	364.28
Dues	50.00
Insurance	3,249.00
Meetings/Mileage	425.52
Office Rent	2,250.00
Postage	216.90
Web Page/Newsletter	140.50
Weed Harvester	1,345.49
Subtotal	\$9,051.72

Closing Balance

CD's Capital Purchases	44,923.24
CD Septic Inspections	13,419.54
CD Invasive Aquatic Plant Control	37,216.40
Savings	35,476.73
Checking	5,721.18
Variable Rate/Savings	26,774.54
Total	\$163,531.63

District Web Page

Be sure to check out the Pickerel/Crane Lake P&R District Web Page at pickerelcranelakedistrict.org for archived newsletters and meeting minutes. Contributions are always welcomed.

Respectfully Submitted; *Kathy Kupfer*, Treasurer

Pickereel/Crane P/R District
PO Box 18
Pickereel, WI 54465

2015 Pickereel/Crane P/R District Fall Meeting
September 5, 2015 / 9:30 AM.
Town of Nashville / Comm. Center & Town Office Building
1038 Co. Hwy. "Q" Pickereel, WI 54465
Phone 715-219-0835

AGENDA:

- (1) Call to Order /Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance
- (2) Greet and Thank Attending Members
- (3) Read the Spring, 2015 Meeting Minutes
- (4) Treasurer's Report
- (5) Old Business:
 - (a) Aeration Report/ Jerry Hietpas, Aeration Boss
 - (b) Weed Harvester Report/ Jim Huss, Weed Boss
 - (c) Decision on Old Weed Truck
 - (d) Donation Boxes / Len Hadovski
 - (e) Lake District Docks
 - (f) Boat Landing Posting Signs/ Len Hadovski
 - (g) Greg Matzke Pickereel/Crane Walleye Recap
- (6) New Business
 - (a) Lake District Zoning Issue
 - (b) Discuss Adding Local History to Newsletter
- (7) Public Comment
- (8) Budget Hearing/Adoption of Tax Levy
- (9) Election of Three Commissioners
 - (a) Nominations From the Floor
 - (b) Written Ballot Vote
 - (c) Announcement of Results
- (10) Adjourn

Notice: A Pickereel/Crane P&R Lake District Commissioners' Meeting will be held immediately following the fall meeting adjournment.

Agenda

- (1) Selection of Positions on the Board
- (2) Adjourn

Pickereel/Crane Lake District Commissioners & Representatives

Chuck Sleeter, Chairman	715-219-0835
Rod Sternhagen, Vice Chairman	920-540-4507
Dan Vosters	920-419-0317
Kathy Kupfer, Treasurer	262-255-0174
Lauren Freston, Secretary	715-701-0066
Jamie Anderson, Town of Nashville Representative	
	715-478-1038
David Solin, Langlade Co. Rep.	715-627-4221

In order for us to keep our mailing list current, please notify us if you move. It would also be helpful if you would let us know the name and address of the new owners in the event your property is sold, so we can include them in the mailings. Thank you.