

Meeting Minutes
Pickereel/Crane Lake P&R District Spring Meeting
September 5, 2009 - 9:30 a.m.
Ainsworth Town Hall

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Sleeter. Commissioners present for roll call were Chuck Sleeter, Brian King, Peg Hollman, Dan Vosters, Dave Solin, and Lauren Freston. Also in attendance were 44 property owners (31 non-residents and 12 residents). The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a moment of silence was observed to thank veterans and active military personnel.

The Secretary read the minutes of the May 23, 2009 Annual Meeting. Craig Farah moved to accept the minutes as corrected, Loren King seconded, all voted aye.

Treasurer's Reported dated 01/01/09 through 06/30/09 was presented and is made a part of these minutes. Craig Farah's question about the lack of insurance payment made was answered by explaining that this payment was due on July 21. Linda Hansen move to accept, Craig Farah seconded, all voted aye.

Committee Reports:

Weed Harvesting: Jim Huss reported that due to the fact that there were not many weeds this summer, there were only approximately 20 loads of weeds taken out of Pickereel Lake. Loren King spoke with the people on Crane Lake and did not feel it was necessary for the harvester to be used there this year.

Invasive Aquatic Plants: Resident Gary Schuelke voiced his concern over the thick Milfoil coverage around Pine Point. Chuck Sleeter responded that the Lake Management Plan is being worked on to tackle this very problem. Jim Huss asked if there was any affirmation yet on the identity of the milfoil found in the lake. Chuck confirmed that the DNA tests indicated that we did have a Hybrid Eurasian Milfoil which means that we will treat it just like the bad stuff. Chuck is hoping to get a better map of the location of the types of weeds and where they are located this fall.

Aeration: The Lake has reported the catch of bigger fish this year which is encouraging. The aeration team plans on following last year's schedule on working the aeration system throughout the winter.

Lake District Docks: Phil Holman would be responsible for making sure the docks are brought in before the lake freezes. Home owners near the boat landing reported that there was no problem with the temporary Port-a-potty placement. A discussion about the costs and benefits of constructing a permanent sanitation structure ensued. Jim Huss contributed that the permanent structure constructed by the snowmobile club was high and difficult to maintain. It was decided that the financial commitment would have to be analyzed before taking on this project. It is also being discussed whether the Town of Nashville would like the old structure taken down. Craig Farah motioned to rent these facilities again from May 2, 2010 through September. Greg Borgwardt seconded, all voted aye.

Fish Stocking Report: There are reports of people catching walleyes. AS to the fish stocking by the DNR, Chuck Sleeter explained that it is prorated per lake. The DNR suggested that the Lake District buy their own fish for stocking. The current price is \$1 - \$2 for each walleye. If 11,000 2 1/2" fish were stocked, the mortality rate would be 1/2. For the larger ones, stocking only 5-6,000 the percentage of fish surviving is higher. The concern was raised that if we continue the aeration program at a a cost of \$1,500/yr. then the District deserved to be stocked. A suggestion was raised as to the feasibility of the DNR funds and the Lake District merging their funds to purchase the larger fish. Chuck Sleeter said he would try, but probably this would not be possible.

New Business:

Proposed Nashville Community Complex: The Town of Nashville is proposing a new Town Complex that would affect the Lake District because we currently use space in the Town of Nashville offices and hold Commissioner's meetings there. The benefit for the Lake District is we could hold our Lake District meetings there. The question was posed to those attending the meeting as to what part does the Lake District want to play in this building? Craig Farah, Loren King, and Brian King volunteered to form a committee and explore the costs and benefits to the lake District. They will present their findings to the Lake District.

Pickerel Dam: On August 7, 2009, the Town of Ainsworth got a letter from the DNR dictating that they were to lower the lake level two inches by removing boards from the dam. There is no choice but to comply. This edict was made after one person complained about not being able to get a boat to a particular spot on Pickerel Creek which resulted in 1,500 residents on two lakes being impacted by this decision. On August 14th there was a phone conference with Terri Cummings and the Supervisor. The Supervisor stated that the Lake District was flooding people out and it had to be stopped. Chuck replied that the original dam was originally built by DNR specs and he has been here for twenty years and never heard anyone voice any concerns over flooding. The Supervisor responded that the residents did not know they were being flooded. Chuck asked if anyone had considered the consequences of lowering the lake level on fish kill passing on EWM to other lakes. Tim Hoyman from Onterra said he did not think the EWM would get past the aquatic plants in the Creek. Chuck Sleeter emphasized that we are not responsible for any new infestations as we tried our hardest to fight this decision.

Jim Huss raised the concern that if the water level dropped six inches the Harvester would not be able to be run, nor would there be enough water to navigate through the culvert for people to get to businesses and resorts. The Lake District was told that they are adults and can figure out this problem.

Budget Hearing/Adoption of Tax Levy: Peg Hollmann presented the proposed budget noting that the total expenditure amount proposed was \$61,200. It was noted that septic inspections had been left out for this year as we are waiting for Forest County to update their system. There is currently \$12,500 on hold for this project. Phil Hollmann moved to accept the budget, Linda Hansen seconded, all voted aye.

The tax levy showed no change for the past ten years and would remain at \$27,800. Craig Farah moved to accept, Ted Corona seconded, all voted aye.

Nomination Committee: Chuck Sleeter, Peg Hollmann, and Dan Vosters' term are up for election. There were no other volunteers. These members agreed to serve for another two years. Elections were held; all were re-elected.

Problem on Channel in Crane Lake: Loren King reported a problem on the no wake section in the Crane Lake channel and observing the hours of operation on Crane Lake. Some try to abide by these rules while others are violating them. Chuck Sleeter suggested that he call the sheriff to notify them of the ordinances being broken.

Adjourn: Ed Mytton moved to adjourn, Ted Corona seconded; all voted aye. meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Freston