



Pickerel/Crane Lake P&R District Spring Newsletter, 2020



SPRING MEETING CANCELLED

Due to COVID-19 concerns, we have been forced to cancel our Spring Meeting originally scheduled for Sat., May 16, 2020. Please stay safe, everyone!

From the Chairman's Desk – Chuck Sleeter

As many of you know, I have been the Chairman of our Lake District for over twenty years. During this time, I have written many different types of Chairman letters. Unlike the previous letters, this one is being written during a time of extreme concern for everyone's safety. As I write this letter, we are still very much in the midst of this COVID-19 Pandemic. Our Lake District has been forced to change its priorities just like you at home. Your Commissioners and I are making your safety priority one. Due to the guidelines put out by the Federal, State and Local governments (not to mention just good common sense) we are going to cancel the spring meeting which was scheduled to take place on May 16, 2020. At this time, we can only speculate as to whether or not we will have a fall meeting.

Please keep checking our website at <https://pickerelcranelakedistrict.org> for any and all news concerning possible future meeting dates and any possible negative effects of the virus on Lake District activities. Remember, the website will be our principal method to stay connected with you. If for some reason you are unable to view the website, please call one of the commissioners. Their phone numbers are listed on the back page of this newsletter.

At this time, we are not sure of the amount of aquatic plant harvesting that can or will take place this summer. However, if you are interested in volunteering for this program please call the Pickerel Weed Boss, Jim Huss at 715-216-2453 or our Crane Lake Weed Boss, Brian King at 715-484-2807.

Another important issue is the election this fall. If there is a fall meeting, we will have an election for two openings on the Board of Commissioners. Currently, these two positions are now being held by Vice-Chairman, Rod Sternhagen and Secretary, Margie Ebben. If you are interested in running for either

position, please contact Lynda Hansen at 920-499-2638 as she will, once again, head our election committee.

To add to our share of problems, we have found that the oxygen levels in Pickerel and Crane Lakes were below the acceptable level for fish to survive. We are not sure to what extent this will kill the fish or what species will be impacted. Let's hope our aeration system manned by Jerry Hietpas and his wonderful volunteers has helped us again this year. If there is a large winter kill, we will work with it. Remember these are only fish, not humans. We can restock fish but not you folks.

We are all taking this virus very seriously and hope that you are too. Due to the large population of older adults and high-risk individuals, Forest County has issued a Public Health Emergency Declaration and is strongly advising seasonal residents to stay in their winter homes at this time. Please remember that we do not have the same types of hospitals, equipment, and medical personnel in rural areas that you have in the cities. I realize that lots of you have waited all winter to come to the lake but this year we need to think about everyone's safety.

Please follow the Federal, State and Local recommendations. For the most up-to-date information regarding COVID-19 follow the Forest County Health Department on Facebook or visit the Department of Health Services website at <https://dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/index.htm>. Stay safe, and we hope to see you soon,
Chuck Sleeter, Chairman

**Please Note: Lake User Survey is due by
May 31, 2020**

Lake Management Plan (LMP)

As part of our Lake Management Plan, everyone should have received a lake user survey in the mail. This is your opportunity to let us know your thoughts. The responses we receive will help us determine the issues that are most important to the protection of our two lakes.

Thank you to everyone who has already responded. If you have not yet done so, please take a few moments to complete the survey and return by the 5/31/2020 deadline.

If you have not received a survey, please contact:
Margie Ebben 715-484-8140, or aebben@gmail.com.

Weed Harvesting Volunteers Needed

Please consider helping with this year's weed harvesting efforts. We're looking for experienced, as well as new, volunteers. The more people willing to lend a hand, the better. Feel free to volunteer to help for a day, a week, a month, or the entire summer. The possibilities are endless. **Pickerel Lake volunteers, please call Jim Huss 715-216-2453**
Crane Lake volunteers, please call Brian King 715-484-2807

Webpage Volunteer Needed

Do you enjoy working on your computer? If so, we have a great opportunity for you! A few years ago, a webpage was created for our Lake District to help keep everyone informed. Now, all we need is someone willing to keep the information current. If you've been looking for a way to get involved, this position is made for you! Assistance and guidance will be provided, if necessary, to help you in this position. If interested, please contact: **Kathy Kupfer, 715-484-2520, or kathykupfer52@outlook.com. THANK YOU!**

Sokaogon Chippewa Community Donation

At a reception and check presentation on Monday, January 20, 2020 the Sokaogon Chippewa Community, once again, chose to recognize the Pickerel/Crane Lake P&R District in our efforts to protect our lakes for present and future generations. Their generous donation of \$4,000 will help to defray the expenses of weed harvesting and fighting invasive aquatic plants in our lake district. We are very thankful for their continued support!

New Statewide and Regional Fishing Regulation Changes

A continuous catch-and-release season for bass at all times of the year outside the harvest season will apply statewide, except where refuges or closed areas are in effect. This season will apply to inland, outlying and boundary waters, and no bass may be harvested during the catch-and-release bass season. Waters with a current continuous bass harvest season will not see any changes.

What does it mean? It has no effect on the new bag limit effective May 2, 2020, which is consistent with the statewide bag limit of 5 Bass per day minimum of 14". According to fish biologist, Greg Matzke, it means that during the normal closed season (first Monday in March through first Friday in May) you can now fish for them, you just can't keep them.

Walleye Stocking and Crane Lake Survey

This past fall the DNR Fisheries of Mole Lake planted a number of walleye fingerlings with an average size of 7.1 inches:

Pickerel Lake - 12,916 large fingerlings
Crane Lake - 3,410 large fingerlings.

We will not be doing any stocking during the fall of 2020. Next anticipated stocking will be the fall of 2021.

According to our fish biologist, Greg Matzke, we will be conducting another fall survey on Crane Lake to determine if we have natural reproduction without the aid of DNR fertilization efforts. Last spring, Mike Preul and his crew, Gene Ebben and Brad Kupfer, fertilized a number of female eggs to determine if the newly established reef would indeed hatch eggs. During the fall of 2019, Greg was able to shock one walleye that was 3.5", confirming the fact that the reef is functional.

Director of Mole Lake Fisheries, Mike Preul said, "Unfortunately, we will not be fertilizing eggs on Crane (this spring) but on a positive note, we will be able to evaluate whether there is true natural reproduction of walleye in Crane. Last year, we saw naturally recruited walleye in Crane, but we don't know if it was from our fertilization effort or walleye on their own."

During the fall of 2020, we will be looking for walleyes that were hatched naturally on the reef, without our help in the fertilization process. Keep your fingers crossed, as it would be exciting to have natural walleye reproduction return to Pickerel and Crane Lakes.

Treasurer's Reports

Pickere/ Crane Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District	
Year-End Treasurer's Report 1/01/19 - 12/31/19	
Opening Balance	
CD's Capital Purchases	49,579.01
CD Boat Landings	9,069.83
CD Invasive Aquatic Plant Control	38,488.40
Savings	15,037.79
Checking	12,489.57
Money Market/Contingency Fund	46,538.04
	Prior Year Balance \$171,202.64
Revenues	
Boat Landings	382.00
Credits	258.24
Donations	4,000.00
Interest	2,775.07
Tax Levy	27,800.00
	12-Month Revenues \$35,215.31
Expenditures	
Administrative	64.62
Aeration	1,952.78
Boat Landings	1,229.01
Capital Purchases	3,025.95
Dues	75.00
Insurance	3,383.00
Lake Management Plan	10,483.50
Lake Monitoring	242.61
Meetings/Mileage/Telephone	1,121.11
Postage	392.88
Printing	554.45
Rent	750.00
Walleye Restoration	3,272.24
Webpage/Newsletter	601.69
Weed Harvesting	5,539.29
	12-Month Expenditures \$32,688.13
Closing Balance	
CD's Capital Purchases	50,589.10
CD Boat Landings	9,278.41
CD Invasive Aquatic Plant Control	39,179.13
Savings	15,268.90
Checking	12,267.29
Money Market/Contingency Fund	47,146.99
	2019 Year-End Balance \$173,729.82
Respectfully Submitted, Kathy Kupfer, Treasurer	
Audited 2/25/2020 by Dennis O'Brien, President, Encomp L.L.C.	

Pickere/ Crane Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District	
2020 1st Quarter Treasurer's Report 1/01/20- 3/31/20	
Opening Balance	
CD's Capital Purchases	50,589.10
CD Boat Landings	9,278.41
CD Invasive Aquatic Plant Control	39,179.13
Savings	15,268.90
Checking	12,267.29
Money Market/Contingency Fund	47,146.99
	Prior Year Balance \$173,729.82
Revenues	
Donations/Grant	4,000.00
Interest	648.94
Tax Levy	18,370.42
	1st Quarter Revenues \$23,019.36
Expenditures	
Administration	97.18
Aeration	505.97
Dues	50.00
Lake Management Plan	4,337.53
Rent	500.00
	1st Quarter Expenditures \$5,490.68
Closing Balance	
CD's Capital Purchases	50,841.67
CD Boat Landings	9,331.16
CD Invasive Aquatic Plant Control	39,358.57
Savings	15,287.92
Checking	29,152.06
Money Market/Contingency Fund	47,287.12
	2020 First Quarter Balance \$191,258.50
Respectfully Submitted, Kathy Kupfer, Treasurer	

For Your Information

Board of Commissioners – Please contact Lynda Hansen at 920-499-2638 if interested in being nominated to the Board of Commissioners. The following positions will be up for nominations in the fall: Vice-Chairman and Secretary.

Volunteers Needed – Check out our website's Home Page at pickerecranelakedistrict.org for a list of all the volunteer opportunities within our Lake District.

Weed Harvesting – Please remember to place a green flag at the end of your dock if you would like your dock-area weeds harvested.

Pickerel/Crane Lake P&R District
PO Box 18
Pickerel WI 54465



Mailing List Update – In order for us to keep the mailing list current, please notify us if your address has changed. It would also be helpful if you would contact us with the name and address of the new owners in the event your property is sold. Thank You!

MISSION STATEMENT

Citizens dedicated to the preservation and rehabilitation of Pickerel and Crane Lakes for present and future generations.

Pickerel/Crane Lake District Commissioners & Representatives

Chuck Sleeter, Chairman chucksleeter@gmail.com	715-219-0835
Rod Sternhagen, Vice Chairman redhunting@gmail.com	920-540-4507
Curt Haga, Commissioner chaga@wi.rr.com	262-385-7398
Kathy Kupfer, Treasurer kathykupfer52@outlook.com	715-484-2520
Margie Ebben, Secretary aebben@gmail.com	715-484-8140
Barb Szopinski, Town of Nashville	715-478-2524
Haley Lucas, Langlade Cty. Conserv.	715-627-6292
Steve Kircher, Forest Cty. Conserv.	715-478-1387