

Meeting Minutes  
Pickerel/Crane Lake P&R District Spring Meeting  
May 29, 2010 - 9:30a.m.  
Ainsworth Town Hall

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Chuck Sleeter. Commissioners present for roll call were Chuck Sleeter, Brian King, Peg Hollmann, Duane Marshall, Dan Vosters, & Terri Schabo who was filling in for Lauren Freston. Also in attendance were 79 property owners (25 residents & 54 non-residents). The Pledge of Allegiance was said & a moment of silence was observed to thank the veterans & active military personnel.

Terri Schabo read the minutes from the September 5, 2009 fall meeting. Craig Farah made a motion to accept the minutes & Greg Borgwardt seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** Peg Hollmann presented us with a recap of 2009 through March 31, 2010 which is now made part of these minutes. Linda Hansen made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report & Heidi St. Louis seconded the motion. Motion carried. Peg also wanted everyone to know that Ann Fox did the audit for 2009 so she should be thanked when you see her.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Aeration Report:** Phil Hollmann gave us an update on what happened this past winter. Phil said that the aeration season was short this year because we didn't get good ice until the first week in January. They staked the lake on January 7, 2010, the lines were put out on January 9, 2010 and it ran from then until March 14 when we had 50 degree temperatures, which made the stakes start to fall down. Three days later they pulled everything off the lake, dried it out and put it into storage for next year. Chuck wanted everyone to remember that if we didn't have the aeration system we would not get stocking in our lake. Chuck thanked Phil for all the work that he does with the aeration system.

This wasn't on the agenda, but Chuck wanted everyone to know that there is a new rule out there that states that boats are to be operated at slow no wake within 100 feet of all lake shorelines, not just docks, rafts or piers.

**Lake District Docks:** Phil Hollmann, Dan Welhouse & Joe Sanderfoot helped get the docks in this year. Chuck said that we appreciated their help. There has been a little maintenance done to the docks, but other than that they are holding up pretty good. Walt Ferguson wanted everyone to know that there is a new state law that requires all boats and their trailers to be clean & free of weeds before they leave the boat launches. The fines range from \$232.00 up to \$767.00. It's really important that this is done at the Pickerel Lake Boat Landings because of the Eurasian Water Milfoil in the lake. We don't want to spread it further.

**Port-A-Potty:** The port-a-potty has been put at the boat landing on the north end of Pickerel Lake again. It will be there until Labor Day. The cost is still \$115.00 a month and that includes stocking & cleaning it twice a month. Craig Farah said that it had previously been discussed taking down the old outhouse. Chuck said that this will be discussed under New Business.

**Fish Stocking 2010:** Chuck had talked with the fellow from the DNR who is in charge of this. They are going to put 6,000 2 ½ inch walleyes in Pickerel Lake & 6,000 2 ½ inch walleyes in Crane Lake this year. Chuck had asked for more, but they said it wasn't possible because they were going elsewhere like Wisconsin Dells.

**Aquatic Plant Harvesting 2010:** Chuck passed a map around that was designed for the people who are going to be driving the harvester. The green areas are where we can't harvest & the little brown dots are

where the Eurasian Milfoil was spotted. Jim Huss wanted to start harvesting, but we haven't gotten our permit from the DNR office in Rhinelander yet. The permit is being held up & the reason for that is that Onterra who are our Lake Management Plan folks are working with the DNR to get us another map of where we can go with the harvester. Chuck said that he had received a call from the guy who is in charge of the permits on Thursday May 27 & he said that if they really worked on this we could possibly get our permit by the first part of July. Chuck told them that it was not acceptable & wanted to know why this couldn't be done sooner. Chuck then received a phone call on Friday May 28 about 4p.m. from Tim Hoyman who is our consultant who works for Onterra & he said that his folks would meet with the DNR on Tuesday to try to expedite the permit as soon as they could so that we would know where we could harvest. Chuck would like to see us be able to harvest weeds in the middle of the lake so that it is navigable for tourism & ourselves.

**Question:** Last year the harvester never got over to Crane Lake & this year weeds are double the amount that they had last year. When is the harvester going to be on Crane Lake?

**Answer:** The harvester needs to be power washed before it can go from Pickerel Lake into Crane Lake so we would need to figure out how and where this would be done.

**Suggestion:** Maybe it should go into Crane Lake first. Chuck thought it was a good idea so he asked Jim Huss what he thought. Jim said he didn't care.

The map is being prepared by the DNR which is part of the permitting process & we cannot get a permit until the map is done.

Chuck will call the DNR on Tuesday to see if we can get a permit for Crane Lake right now so that we can get started and then get one for Pickerel Lake after that.

Loren King said he was going to have a problem getting enough people to run the harvester in Crane Lake at this time of the year because they normally do it in late July or August. Loren would rather see the harvester power washed and come into Crane Lake at its normal time. If we put the harvester in earlier there are 3-4 volunteers to run it for as long as they have to until Crane Lake is cleaned up. Loren didn't think we could get the harvester in at the landing because of the low water. Jim Huss said not to worry that he would get it in.

Chuck said that the DNR wants the people on Pickerel & Crane Lakes to experience the drought. He said that the DNR said that it is about time that we realize that there is a drought. Chuck said that this is what he is dealing with and it's hard to negotiate with people who feel this way.

Craig Farah didn't think that we could harvest until the fish were done spawning. Chuck said that we harvested before at that time, we just didn't go into those areas.

Jerry Hietpas said that the Business Association hired someone to power wash their sign & they may be available to do the same with the harvester. Jim Huss has a power washer right where the harvester is parked now so if it needs to be power washed before it goes into Crane Lake he can do it right there.

Everyone was in agreement to go to Crane Lake first with the harvester.

**Question:** Brad Kupfer introduced himself and said that this was his first meeting. Brad wanted to know if there was anything that we could do as a united group with the DNR or would Chuck prefer just one point of contact?

**Answer:** Chuck couldn't see where that would help with the permit guy.

**Question:** What is the reason for changing the map?

**Answer:** They changed it because of the Eurasian Milfoil. They don't want it to be cut so that it spreads. The map that we have is from Onterra which has nothing to do with the DNR. The Onterra map tells us where the Eurasian Milfoil is located so once this map goes to the DNR they will make another map showing us the route where we can use the harvester.

In order to get rid of the Eurasian Milfoil we may need to go into a poisoning process that is not cheap.

**Question:** Someone wanted to know if these were actual meetings where they were taped and minutes taken or were they just phone conversations.

**Answer:** Chuck said that they are both. This will be discussed later on in the agenda.

**Comment:** Someone said that they were on the same page as Brad that there does come a point when the homeowner needs to get involved by contacting Senators, Congressmen, etc. Chuck responded that there is a place for that, but it's not here yet. He said that he is the type of guy who will use public pressure wherever he can.

**Question:** Someone wanted to know who this Onterra was.

**Answer:** The DNR told us that every lake needed to have a Lake Management Plan & if you do not have one you will not be entitled to any more grants or be able to run the harvester. The DNR directed us to hire Onterra who is a consulting firm that does Lake Management Plans. This firm is the same one that does Rollingstone, Arbutus & Metonga Lakes.

**Lake Management Plan Update:** One of the components of a Lake Management Plan is Eurasian Milfoil & how to get rid of it. On May 15, 2010 there was a Planning Committee (which is also a component of the Lake Management Plan) Meeting. They didn't want Commissioners there they wanted just folks so Chuck was not there. One of the folks that was there was Walter Ferguson so Chuck asked him to give us a brief update of that meeting.

Walt said that it was a 3 hour meeting. He also said that the take away from the meeting was favorable. Onterra was the firm who did the research on both Pickerel & Crane Lakes. The first phase which is the only phase that they have completed was research to see what plant & animal life were in the two lakes. They took a map & created a grid & then they took samples from this grid. The study revealed that there are 33 varieties of plant life in Pickerel & Crane Lakes of which 32 are native & 1 is hybrid which is the Eurasian Milfoil. The only negative that Walt had heard that day was that 75% of the lakes in Wisconsin with public access are free of Eurasian Milfoil. The health of the lakes was measured by the amount of phosphorous, chlorophyll, & algae in the water samples. In each of the 3 measures the two lakes were rated good to very good with Pickerel Lake having slightly higher numbers than Crane Lake. The water clarity was also measured which was rated good to very good. There are about 15,000 lakes in Wisconsin & Pickerel & Crane Lakes compare favorably with the average lake in Wisconsin. So we are in the good to very good range & above average. The watershed is one of the most favorable assets that we have. Watershed is measured by taking an acre of water & comparing it to how many acres of watershed there are. Pickerel Lake had 1 acre of water to 37 acres of watershed. Crane Lake is less & Arbutus Lake is less than Crane Lake. When looking at the 2 lakes in geology they are somewhere in mid life. There are 4 stages of lake life. One is lack of plant life; two is moderate plant life, third is abundant plant life & fourth is a virtual bio-mass of plant life.

Pickerel Lake is in between moderate & abundant so there are centuries left. The next phase of Lake Management Planning is to set forth action time like what are we going to do to eradicate Eurasian Water Milfoil & what are we going to do to prevent other invasive species from getting into the lakes. The plan should have some good things in it like how are we going to sustain the good things that are going on & how do we reach our recreation goals. The DNR has \$4 million dollars in grants available yearly for local partners to help control invasive species & \$14 million dollars available to local governments.

Walt had a conversation with Forest County Zoning in terms of Sanitary Water Control & vapor which involves basically certifying septic systems in the county & they said that they have 40% of them done by taking the sanitary paper files & transferring them to a data base. The state has given them until 2013 to complete this. They are looking for volunteers.

Peg said that the survey that was sent to everyone in the Pickerel Crane Lake District is being compiled by Ann Fox & she has it almost completed.

**Proposed Nashville Community Facility Update:** Brian & Craig had met and discussed whether it was a good idea for the Lake District to have an office in the new building. They decided that it would be a good idea to have an office, but they decided that the harvester didn't need to be kept inside.

Chuck said that right now the town is looking at the floor plan for the town offices and there is an office included for the Lake District in that plan. The size can vary. Chuck reminded everyone that the reason he ran for chairman of the Lake District is because the last committee or commissioners decided that they wanted to put up a new building & buy land. A lot of the folks wanted the money to be used for the lakes & not for buildings. The Lake District Office in the new Nashville building will work out fine without all the cost.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Pickerel Dam:** Chuck passed around a pad of paper & asked people to put down their name & phone number if they were interested in making phone calls to the DNR if needed.

Chuck had received a phone call on May 26 from Terry Cummings (Dam Engineer for DNR). Terry told Chuck that the letter he sent to Chuck on April 9 could be discarded. Chuck said that he never received that letter, but he would still like a copy of it faxed to him. The letter said that Terry had gone to the Pickerel Dam and looked at it & had gone back to his office & had done some calculations. By his calculations the dam should be lowered 7 inches. Terry said that there is a change & Chuck wanted to know what it was. Terry said that he had looked at his calculations again and had decided that he had made a mistake. Terry said that he doesn't know what mistake he made so he is still trying to figure out what the error is so he wants to hold up on lowering the dam 7 inches until he figures it out. Chuck has received calls from folks on the west end of Pickerel Lake who are concerned about the water level going down. Mr. Cummings wanted to know if we were going to start the petition. Chuck thought that the petition was just a petition that was passed around to all the lake & stream property owners to sign saying that they want the water level back to where it was. Chuck told Mr. Cummings that it was up to the Lake District people who attended the meeting on May 29. Chuck said that if we needed 100% of all the people who lived on the lakes, streams etc. we would not get it because 2 of the people who complained live on Pickerel Creek. Chuck found out that we only need the signatures of the people who own lake front property on Pickerel, Crane & Rollingstone Lakes. Not the streams or rivers coming off of Pickerel, Crane or Rollingstone. Chuck thought that was doable, but now he found out that it's not really a petition. It's really an easement. We need to fill out a 6 page application before we start & get the Town of Ainsworth to support it. We need 65% of the people to sign the easement before we can submit the application. Once the application is sent then we would work on getting the other

35% of the people to sign it. The application goes to the DNR Fisheries, DNR Wildlife, etc. All of those people can submit written opposition or support for this. We could get sand bagged one way or the other throughout this whole process. There will be public hearings & of course the people on the stream will be there to testify against it so this is not just the simple signing of the petition. We also need the Rollingstone Lake District to go along with it. Chuck had Terry Cumming fax him 2 sample easements. After reading them Chuck called Terry back & told him that he wouldn't even sign them & neither would anyone else because of the way they are drafted. Mr. Cummings admitted that they were a little bit one sided. An example of the easement is that for \$1.00 you will give up your control & rights to your property on the lake. It also says it will give the DNR permission to flood your property. Signing the easement would stop the DNR from going to the dam & dropping the water level. The dam started with three 6 inch boards then it went to three 4 inch boards and now they told the Town of Ainsworth to make up three more boards at 2 inches. When that doesn't work then the DNR will take the boards out completely. Then they are done because they will be at the base of the dam. Chuck will work on this some more with Terry Cummings.

**Question:** Craig wanted to know if we could seek legal council to sue Terry Cummings department or draft our own easements based on the fact that the state gave us the perimeters to build the new dam & now they are saying that we are not obliging by what they gave us. They gave us the guide lines so we should be in the right.

**Answer:** Chuck wanted to know at what point do we want to face the fact that maybe we can negotiate something different with them. Everyone said right now.

Craig said that there is only one person on the creek that wants the dam lowered, but what about all the people who live on the lakes that don't want it lowered & they pay a lot of taxes to live on these lakes. Craig thinks that we need to go above Terry Cummings head.

Last year in April when they first started taking the boards out Chuck got upset and he called a Commissioner's meeting with Terry Cummings & his supervisor. Jeff Mursau & Jim Holperin our state representatives were also present. They were talking about the water level & what justifies it so they brought out the State Statutes & Terry Cummings supervisor also brought out the petition. Jim Holperin said that he thought that we should follow through on the petition which is now the easement. He thought that while the petition was in the process maybe they wouldn't visit the dam. The DNR told Chuck that our Representatives didn't need to be there, but we thought that they did need to be there. We went as heavy as we could with the DNR.

Chuck explained the application & petition process. He asked if the people here today wanted him to pursue this to see what he could get out of it & if he can't get anything out of it should he then contact legal counsel. Craig made a motion to have Chuck seek legal counsel only if necessary & it was seconded by Don Bork. Motion carried.

Chuck said that the Town of Nashville had just received a letter from the DNR stating that they were no longer going to be doing dam inspections. This would now have to be done by a certified engineer, which isn't cheap. The Town of Nashville owns a dam which is the Lily Lake Dam. Chuck had been in office about 1 month when he received a phone call from the DNR who had done an inspection of the Lily Lake Dam & they said that the water was too high & needs to come down. Chuck asked them to establish a high water mark for him & they did. Chuck then had to bring the water down to that mark. It was only 1 week after they started to bring the level down that he received a phone call from people on Lily Lake & Lily River complaining that they can't get out with their boats. Chuck called the DNR & told them that he was putting the water level back to where it was & they could come out & take it down not him. They never came to

take it down. The issue is the Town of Nashville does not own the dam on Pickerel Lake the Town of Ainsworth does & they apparently have to do what the DNR tells them to do.

**Possible Repairs-North Side Pickerel Lake Boat Landing:** Ron Fields said that the boat landing on Crane Lake has garbage all over & the people go to the bathroom behind the sign. Ron felt that they also need a port-a-potty there. Chuck said that a lot of people on Crane Lake don't even want to acknowledge the fact that the boat landing is there. Every time there is a boat landing sign put up it disappears. So the people don't want it acknowledged so if we start improving the landing then it will probably be used more. Chuck wanted to know if the people on Crane Lake wanted it improved. Someone said not unless it is enforced. Chuck had spoken with the people who lived by the boat landing & they didn't think that a port-a-potty was necessary. Chuck asked Phil if there was room for one there. Phil said that they could find a spot. Chuck wanted to know if the people from Crane Lake wanted a port-a-potty. There was a vote taken. There were 10 for it & 11 against it. There will be no port-a-potty.

The old outhouse at the north Pickerel Lake Boat Landing is a disaster & needs to have something done with it. There is also possibly going to be work done on the landing itself as far as where the cars & trucks back in & out. The Lake District has gotten a new type of material which is a plastic woven mesh. The boat landing would be dug down and then this would be put in with about 8 inches of gravel put on top of it. If there is enough left over they will do the same on Crane Lake. Craig wanted to know about the cost. Chuck said that the material was donated to the Lake District. The fines (gravel) will be about \$6.00 or \$7.00 a yard & we will probably need 10 yards. A dumpster will also be needed if the outhouse is torn down. There is enough money in the budget for all of these things. Jerry Wasyelewski made a motion to do these repairs & Greg Borgwardt seconded the motion. Brian was nominated.

**Appoint Nominating Committee:** Chuck asked Linda Hansen if she would be the Nominating Committee and she agreed. Chuck said that anyone wishing to fill Brian's & Lauren's spots should call Linda. Lauren would like to stay on in her spot, but Brian thinks it's time for some other people to get involved in the Lake District. Len Hadovski made a motion to nominate Brian to keep his spot & Ron Shultz seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Public Comment:** Chuck said that just so everyone knows he is trying to work with the DNR.

Someone said that they have seen where other counties have gotten grants to fight the Eurasian milfoil and he wanted to know if the Lake District would fit into that. Chuck said that when the time comes & it is decided what the Lake District is going to do about the milfoil they will start writing the grants & try to get the money where ever they can. Right now the Lake District doesn't have any orders as to what to do about the milfoil.

Craig said that about a year or a year and ½ ago Chuck had talked about high speed internet coming into this area. Chuck said that the first part of July Frontier is taking over Verizon. Everyone will keep their same numbers, but with Frontier comes the possibility of high speed internet. Anyone having a 478 number is Frontier already so they have high speed internet available to them & Frontier is in as far Lily Lake Road right now. Chuck isn't sure if they will be laying a bunch of new lines or if the Verizon lines can handle the high speed internet. We will have to wait until July. The Potowatomi & One Prospect are working on a grant to put dollars into Broadband, but it looks like they are going to be concentrating on enhancing the urban areas rather than the rural areas because of the politics. The Broadband grant money still hasn't been distributed because they are still trying to figure out the guide lines.

Someone wanted to know what was happening with the size limit on the bass. Don Mueller said that this was a 10 year program & the goal was to make Pickerel Lake a Bass Trophy Lake. The 10 years should be up this

year. Chuck will get Dan the Fishery Guides name & phone number. Chuck said that the Lake District will try to work on the bass issue which is an issue with a lot of people on Crane & Pickerel Lakes.

Brad Kupfer said that he would be interested in throwing some money in as a group towards the purchase of 8 inch walleye for stocking rather than the 2 ½ inch. The Lake District cannot turn the 2 ½ inch walleyes down because then they will never stock our lakes. Brad said that he would only do it if they changed the sign on the landing. He thinks that we should go to a slot limit like they do on Butternut Lake & also at the same time address changing the limit on bass. Dan will bring this all up when he talks to the Fishery Guides.

**Adjourn:** Craig made a motion that we adjourn & Ron Schultz seconded the motion. Motion carried. The time was approximately 11:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Terri Schabo