

MEETING MINUTES  
2021 PICKEREL/CRANE LAKE P&R DISTRICT SPRING MEETING  
MAY 22, 2021 9:00 AM  
TOWN OF NASHVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER  
1038 CTH "Q" PICKEREL, WI

1) **Call to order:** 9:00 AM

2) **Roll Call and Introduction of Commissioners:**

Chuck Sleeter, Chairman; Kathy Kupfer, Treasurer; Dan Stoehr, Secretary; Curt Haga, Commissioner

3) **Pledge of Allegiance**

4) **Welcome New Members**

Noah and Melinda Pearson from Crane Lake were introduced as new members.

5) **Fall 2020 Meeting Minutes**

The minutes from the August 29, 2020 Fall Meeting were available for review as handouts. There was a motion to approve the Fall 2020 Meeting Minutes by Craig Farah; seconded by Dan Vosters; motion passed

6) **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer, Kathy Kupfer, presented the 2020 Year-End Report which was available at the meeting as well as having been printed in the fall newsletter. We did not have as many expenditures as the year before due to CoVid. Our year-end balance for 2020 was \$186,570.86 as compared to \$173,729.82 for 2019. The year-to-date balance as of May 19, 2021 is \$202,665.64. A motion by Brian King was made to accept the Treasurer's report as presented; seconded by Craig Farah; motion passed.

7) **Old Business**

a) **Jerry Hietpas Aeration Report:**

Jerry was unable to attend the meeting due to medical concerns. 9 Volunteers stepped up to take down the aeration system on Pickerel lake and put it all away for the summer.

b) **Aquatic Plant Harvesting Report for 2020 and Plans for 2021:**

We had an increase in weeds this year due to a mild winter and decrease in the snow pack. Ted Corona asked for volunteers to help with installing a greasing system on the weed harvester. Also, any volunteers to help with the weed harvesting are asked to sign up on the website or contact Brian King (Crane) or Jim Huss (Pickerel).

c) **Wild Rice Update:**

The plan was to do most of the west end of Pickerel Lake, but due to the pandemic and the lack of wild rice available from Mole Lake, planting was unable to be done. There are plans, however, to do planting this year and in 2022 per Mike Preul, Director of Mole Lake Fisheries.

**d) Crystal Lake Pumping Update:**

According to Greg Matske of DNR Fisheries, the pumping is considered to be waste water according to the DNR and therefore we have no control over it. The best we can do is to regulate the pumping time, which will be October through February. Crystal Lake is down by 30 inches due to the pumping.

**8) New Business**

**a) Lake Management Plan and Survey Results presented by Brad Kupfer and Dean Premo from Whitewater Associates:**

Brad Kupfer gave an excellent powerpoint presentation of the survey as well as summaries and proposed actions.

The entire survey and results are available on our website: [pickerelcranelakedistrict.org](http://pickerelcranelakedistrict.org)

The survey was divided in 5 distinct sections including Property; Recreation Activities; Current Condition, Health and Management; Future Considerations; and District Questions. There were 266 surveys with 198 on Pickerel and 68 on Crane.

The following is a summary of the **Proposed Actions** for each of the 5 sections:

**Property:** List all of the Fire Numbers/Addresses of shoreline owners for Pickerel/Crane Lake and cross reference those with Forest and Langlade County databases.

**Recreation Activities:** Pickerel/Crane Lake Board to meet with the Town of Nashville to discuss the findings from the survey and suggest that the NO WAKE rule be changed on both Pickerel and Crane Lakes. If it is a County Ordinance, then meet with the appropriate counties to discuss recommended changes. Volunteers to aid with lake monitoring are advised on both Pickerel and Crane Lakes. Brad Kupfer will head the volunteer committee on Crane Lake.

**Conditions, Health and Management:**

Create a Citizen Lake Monitoring Network for Crane Lake to monitor lake conditions, projects and development. (see website for more information)

**Future Considerations:**

P/C Board Members meet with local townships to discuss options for maintaining our boat launches.

P/C Board Members meet with Town of Nashville to discuss options for improving the road and culvert connecting Pickerel and Crane WITHOUT affecting the ecology of the lakes.

Meet with Mike Preul to discuss positive responses to wild rice expansion on Pickerel Lake, followed by the channel and then Crane Lake.

**Questions:**

Promote the Pickerel/Crane Lake Website as the key resource for information and district updates.

Recruit additional Weed Harvesting Volunteers

Dean Premo of Whitewater Associates also had an excellent powerpoint presentation on the current condition of our lakes and how we can make them better. (His powerpoint slides are also on the website.) Dean and his wife started Whitewater Associates in 1985 and currently has 20 employees. They do testing and consultation work in the area of lake management. He discussed his results in the 5 following areas: Littoral Zone, Riparian Area, Aquatic Plants, Management and Aquatic

Invasive species. He stated that in general the health of Crane and Pickerel Lakes is stable, relatively healthy and has normal weed distributions that are relatively unchanged

since the last lake survey was done in 2006. The Eurasian water-milfoil is here to stay in Pickerel Lake and is part of the ecology of the lake. It currently has a minimal presence in Crane Lake and it should be manageable. Dean introduced Kathryn Bender-Ream, shoreland specialist from the Langlade County Conservation Office in Antigo. She discussed options of shoreline restorations that can be done naturally without having a permit and noted that grants are available. (Information also available on the website.)

**b) Fisheries Update:**

Mike Preul and his crew spent four days (April 6-9) putting 9 nets on Crane Lake and counting fish. It was found that we have 2.75 walleyes per acre and that in the last 4 years the density of walleyes has tripled. This is in comparison to a naturally-producing lake that has 4 walleyes per acre. They also did “stripping” of the male and female walleyes and spread the “mixture” over the 2019 rock bed to aid in reproduction. They also took out 2500 bullheads from Crane Lake. A shocking was recently done on Pickerel Lake and 1005 bullheads were removed. Stocking will be done again this year by Mike Preul of Mole Lake Fisheries and 13,000 fingerling walleyes will be put in Pickerel and 3,000 in Crane.

**c) Select Nomination Committee for Fall 2021 Meeting:**

The chairman is up for election this fall. Craig Farah volunteered to take names for those interested in running for chairman. His phone number is 920-470-8845.

**11) Public Comment:**

A question by Dan Mitchell about where the weed harvester can go. There are regulations that state where the harvester can and cannot go. Those areas are noted on our permit and are known to the persons operating the harvester.

Winner of the Ducks Unlimited wine carafe doorprize was Ed Mytton. Congratulations!

**12) Adjourn:**

A motion was made by Craig Farah to adjourn and seconded by Ted Corona. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 11:01 AM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dan Stoehr, Secretary