

Meeting Minutes
Pickerel/Crane Lake P & R District Fall Meeting
September 1, 2012 - 9:30 a.m.
Nashville Town Hall

Official meeting was called to order by Chairman Chuck Sleeter. Commissioners present for roll call were Chuck Sleeter, Rod Sternhagen, Kathy Kupfer, Dan Vosters, Duanne Marshall. Also in attendance were 67 property owners (20 residents & 47 non-residents).

Spring Meeting minutes were read. The following changes were made: The weevil meeting was in Crandon. Minutes changed as noted and accepted

Treasurer's Report - there was an error on the Treasurer's Report in the Fall newsletter. The correct closing balance was 125,000. This correction was made to the newsletter that is posted online. New Treasurer's Report was read.

Agenda Change - Presentation from Janet Green from Langlade County - Shoreland Specialist. (seconded and approved)

Shoreland Specialist - Janet Green - Works for Lincoln and Langlade - only a small portion of Pickerel is in Langlade, but these ideas are good for entire lake. Protect shoreland - buffers, native plants, erosion control.

WI has 3rd largest concentration of fresh water glacial lakes in the world. We have a lot of water to protect. Public Trust Doctrine states that everyone has a right to use navigable water in WI and have a right to use clean and unpolluted water. If we want great fishing, we have to protect the habitat. Stocking will not fix poor fishing issues. All properties affect watershed. Any rain water drain off contributes to pollution. Following are a sample of ideas she put forth to protect quality of water.

- Passive method: Don't mow; let it grow. Don't mow all the way to the edge of water edge.
- Active method: Shoreland buffer - trees, shrubs, ground cover providing filtering of runoff water, spawning shade cover, food for wildlife, aesthetic beauty
 - o 40s style cottage will add 4x higher levels of runoff pollution into water; for the newer larger housing increases these levels to 7x higher phosphorous, 18x higher sedimentation increase for modern home runoff of storm water
 - o Zoning Department has information on what is encouraged for shoreland planting
 - o Build 75 ft. off of shoreland - need permits - in an effort to decrease construction that will harm the water and protect the buffer zone.
 - o Removal of living trees, shrubs is usually prohibited. Call the Zoning Department.
 - o 2014 statewide mandate a 35 foot buffer - will affect permit granting in the future.
 - Native plants - adaptable to WI weather patterns
 - Resistant to disease - no maintenance, fertilizer
 - Food and habitat for wildlife, birds, fish, etc.
 - Plants are better than the rocks because they provide soil erosion control and the ice flow and natural movement will dislodge the rocks

- Benefits are that it draws a lot of wildlife and natural flowers are beautiful - Rod Sternhagen is willing to offer ideas as well.
- There are conservation fund dollars to help with matching dollars for restoration projects. Contact Jim Stormer for information on this. Money is often diverted to other counties because of unused.
- Concerns raised about the reimbursement policy - money must be paid out first and then DNR reviews project and decides what the reimbursement will be. (Speaker said the turn-around is about 3-4 weeks.) Hansen nursery North of Elcho off of G - native plants, water, shoreland; Zellners by Merrill is also recommended.

Committee Reports:

Fish: Brad Kupfer - Fish stocking permit was approved. 1 ½ - 2 yr. walleye - 8-12" decision was made to take what the supplier had. Benefit is that the mortality rate decreases from 60 - 40%. Smaller fish size were also purchased. Net survival should have 1,400 after year one. For the other lakes that are doing this, the bass to walleye population swaps from 6 bass:1 walleye / acre to 1 bass : 6 walleye. Members are encouraged to spread the word and keep an eye out for those who take undersized fish. Question was raised about the number of northern pike population. Brad will check into this, but cautioned that people often over harvest pike during the ice fishing season. Chuck mentioned that there is discussion that DNR will shift the walleye stocking allotment from Pickerel to Crane to help ensure their survival rate.

Harvester: Keith Verhagen and Jim Huss: Thanks given to operators and drivers. A desperate need for weekend drivers. The volunteer level has decreased by 50% mainly due to age. Teams are encouraged to volunteer. There is a lot of free time when the harvester is available for you to take the harvester and work the shoreline. The goal is to see the harvester on the lake more. Keith and Jim are willing to train you. Loren King requested a spring push for harvester volunteers. Crane Lake had so few volunteers that the harvester left the lake early. Comment from the floor would like to say that those who worked on Crane Lake did an excellent job. Keith noted that three new volunteers were picked up. Discussions on how to make the need known for drivers. It was decided that volunteers most likely would come from these meetings. A sign up list was passed around. It was mentioned that Jim has clearly written instructions for each aspect of the Harvester making it easy to operate. Hot Dog offered to help unload and drive the truck. He runs Northwoods Custom Woodworking, and is available. Just call. A truck may be needed down the road. This will be looked into per Chuck. It will be difficult because we need a diesel truck that has a lot of special needs. Used ones will take time to find the right one that won't cost too much.

Aquatic Plant specialist - Jonathan Pruss: Connection through the Langlade County Waterway Association. These connections all help us. Mr. Pruss showed samples of local native plants/ weeds found in our lakes including native and invasive species. One of our invasive plants, curly leaf pond start in early spring and weed grows under ice and then dies back in mid-June and early July which causes a lot of our algae blooms from the rotting plants.

Fire Number Public Service: EMT's are having problems finding houses for emergencies. The town will provide these fire numbers at a cost of \$35. They belong on the right side of the driveway. Time is critical. If house numbers are not posted, it will slow down response time. Residents were encouraged to spread the word to your neighbors. Homemade numbers are not good enough. While the tile numbers on the metal stake are not attractive, they may save someone's life. Please contact the Town Clerk to get one for your house.

Budget Hearing: Goal was to reduce the budget which was done. Lowered from \$77,000 budget to \$40,500. The biggest change was the Invasive Aquatic Plant Control which used to have \$36,500 for years. This money has been moved out of the reserved budget and moved to a CD, and is earmarked for this expense in the future. The money is still there. Motion to adopt. Question - Variable Rate, is that a mortgage. Answer: No, it is a savings/checking account. Budget accepted. No increase in taxes for 18 years.

Election of two commissioners: Lauren Freston, Secretary and Rod Sternhagen, Vice-chairman. No other nominations from the floor. Both were re-elected.

Boat Landings: The problem is that power loading is creating holes and the moved debris is raising the dock at Crane Lake. Permits were obtained to fill these holes, and we will be ready to start filling up those holes in the spring. The Crane Lake dock is not adjustable. If we fill it with hard rock, people may be less likely to use their power loaders and wash away the sediment. If we use rocks, are we creating a liability if someone's prop breaks? There are signs already present saying no power loading. A discussion continued as to whether the dock at Crane Lake landing was necessary or would be beneficial to not have it there to reduce the power loader problem. Decision made to just use the rocks to fill the holes and see what happens. Would a sign saying, Caution rocks, no power loading help? This may be a good idea to discuss later. Phil Holman asked if we look into good sized cement slabs to do it right? The slabs may get pushed out by ice. A point was made that if they are big enough, they won't.

New Business: A letter was received offering the Lake District to purchase land with Pickerel Creek running through it. Chuck has seen the land. He feels that our streams and Creeks are pretty well protected. He does not see the benefit of purchasing this land. Question to the floor: Does anyone see any benefit to this land? The question was asked if the land was near the dam? No, it is not. No one present saw any benefit to pursue this idea.

Motion to adjourn, seconded, and passed. Meeting was adjourned at 11:34 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren Freston