

Meeting Minutes
Pickereel/Crane Lake P&R District (Spring Meeting)
May 25, 2013 - 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 Jim Stormer

Fall Meeting minutes were read. Motion made to accept minutes, seconded. Minutes were accepted.

Treasurers Report: Year end report was given. Good news is that we were under budget on all categories. There were no questions. 1st Quarter Report closed with \$154,120.69. Chuck has been questioned that this is a lot of money. Thanks to tax payers, we have the money to accomplish things: future needs including harvester truck, controlling invasive weeds. This money can be gone in a heartbeat.

Are these funds allocated? Capital outlay budget online - may need to be increased to allow for future purchases. Line items for the truck and harvester already exist. CD for invasive aquatic plant control because we figure that is coming in the future. Brad recognizes the amount of work the board does. Peg Holman recognized that we have money because we have volunteers. We don't have to pay for harvester drivers. Recognize both Kathy for her current work and Peg to be thanked with a gift certificate for her work.

Treasurer's report recommended to accept - motion passed.

Aeration Report: Phil Holman - There was some fish kill, but it was not near what the conditions made us fear. Phil was thanked for overseeing the aeration system which helps with this survival rate. January 9th the stakes went in around the perimeter. Jan 13th thawed out the lines and started the blowers; ran constantly until April 16, a month longer than usual. Not one failure all winter. April 30 pulled stakes and ropes. All the lake stakes have been prepared with new reflective material to be ready for next year. Phil would like to be replaced in this job. He is willing to help, but he doesn't want to have to be the one to check on the lines all the time.

Aquatic Plant Harvesting: Keith Verhagen, Harvester getting in shape; Volunteers in a week to do some maintenance. Last year we took out 17 loads in Crane and 65 loads in Pickereel. Weeds were bad last year. We could use volunteers. We need everyone, especially on the weekends when vacationers come up. All you need is a driver's license number and DOB to drive the truck. Singing up in pairs is wonderful. Shifts are about 3 hours. Training is available by experienced drivers. Some feel like they were cheated, but there was not enough help last year. Permit allows us to cut around shoreline. We are not allowed to pick up floaters. A lot of our operators are getting too old. One operator last year took out 15 loads. Green flags should be placed out. They need to be visible, at the end of pier not on boat house. Drivers need to be able to see it easily.

Crane Lake New Dock is in. The old dock was taken to the collection sight and was later sold for \$100. Permits have been received, but the holes have not been filled in yet.

Fish Stocking Report: Brad Kupfer - 2,800 walleyes were stocked last year which was a bad year for growing fish since it was too hot. They have bought a lot of bigger fish (up to 12" some 6-8") at the end of October and then again in November. 1,600 additional walleyes were put in - 2,800 fingerlings. Bull head extraction by Greg Matzke pulled out 9,000 bull heads out of Crane. Matzke said that these bullheads prey on all types of fry, so now that they are out, he will let us stock up to 5,000 fingerlings in addition to the 5,800 fry expected in June. This percentage goes from 1% survival rate to 10%. This was able to be accomplished because the Lake District approved \$7,000 for the first two years. Brad is asking for \$3,000 additional to put in potentially 5,000 walleye in 2013. Total for year one and two, would now be 7,800 walleyes in two years. Pickerel is in the plan as the Crane Lake rearing pond will eventually move over to Pickerel. Crane has deeper and colder water which was a good starting point. Rod, we took out 90% of the bullhead. In the last 25 years, we have not had any walleye reproduction. Matzke feels this will really tell us if we can get the walleye to reproduce. He was very happy at the number of walleyes in the net. The plan to check on these survival rate is next fall when there will be a check before allocation for 2013 goes in. We put it in the fall because the cooler water is better for survival rate. One walleye in the net was 26-28". The walleye will migrate from Crane to Pickerel; they even end up in Pickerel Creek. Bullhead netting in 2016/2017 will net bullheads out of Pickerel as well. If it wasn't for Brad, this wouldn't happen. Jim Huss also was important to this. Barrels were brought to distribute the bullheads. Nets were emptied twice a day. Just about all bullheads were given away. Very few were wasted. Only the ones that were weak were left. Now that the bullheads are out, the more toothy critters will eat the little bullhead fry to control the equalization of the population. There were very few bass caught in the nets. 50% of the population of fish population in Crane was bullhead. They think they got 50%. Sixteen nets were in along the shorelines. Now Brad is working on changing the size limit for the walleye. Matzke is open to this idea because the bullheads are now out. Now is the time to inject greater numbers of walleyes. Motion was made to allocate \$3,000 while this window of opportunity is open. Motion seconded. Motion passed.

Jim Stormer addressed the numbers of bass; individual lake associations will be addressed to get the number of bass down at waterways meeting.

Lake Management Plan Overview: Peg Holman - this plan was required by the state and was completed by Onterra. There are some good things in here. It was started in 2008 at the May 3 meeting at a meeting with the consultant for all the paperwork. 250 hours of in-kind work included kickoff meeting, committee meetings, lake monitoring hours, team of survey compilation. Of these hours \$3,500 only considered 2,300 of it. \$3,800 credit for Mole Lake fish survey \$1,600 from Onterra who did a zebra mussel survey. Paid @ \$23,800 - other expenses \$16,028. Grant \$22,293 money back. \$3,200 total cost for Lake District.

Management Goals: Increase capacity to communicate with stake holders through meetings, newsletters, web page. Issue is that there needs to be more commissioner's meetings. Information such as John Price who is here today to discuss invasive species is part of this goal.

Goal #2: Maintain - current water quality conditions. We have good water quality condition. These levels are being checked on a regular basis. Control invasive species in both lakes is the big issue.

Goal #3: Maintain navigation in near shore – aquatic plants, harvester tries to do this.

Guest Speaker: John Price: Invasive species coordinator works out of Rhinelander. We do not have zebra mussels. The closest lake to have them is Lake Matong. We also do not have curly leaf pondweed or spine water-flees. These are all moved by boats not cleaning out their water. Clean Boats, Clean Waters Program is a volunteer program in the state that educates boaters on the rules to prevent the migration and to inspect boats.

The number one way to prevent these problems is education. Clean Boats Clean Water volunteers have conversations with boaters to inform them where to look for vegetation and collect data for the state which helps to manage this problem. He will provide Pickerel Volunteers with all the materials and training needed to do this.

Boat landing message also includes signs with this information, AIS laws, etc. It is illegal to have weeds transported - \$200 for 1 weed / \$300 for not draining live well. Volunteers are asked to be at boat landings on the weekends for 2 hours at a time.

Motion made to adjourn