

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**2019 PICKEREL/CRANE LAKE P&R DISTRICT FALL MEETING**  
**AUGUST 24, 2019 9:00 AM**  
**TOWN OF NASHVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER**  
**1038 CTH "Q" PICKEREL, WI**

- 1) **Call to Order:** 9:05 AM
- 2) **Roll Call:** Chuck Sleeter, Kathy Kupfer, Rod Sternhagen, Dan Vosters and Margie Ebben were present.
- 3) **Pledge of Allegiance**
- 4) **Greet and Thank Everyone for Attending**
- 5) **May 18, 2019 Spring Meeting Minutes and July 15, 2019 Commissioners' Meeting Minutes**  
There was a motion to approve the Spring 2019 Meeting Minutes by Curt Haga, seconded by Ed Mytton, motion passed. The minutes from the July 15, 2019 Commissioners' Meeting were available as handouts.
- 6) **Treasurer's Report**  
Kathy Kupfer reported an opening balance of \$171,202.64 and a year-to-date balance of \$201,025.63 as of July 31, 2019. Kathy pointed out that grant money of \$18,660 remains in the Lake Management Plan account and is earmarked to pay White Water Associates for the current lake study. Kathy also explained the 2019 Year-To-Date Budget Comparison report. As of August 19th, expenditures totaled \$20,095.84 and there is close to \$16,000 available within our budget to pay bills for the rest of the year.  
  
A motion was made by Lynda Hansen to approve the Treasurer's Reports, seconded by Mark Starich, motion passed.
- 7) **Old Business**
  - a. **Aeration Report, Jerry Hietpas, Aeration Boss**  
Jerry Hietpas reported the aerator is back to normal. The fan was redone and hooked up by an electrician. The aerator seems to be running well. The new pump that was previously purchased is now a backup, as the old pump works. It was mentioned that aeration of Pickerel Lake is necessary to secure government grants for planting fish.
  - b. **Weed Harvester Report**  
Weed boss, Jim Huss, reported the first weeds harvested after ice-out had roots attached, which was probably due to being pulled out by the ice shove. Last year at this time, 101 loads of weeds had been harvested. This year 38 loads have been removed so far, including the first 20 loads with roots. Jim stated the harvester "Works better than new." Jim also said the Lake District does not have WDNR approval to pick up floating weeds. Chuck will call the WDNR to request permission to remove the "floaters." The harvester will be moved to storage sooner than usual this year, due to the tractor being needed for trail cleanup after recent storm damage.
  - c. **Mike Preul with Wild Rice, Bullhead Extraction, and Harvester Updates**  
Mike Preul, Director of Mole Lake Fisheries, said about 2,000 bullheads were removed from Pickerel Lake this summer. The fish were all on the smaller side, which is to be expected due to the large removal of bullheads in previous years. Crane Lake only had bullheads removed this spring when fyke nets were used around the walleye spawning reef.  
  
Mike Preul presented a map of Pickerel Lake showing the proposed 3-acre site for wild rice planting. Mole Lake will pay for and plant the rice seeds, which should be planted by early September, 2019. The plan is to seed 150 pounds of rice per acre, totaling 450 pounds. The site should be marked with "Sensitive Area" signs. A motion was made by Joan Sternhagen to plant rice in Mike's proposed site, seconded by Rose Starich, motion passed.

After a discussion on lily pads, Kathy Kupfer made a motion for Mike Preul to request a meeting with the WDNR to discuss a second wild rice site on Crane Lake to test if rice beds help eradicate water lily plants. Motion was seconded by Joan Sternhagen, motion passed.

Under harvester update, Mike Preul offered the use of Mole Lake equipment to prepare the proposed site of the wild rice bed. Mole Lake's harvester is also available for use on Pickerel/Crane Lakes.

**d. Pickerel Tombstone Snow Club Donation for Use of Tractor**

Kathy Kupfer reported a \$200 donation was sent to the Pickerel Tombstone Snow Club. She thanked the Snow Club for the use of their tractor to pull the weed harvester out of the lake.

**e. Update on LMP Progress and Project Leader Urgently Needed**

Brad Kupfer has volunteered to lead the Lake Management Plan (LMP). This is in conjunction with his leadership role on the Walleye Restoration Project, so additional help is absolutely necessary from other Lake District members. Kathy Kupfer will post White Water Associates' plan of action steps on our website so members are aware of volunteer opportunities.

Brad has already spoken with Dean Premo, White Water Associates' president, on the progress of the lake study. Dean Premo reported that wide-spread Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM hybrid) was found in Pickerel Lake during the Point-Intercept Aquatic Plant Survey done this summer. Chuck Sleeter questioned if this report included "floaters" but there is no way to tell. EWM was also found in Crane Lake near its boat landing and in the channel between the 2 lakes. Brad stated "This is a rally cry for action!" A small group of Lake District members volunteered to pull out the Crane Lake invasive plants by its roots. All members agreed further efforts must be made to stop the spread of EWM!

**f. Walleye Stocking Update, Brad Kupfer**

Mike Pruel reported on this topic for Brad Kupfer. Mike said Mole Lake Fisheries will stock 7- to 8-inch fingerlings this fall. Pickerel Lake will receive 12,500 fingerlings, and Crane Lake will receive 3,500 fingerlings. Commissioner Rod Sternhagen asked "How will we know if natural reproduction is occurring?" Per Mike, that question may be answered when the next electro-shocking of the lakes is done this fall prior to walleye stocking. Discussion ensued regarding tribal walleye spearing but details of future spearing quotas are not known at this time.

Commissioner Dan Vosters reported on a letter he received from Joe Weiss, Warm Water Committee Chair of the Conservation Congress. Regarding motor trolling restrictions the letter states "Your other resolution dealing with adding Forest County to the list of counties allowing trolling with 1 hook, bait or lure (per person) and 3 per boat was passed, therefore Crane Lake would be included."

**g. Northside Pickerel Lake Dock Status**

The new dock has been lengthened and additional legs will be added in the fall. Chuck Sleeter reported that someone backed a boat trailer up the ramp and onto the dock, which broke one of the standards. The standard was repaired by welding. No one knows who caused the damage. Other than that, the new dock seems to be holding up well.

**8) New Business**

**a. Lake Protection Information from Northern WI Lake Group Members**

A report on this meeting was highlighted in the 2019 Fall Newsletter.

**b. WDNR Asks Boaters to be Good Neighbors**

Due to high water this summer, the WDNR recommended "No Wake" near shorelines. Our new "Lake Watch" sign was on display at the Fall Meeting. Signs have already been placed at 3 boat landings, and 3 more still need to be placed within the Lake District. Members were instructed to report any fishing or boating violations by calling the WDNR hotline 1-800-847-9367.

**c. Discussion on Election for Commissioners**

Lynda Hansen reported receiving no nominations by phone for the Commissioner positions up for election. Further election reporting is covered under #11 below.

**9) Public Comment**

Curt Haga commented that the bridge on Pickerel Lake Road and its culvert that connects Pickerel and Crane Lakes raises safety concerns. He has attended a Town of Nashville meeting to recommend replacement of the bridge and culvert widening. At that meeting Town Board Chairmen, Jamie Anderson, said the town has no funds for this project because it is now focusing on Lily Lake Dam. The Lake District board members do not recommend using Lake District funds for this project because they believe it's a town road project. Curt agreed to develop questions pertaining to this issue for the lake user survey, which will be mailed to property owners.

Dan Mitchell questioned enforcement of the "No Wake Rule," which should be observed from 4:30 PM to 9:00 AM. Dan is in favor of speed/time limits being enforced. The Nashville Town Board sets these limits but there is no enforcement. After much discussion of the best no-wake timeframe including possible elimination, it was decided to put this question on the lake user survey. Barb Szopinski, Nashville Town Supervisor, said she would present the survey results to the Town of Nashville.

Dan Mitchell also commented that "WDNR bio-manipulation" has reduced the Lake District bluegill population by 90% per a news article. Brad Kupfer explained that in 2012 it was decided to pursue a walleye-perch habitat within the Lake District. Over time, the walleye initiative as planned with the WDNR will reduce the bluegill population.

Marilyn Rock was the winner of the free Pro Series Tackle Bag raffled off at the meeting!

**10) Budget Hearing/ Adoption of Tax Levy**

The Commissioners recommended a 2020 budget of \$36,500. A detailed comparison of year over year changes was reviewed and questions answered by Treasurer Kathy Kupfer. A suggestion was made by Brad Kupfer to move funds from Walleye Restoration to Lake Monitoring to help fight the Eurasian Water Milfoil problem. After further discussion, a motion was made by Barb Vanden Berg to wait to reassign budget funds until the 2020 Spring Meeting. Chuck Sleeter seconded the motion, motion passed.

Curt Haga motioned to accept the budget of \$36,500, seconded by Bob Ecker, motion passed.

The tax levy remains unchanged at \$27,800.

**11) Election for Position of Commissioner**

- Commissioner, Dan Vosters, has resigned after 24 years of service on the Pickerel/Crane Lake District Board. The Board and Lake District attendees thanked Dan for his many years of dedicated service in the pursuit of Lake District protection and rehabilitation. Curt Haga volunteered and was elected to fill Dan's Commissioner position for a 2-year term.
- Dan Stoehr volunteered for the Treasurer's position. After a show of hands from all Lake District attendees, Kathy Kupfer was reelected as Treasurer.
- Chuck Sleeter agreed to stay on for another 2-year term as Chairman.

**12) Adjourn**

Chuck Sleeter motioned to adjourn, seconded by Gene Ebben, motion passed.  
Meeting adjourned at 11:50 AM

**Pickerel/Crane Lake P & R District Commissioners' Meeting**

**Call to Order 12:00 PM**

**Meeting Minutes follow on next page.**

**Pickereel/Crane Lake P & R District Commissioners' Meeting Minutes  
August 24, 2019**

**1) Selection of Positions on the Board**

Curt Haga was welcomed as our new Commissioner. Curt raised a question to clarify the Commissioners' stance on using Lake District funds for future culvert replacement. The other Board members answered that they do not recommend using Lake District funds for this project.

The positions of Board members remain unchanged, as follows:

Chuck Sleeter, Chairman  
Rod Sternhagen, Vice Chairman  
Kathy Kupfer, Treasurer  
Margie Ebben, Interim Secretary  
Curt Haga, Commissioner

**2) Adjourn**

Chuck Sleeter motioned to adjourn, seconded by Kathy Kupfer, motion passed.  
Meeting adjourned at 12:10 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Margie Ebben