

MEETING MINUTES
2019 Pickerel/Crane P&R District Spring Meeting
May 18, 2019 9:00 AM
Town of Nashville Community Center & Town Office Building
1038 CTH "Q" Pickerel, WI 54465

- 1) Call to Order: 9:05 AM
Roll Call: Chuck Sleeter, Kathy Kupfer, Rod Sternhagen, Dan Vosters and Margie Ebben were present.
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance
- 3) Welcome New Members to the Meeting
- 4) Introduce Commissioners and Interim Secretary Margie Ebben
- 5) Reading of the Fall 2018 Meeting Minutes
Motion to approve Fall 2018 Meeting Minutes by Gene Ebben, seconded by Curt Haga, motion passed.
- 6) Commissioners' Meeting Minutes (Handouts Available)
- 7) Treasurer's Report; Consider Amending Budget
Kathy Kupfer reported an opening balance of \$171,202.64 and a year-to-date balance of \$203,157.59 as of May 16, 2019. An advance payment of \$18,750 was received from a WDNR \$25,000 Surface Water Grant to be used for Lake Management Plan expenses.

Consideration was given to amending the 2019 Budget to cover additional expenditures for the Walleye Restoration Project by utilizing funds received by donation. The extra expense was for higher than expected reef snow removal cost due to heavy snow accumulation in February.

A motion was made by Ed Mytton to use \$3,000 of donated funds to cover the extra expense and to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Dick Andres, motion passed.

A motion was made by Brian King to increase the total approved 2019 Budget from \$33,000 to \$36,000. Motion was seconded by Mark Leopold, motion passed.

- 8) Old Business
 - (a) Angie Stine Presentation and Update on the Lake Management Plan (LMP)
Angie Stine, an aquatic biologist from White Water Associates Inc., presented an overview of activities that will be carried out on Pickerel and Crane Lakes. Lake District members were asked to consider volunteering for a Point-Intercept Aquatic Plant Survey, a Survey to Map the Extent of Eurasian Water Milfoil or an Aquatic Invasive Species Survey. There will also be an assessment of shoreland and shallow water habitat along with a Lake User Survey. White Water Associates, Inc. will use this data to develop the 2019 Lake Management Plan for the Lake District.

Chuck Sleeter asked if we could the count hours spent by the harvester operators on weed analysis when they monitor for weed invasives as volunteer hours for the LMP study. Angie said she would check if the harvester operators may do this.

Per Mike Zelinski, volunteer hours are critical because everything we do offsets the funds we need to contribute to the study. Volunteer opportunities and dates will be posted on the Lake District website by Kathy Kupfer along with Mike Zelinski's phone number. Mike Z. will coordinate the scheduling of volunteers.

Mike Preul of Mole Lake Fisheries said he would give raw data from the 2006 LMP to White Water Associates for the lake study. Mike Zelinski stated we have permission from Dean Premo, Ph.D. of White Water Associates to collaborate with Mole Lake Fisheries.

(b) Jerry Hietpas Aeration Report

Jerry Hietpas reported the aerator ran 1 month longer this past winter because he started it in December instead of January. The #1 blower malfunctioned. The #2 blower continued operating with a few adjustments. A new motor was ordered. Final repairs and hookup will be done by Jerry and Chuck Sleeter.

Brad Kupfer asked if we needed an additional aerator on Pickerel Lake due to substantial fish kill this past winter. Per Chuck Sleeter, the current aerator cost around \$65,000 and any additional purchase would need permits and further consideration.

(c) Aquatic Plant Harvesting for 2019 and Front-end Rebuild Update

The harvester's cutters, motors and conveyer belts have been replaced. The heavy winter snow load collapsed the canopy top on the harvester. A new canopy will be built.

Jim Huss on Pickerel Lake and Brian King on Crane Lake have again volunteered to be weed bosses. Brian King stated that weed harvesting will be done the first week of August on Crane, subject to LMP activities. The members were urged to consider volunteering as harvester drivers.

(d) Pickerel Lake Northside Landing New Dock to be Installed with Plaque

A stainless steel plaque inscribed "In memory of Edward C. Jacobs 1955-2018 My Happy Place" was on display. Thanks again to the Jacobs family for their generous donation to purchase the dock. The dock has been installed but it was recommended by Dennis Welhouse to purchase 4 more legs, brackets and a longer ramp for greater stability. Jerry Hietpas said the Pickerel Lake Northside Landing gets a lot of use and suggested we continue to use the old steel dock along with the new dock.

A motion was made by George Rock to purchase additional hardware for the new dock and to investigate keeping the old dock in service. Motion was seconded by Curt Haga, all in favor, motion passed.

Also on display was a plaque purchased by the Lake District to honor Leo Alexander, who gave the Lake District permission to use his property as a staging site during the construction of a spawning reef on Crane Lake. The plaque was inscribed "Leo Reef." It will be given to the Alexander family to be placed near the reef.

(e) Brad Kupfer Crane and Pickerel Lakes Walleye Stocking Overview for 2019

Walleye stocking is planned for Fall 2019 with 7- to 8-inch fingerlings from Mole Lake Fisheries. Pickerel Lake will be stocked with 12,500 fingerlings, and Crane Lake will receive 3,500 fingerlings.

(f) Brad Kupfer Update on Crane Lake Walleye Spawning Reef **AND**

(g) Volunteers Recognized

Brad Kupfer and Mike Preul used a PowerPoint presentation to highlight the Crane Lake Walleye Spawning Reef Project. In late February 2019, the snow removal crew did a great job keeping the ice clear of snow in preparation for the project. Reef construction began on March 4th and was completed by March 7th. Flannery's 17-yard dump trucks delivered 64 loads of washed rock. WDNR reps, small dump truck drivers, skid steer operators and Lake District volunteers moved the rock along the reef contours. Brad Kupfer recognized all parties involved, mentioning each by name and leading a big round of applause.

Mike Preul reported that walleyes were recently caught in fyke nets. Female walleyes were stripped of eggs and then fertilized. Per Mike, this basically assured 100% fertilization of the eggs. Eggs were deposited on various locations of the reef by Brad Kupfer. Mike stated this will continue to draw walleye back to this reef for years to come.

Brad Kupfer then showed a PowerPoint slide of a new “Lake Watch” sign intended to be used like Neighborhood Watch signs. The Lake District will purchase 6 signs and post at each boat landing near the WDNR signs. Chuck Sleeter offered to help get the “Lake Watch” signs made.

(h) Kathy Kupfer Web Page Update

Kathy Kupfer showed how to navigate the Lake District’s Website: pickerelcraanelakedistrict.org. She asked for volunteers to help administer the website. There was a suggestion from the floor to stop mailing newsletters and to cease reading meeting minutes at Lake District meetings.

A motion was made by Joan Sternhagen to cease reading the minutes at Lake District meetings and to instead post the minutes online and supply handouts at meetings. Motion seconded by Curt Haga, motion passed. It was noted that Spring/Fall Meeting Minutes will still have to be approved by members at Lake District meetings.

9) New Business

(a) 2019 Sokaogon Chippewa Lake Protection Award and Donation to Walleye Reef

Chuck Sleeter extended the Lake District’s appreciation for the \$4,000 donation and award from the Sokaogon Chippewa Community, and he asked Mike Preul to personally thank the Tribal Council. He then asked Mike P. if we’re doing the bullhead extraction again. Mike replied that in early June he will pick 1 night and use 3 boats to net bullheads. He will need at least 3 volunteers from 9:00 PM to 3:00 AM. Chuck said to contact Jim Huss to volunteer.

(b) Mike Preul Presentation on Wild Rice

Mole Lake Fisheries Director Mike Preul stated that wild rice historically grew in Pickerel Lake on its west side where Pickerel Creek joins the lake. He proposed planting wild rice at this location as a potential project subject to WDNR approval. The site selected for the rice would not block navigation. Per Mike, rice habitat benefits yellow perch the most and rice harvesting is open to anyone.

Mike Preul advised that a feasibility study would need to be done and it is easy to get grants for new rice habitat. Mike will suggest possible Pickerel Lake sites conducive to wild rice growth at the Fall Meeting.

A motion was made by George Rock that Mole Lake would reseed a small area in Pickerel Lake and the Lake District would welcome their help. Motion was seconded by Curt Haga, motion passed.

(c) P/C Lake District Five-Year Plan

The following table represents expenditures planned for different Lake District projects:

P&R 5 Year Plan	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Walleye Restoration	\$15,000		\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
Lake Mgmt. Plan		\$15,000	10,000		\$5,000
Shoreline Condition				\$5,000	
Shallow Water Habitat			\$5,000		\$5,000
Harvester Repairs	\$17,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
Harvester Replacement					
	\$32,000	\$18,000	\$21,000	\$11,000	\$16,000

(d) P/C Lake District Mission Statement

Kathy Kupfer presented 2 possible mission statements to the Lake District members in attendance. Most members voted for the first choice, which now becomes our official Mission Statement:

Our Mission is to dedicate ourselves to the preservation and rehabilitation of Pickerel and Crane Lakes for present and future generations.

(e) Bass Limit Update

Effective now, thanks to WDNR rep Greg Matzke, (although not yet in the WDNR game book) the bass limits have been changed on Pickerel and Crane Lakes as follows:

Bag Limit 5, minimum 14 inches and possession limit 10. This now matches the statewide bass limits.

(f) Dan Vosters Motor Trolling Restrictions Update

Dan Vosters attended the 2019 Spring Conservation Congress meeting to propose restrictions pertaining to motor trolling on Crane Lake. A "one line / bait / hook per person and 2 per boat rule" may go into effect next year for the whole county. Kathy Kupfer thanked Dan for handling this matter.

(g) Elections for Chairman, Treasurer and One Commissioner Position at 2019 Fall Meeting

It was mentioned at the meeting that along with the Chairman and Treasurer being up for election in 2019 that Rod Sternhagen's position as Vice-Chairman was also up for election. Upon review of previous elections, it was determined that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman positions do not come up for election in the same year.

The Commissioner position that is up for election in 2019 is Dan Voster's position.

Kathy Kupfer has offered to help the new Treasurer for 1 year.

(h) Lynda Hansen Nomination Committee for Fall Election

Lynda Hansen will be our contact for any nominations of individuals interested in serving on the Lake District Board. She may be contacted at 920-499-2638.

10) Public Comment

Art Seidl asked if the panfish limit could be changed in the Lake District by limiting each species to 10 while not exceeding the 25 total bag limit. Brad Kupfer suggested adding this matter to the Fall Meeting agenda and then taking it to the Conservation Congress in April, 2020.

Jerry Hietpas asked if the culvert between Pickerel and Crane Lakes could be replaced. Chuck Sleeter stated that the Town of Nashville was responsible for the culvert and to contact the Town Board with any culvert concerns. A member then asked if any work was planned on the Pickerel Lake Southside Landing. Chuck replied that the landings are owned by the Town of Nashville, and again the Town Board should be contacted about any landing concerns. Chuck provided the phone number of the **North-end Town Hall's office: 715-478-2524**. He encouraged the members to call the Town of Nashville Chairman, Jamie Anderson, or talk with the Town Supervisors.

Another member asked if we are going to harvest more weeds in 2019 than what was harvested in 2018. Chuck Sleeter stated that we had some downtime last year due to harvester repairs. Kathy Kupfer said we also need more volunteer harvester drivers. We hope to do more in 2019.

11) Adjourn

Motion by Joan Sternhagen to adjourn and seconded by Ed Mytton, motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 12:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Margie Ebben