

Meeting Minutes
Pickerel/Crane Lake P&R District Spring Meeting
September 4, 2010 - 9:30a.m.
Ainsworth Town Hall

As the key to the Ainsworth Town Hall was not opened, the meeting began outside in the parking lot. Official meeting was called to order by Chairman Chuck Sleeter. Commissioners present for roll call were Chuck Sleeter, Brian King, Peg Hollmann, Dan Vosters, & Lauren Freston. The Langlade County representative, Joe Barnett was also welcomed in as our new representative. Also in attendance were 50 property owners (13 residents & 37 non-residents).

Lauren Freston read the minutes from the May 29, 2010 spring meeting. Craig Farah made a motion to accept the minutes & everyone seconded the motion. Motion carried. (This was pretty informal as we were all cold and outside)

Treasurer's Report: Peg Hollmann presented the Treasurer's Report which is now made part of these minutes. Motion was made to accept the Treasurer's Report & seconded. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Pickerel Creek Dam: Chuck Sleeter reviewed the development of the lowering of the dam. The water level did drop significantly, but as of now we are lucky that there have been heavy rains so the effects have not been too traumatic. As there is nothing we can do, this matter is considered closed.

Lake Management Plan Update/Invasive EWM: Lauren Freston recapped the final meeting of the Residents Committee. The committee was presented the final findings from Onterra through its owner, Tim Hoyman. Suggestions were presented as to how to best handle the invasive weeds which is a significant issue. The solutions ranged from chemical treatments such as granular at the cost of \$700/acre (\$350,000), liquid (51,00 - 59,000 for one treatment of 470 acres - two treatments may be required. There are also options of biological control such as weevils which are native insects that bore into the plant and kill it. This has been less effective as the weevils have not proven to be able to sustain themselves and die off too quickly. There is also the option of manual removal which is sufficient for small colonies and can be done by divers. The last ditch effort, according to Mr. Hoyman is mechanical harvesting. Of course, there is the option of also doing nothing. Each option carries its own risk and benefit. The biggest concern is the cost and the possibility of not getting a chemical solution that will work well in our lake. It is possible to have severe adverse reactions. It appeared that the chemical treatments, while promising the greatest benefits, are also still in the experimental stage. There was an initial feeling of lets wait and see what happens throughout the state for now.

Other issues discussed were the Harvesting Plan - a map was provided which was shown the path the harvester may legally take. It is ok for the harvester to go in between the docks and to pick up floating masses (3 yr. permit) The goal is for the harvester to give access for the docks to the lake and maintain navigability. This may mean that for weed locked docks, one path may be made for each dock to a central path that will lead to the clear waterway - not unlike a shared driveway with branches to individual homes.

The residents then gave input as to what should be included in the final Lake Management Plan. These ideas were based on what the residents viewed as positive and negative aspects of the lake. These suggestions included educating the lake users to the importance of having septic system inspections, shore-land restoration, slow-no-wake zones, the benefits of allowing a fluctuating water level, and how to improve communication between Pickerel and Crane Lake. Also requested were how to balance the cost for

invasive weeds and aeration between the two lakes. The impact on the plants from the aeration system. Also discussed were the fisheries and the suggestion of changing the size limits of bass.

Weed Harvesting: The decision was made to go to Crane Lake first this year. This was problematic in that Crane residents did not feel that there was enough weeds early in the season and there was no option for harvesting when they did appear later in the year. Plus, the plan was decided on with not enough warning so that residents did not have a chance to make sure their flags were up. A discussion on whether it was legal to pick up floaters ensued. There is a differentiation between a lily pad and detached weeds.

Jim Huss explained the process that his team follows as to making it a priority for resident's piers to get serviced. The harvesting team needs to have the docks requesting clean up to use a standard sized flag that is uniform to everyone else so that the harvester volunteer does not have to figure out if the faded green painted board or a green string tied around a pole is coincidental or a request for pier service. The decision was made that a triangular flag must be made of flexible material (so that it can wave) and posted on a post that is roughly 12" long and 12" to the point.

A letter written by Frank Sleeter was read thanking the volunteers on the harvesting team as he had the opportunity to relieve Mr. Huss for a while and realized just how much hard work these people do and how devoted they are to truly providing good service to the people on Pickerel/Crane Lakes.

As of this year, 14 loads were taken out of Crane and 121 loads removed from Pickerel. Last year there was a total of 38 loads for the entire year for both lakes.

Aeration: According to Phil Hollman, there is no new news to report and the plan that has been used in the past will be implemented again as it seems to work.

Lake District Docks and Landings: Two docks were put up in Pickerel and one in Crane. They will all be taken out by the middle of October. The north side boat landing's dock was moved onto the left side and no problems were reported. The Town of Nashville removed the old outhouse from this landing. Joe Sanderfoot volunteered his time and machinery to fill in the whole which the whole Lake District is very grateful to. The Port-a-potty is a welcomed change and is working well.

Fish Stocking: Last year we were not scheduled to be stocked, This year there has also been no stocking. We are on a new cycle. A discussion ensued about changing the fish limit on bass.

Proposed Nashville Community Facility Update: The construction is to begin soon. Brian King reported on his committee that felt that it was a good move to join in with The Town of Nashville to help with the building. The committee felt that a monthly rent of \$250/month is a reasonable request as the Lake District will receive their own office, telephone, internet, and a localized place for all of our files. The size of our office will be 10 X 11 or 110 sq. feet. Lauren Freston voiced her concern about committing the Lake District to the Town Hall building without researching other options. Chuck reminded everyone that the Town of Nashville also helps with repairs for the Lake District machines and this is a good option for everyone. Loren King motioned to approve, the floor seconded it and the aye's have it.

NEW BUSINESS:

Budget Hearing/Adoption of Tax Levy: Peg Hollman presented the proposed budget and tax levy. The tax levy has not changed for twelve years. Both the budget and tax levy were motioned to accept by Frank Sleeter, Linda Hansen seconded and the motion was accepted.

Election of Commissioners: Brian King is stepping down from the board. Nominations were taken from the floor and Rod Sternhagen volunteered. A vote was taken and Mr. Sternhagen was elected as the Vice-Chairman for a two year term. Lauren Freston was re-elected as Secretary for a term of two years.

Public Comment: Dan Vosters made a motion to have the size of the large mouth bass legal limit be reduced on both lakes. This would require making a resolution to the DNR to have it voted on in their spring meeting. This meeting takes place on April 11th throughout the state. He will be willing to go the one Outagamie meeting. Dan made the motion - Jim Huss seconded it and there was a unanimous vote in favor of this resolution.

Jan Olson has finished the Resident's Survey component of the Lake District Management Plan. Anne Fox has compiled the results and turned it in to Onterra.

Walt Fergeson made an announcement how the Town of Nashville is raising funds for their new town hall by selling tiles to individuals or businesses. The cost of the tiles are \$50 for individuals and \$200 for a business.

Adjourn: Craig made a motion that we adjourn & Ron Schultz seconded the motion. Motion carried. The time was 10:54.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Freston