

Meeting Minutes
Pickerel/Crane Lake P & R District Spring Meeting
September 3, 2011 - 9:30 a.m.
Ainsworth Town Hall

Official meeting was called to order by Chairman Chuck Sleeter. Commissioners present for roll call were Chuck Sleeter, Rod Sternhagen, Peg Hollmann, Dan Vosters, & Lauren Freston. Town of Nashville Rep. Duanne Marshall and Forest County Liason, Jim Stormer were also present. Also in attendance were 55 property owners (13 residents & 31 non-residents).

Lauren Freston read the minutes from the Spring 2011 spring meeting. Motion was made to accept the Treasurer's Report & seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Peg Hollmann presented the Treasurer's Report and 2012 proposed budget which is now made part of these minutes. Motion was made to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

Special Guest: Matt Wagner was asked by Onterra, Inc. to check the channel between Pickerel and Crane Lake to see if he could spot any Eurasian Milfoil spreading in the channel. He and Chuck Sleeter examined the channel on August 19th. Two pieces were found, removed, GPS pinpointed, and sent to Tim Hoyman from Onterra. Native plants were also documented. His overall opinion is that the channel would be ranked from Good to Healthy. Native plants found and documented were lily pads, bullhead pond, forked duck weed, stone wart, elodea, Northern Milfoil, musky weed, water celery, fir pond weed, coon tail, sagle pond weed, clasp pond weed, and the good loostrife. According to Mr. Wagner, the presence of these plants indicate that the water quality is good. The white stem pond weed, in particular, proves a lack of turbidity and would be the first to go if the water wasn't clean. This is proof that the No Wake Zone is helping. Matt accepted the offer of using him as a resource. He also commented on Big Twin Lake's success after being treated with a herbicide to remove EWM. They are now experiencing native plants such as water merrygold growing in place of the invasive weeds.

Harvesting of Thunderbugs/Dragonfly Helgramites: Reports are surfacing that there is a substantial amount of helgramites being commercially harvested on Pickerel / Crane Lake. Kevin Gauthier was called, and he reported that at present there are no controls on commercial harvesting. If the harvesters are using nets and dredging the lake and cutting plants, then a permit would be needed. As of yet, there are only controls in a trout stream. The question is whether to push new legislation on the state level but not affecting personal use.

Lake Management Plan: A draft of the Lake Management Plan has been sent to the committee members and Chuck Sleeter for review. Walt Ferguson commented that it is a well researched plan and easy to read. The lake is overall in good shape and productive even though we are experiencing EWM in Pickerel Lake, it is worth protecting. Part of the Management Plan is to educate the lake users. A website has been initiated to begin this process. Len Hadaski has offered to forward ideas to help the Lake District build a better site.

Weed Harvesting: The weed harvester drivers were thanked. Rod Sternhagen especially thanked the Crane Lake volunteers who took out 17 loads of weeds.

Aeration Report: The aerator is experiencing electrical problems (it keeps throwing the breaker) and will need an electrician. There will also need to be new rope and reflective material this year.

Lake Docks: No power loading signs were put up at the docks and the Port-A-Potties will be removed this week. Recreation officers were on the lake last Saturday and no warnings were written for ATV or boaters. A recommendation was made to post the regulations for both boaters and ATV users in the newsletter.

Large Mouth Bass Resolution: Greg Matzke, Fisheries Biologist, sent a letter to the Pickerel/Crane Lake Association. This letter stated that the fishery crew conducted a survey on June 6th. The results at this point indicate that there is not an overabundance of bass in Pickerel Lake. Conclusions could not be drawn on Crane Lake since there was no survey in 1991. His opinion is that there is no reason to lower the 18" size limit currently used. A motion was made and accepted for Donny Miller to represent the Lake District at the Conservation Congress meeting in September to answer questions. The residents voted to not give up on the motion.

Walleye Rearing and Stocking: A question was posed to the DNR if we could reduce the number of fry and get larger sized stocking. The answer was "No." However, we may purchase our own fry and grow them to release into the lake. 10 fish per acre are allowed which means that Crane Lake can have 3,000 fry for Crane. In October, a group will go to possible sites for raising walleye fry. If we choose to proceed, this could be a positive group effort between the DNR and the Lake District. A committee will need to be formed and be actively involved as the fish will need to be cared for. Implementation could easily take two years. The possibilities of fund raisers for our own stocking was also discussed. A request was made to add a line item on future budgets for fish stocking. A discussion ensued as to whether it is feasible to put this effort into increasing the number of walleye if the bass will just eat them. It was suggested that bass and walleye naturally work together to keep each other in check without affecting the number of pan fish.

Nashville Community Center: Spring meeting will be held in the new complex.

Budget Hearing: Chuck Sleeter made a motion for an addition of a line item for \$2,000 for fish stocking. Seconded by Brad Kupfer. Motion passed. There has been no increases in the tax levies for 12 or 13 years. Approval of the budget was made, seconded. Budget passed.

Commissioner's Election: Chuck was re-elected. Kathy Kupfer was nominated and elected to fill the vacant spot left by Peg Hollmann for the position of Treasurer. Dan Vosters was reelected.

Langlade County Rep: As Joe Barnett has passed away, William Bostwick will be our new Langlade County Representative.

Lake District Property: A number of poplars fell during the last storm on Lake District property. A logger has been hired to clear the dead and leaning over trees.

Meeting was adjourned at 11 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lauren Freston, Secretary