

MEETING MINUTES
2022 PICKEREL/CRANE LAKE P&R DISTRICT FALL MEETING
AUGUST 27, 2022 9:00 AM
TOWN OF NASHVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER
1038 CTH Q, PICKEREL, WI. 54465

1. **Call to order:** 9:00 AM by Chairman Chuck Sleeter
2. **Roll Call:** Chuck Sleeter, Chairman; Craig Farah, Vice-Chairman; Kathy Kupfer, Treasurer; and Dan Stoehr, Secretary
Absent: Curt Haga, Commissioner
3. **Pledge of Allegiance**
4. **Welcome New Members:** John and Marge Shuppe; Doug Curler, Langlade County Board of Supervisors Representative
5. **Approval of Spring 2022 Meeting Minutes:** A motion was made by Stan Sugden to approve the spring 2022 meeting minutes. Seconded by Marge Shuppe. Motion carried.
6. **Treasurer's Report:** Kathy reported that all expenditures are within budget as of August 25, 2022. There is an excess of \$5,981.63 at this time in the Lake Management Plan due to 3-year grant money that is intended to be used over the next two years. Kathy noted that the boat landing reserve money of \$3,000 will be used this year due to maintenance costs of the Pickerel North boat landing. A motion was made by Gene Ebben to approve the treasurer's report. Seconded by Mark Starich. Motion carried.
7. **Old Business**
 - a. **Aeration Report (Jerry Hietpas, aeration boss):** Jerry reported that the aerator ran from January 4th to March 5th. There has been no notable fish kill since the aeration of Pickerel Lake was started. Jerry also reported that the current snow fence webbing is deteriorating and needs to be replaced. Dan Welhouse offered to look into getting it replaced and should have new webbing by the time the fence is installed this winter. Chuck emphasized the importance of the snow fence for safety reasons and stated it has already saved lives. Chuck also noted that in his newsletter article he absently omitted Gary Stoffel as one of aeration volunteers and wanted to make sure Gary was recognized.
 - b. **Summer 2022 Harvester Report:** Chuck reported for Jim Huss, weed boss, that weeds are down this year on Pickerel Lake so there have only been 8 truck loads removed so far this year compared to 114 last year. It appears that there is a cycle in the weed growth in that every 4 years the growth of the weeds is much less than the 3 previous years. Jim Huss is also providing a fuel tank for us to the District and this is making refueling much easier and more convenient. Many thanks go out to Jim for the use of his fuel tank. Chuck also reported on some safety improvements that were done on the harvester.

- c. **Wild Rice Report:** Kathy reported that after talking with Mike Pruel, the Mole Lake fish biologist, the following wild rice update was given:
- Last seed planting in Pickerel Lake was in 2019.
 - Unable to plant the lasts two years due to unavailability of healthy seeds.
 - Harvesting of wild rice on Rice Lake in Mole Lake is projected for the first two weeks of September.
 - Mike Pruel will be donating up to 300# of wild rice this year (at a cost of \$1500) for planting due to grant money that he has available. We thank Mike and the Mole Lake Sokaogon Chippewa Community for their generosity.
 - Chairman, Robert VanZile, contacted Chuck and stated that he is supportive of the rice planting on Pickerel Lake.
 - Volunteers will be needed in September for planting the seeds in Pickerel Lake.

Chuck also reported that after having their first Pickerel Lake Monitoring and Action Committee meeting yesterday, a concern was brought up about whether the wild rice would overgrow and take over the lake. Chuck will follow up and look into this matter. Another concern brought up at that meeting were water balloons being thrown at the July 4th Pontoon Parade on Pickerel Lake. Craig offered to look into this further and get an article in the spring 2023 newsletter.

- d. **Lake Management Plan Update (Brad Kupfer, LMP Chair):**
- No walleye stocking on either lake since stocking is only done in odd-numbered years.
 - Fall 2022 shocking will determine fish densities on both lakes.
 - Naturally-produced walleyes are beginning to be seen on Crane Lake.
 - White Water Associates conducted a survey of Eurasian milfoil beds in mid-June.
 - Aquatic plant management conducted a 1-day removal of identified beds on July 21st, but due to cloudy water conditions not a lot of weeds were removed. They rescheduled to June of 2023.
 - A new and larger “No Power Loading” sign has been placed at the Crane Lake boat landing as well as a new sign posting the amended 9 AM - 6 PM recreation boat hours. Also, 2 new signs requesting boaters to remove all weeds from their motor have been placed at the entrance to the channel from Pickerel Lake. Surveillance cameras have been mounted.
 - A 2023 Surface Water Grant needs to be written for reimbursement.
 - A new trolling regulation that will only allow one line per angler, 3 per boat when actively trolling, written by Brad Kupfer, was discussed. This was advanced by the Warm Water Committee on August 13th and will go before the Conservation Congress District Leadership Council in December. If advanced, it will become a Conservation Congress Advisory question at the spring hearings in April of 2023. After that it will go to a state-wide vote before acceptance.

Dan Welhouse brought up the situation of renters and their disregard for neighbors

and the lake. It was recommended that information be available to the renters by an information packet and through the newsletter. After discussion, Chuck said that the board would take this up as an action item at their board meeting which meets after this meeting today.

8. New Business

- a. Boat Landings Update:** Craig reported (for Curt Haga) that progress is being made on the maintenance of the Pickerel North boat landing which should be completed this fall. DNR permits have been given out for both the North and South Pickerel Lake landings. Money is available from the tourism board, the lake district and the town. The Potawatomi grant did not go through so the south landing on Pickerel Lake will not be done till 2023. The Crane Lake boat landing will be done in 2024. Chuck reported that this spring, due to very bad conditions, volunteers Steve Bailey, Chuck Jackson, Chuck Sleeter and Dan Welhouse, did some much-needed repairs on the Crane Lake boat landing. Brad requested that a letter be written to the Town of Nashville explaining the work that was done at the cost of the district. Brad and Kathy Kupfer will write a draft of the letter which will be shared with the Board for approval before sending the letter to the Town of Nashville.
- b. Three volunteers needed for our Audit Committee:** Kathy reported that each year 3 non-board members need to be appointed to an Audit Committee that would look over the treasurer's books. Chuck asked for volunteers and Noah Pearson, Melinda Pearson and Marge Shuppe are willing to be on that committee. Thank you to the three of you.
- c. Major Harvesting Permit Fee Increase:** Chuck reported that the State of Wisconsin was going to significantly increase the permit costs of weed harvesting, but due to significant objection from the lake districts in the state, the matter got tabled. Therefore, there will be no increase at this time.

- 9. Budget Hearing/Adoption of Tax Levy:** Kathy presented the 2022-2023 Budget to the members and explained that even though there is an increase in \$6,000 from the previous budget, there will be no increase in the tax levy which remains the same at \$27,800. This is due to an increase in expenditures counteracted by corresponding increases in revenue from reserve accounts. Chuck reported that for safety reasons, an auto-greaser for the harvester is recommended at a cost of around \$7,000. Kathy stated that there is money available for that both in the budget and a reserve account, if needed. A motion was made by Dan Welhouse to accept the proposed tax levy of \$27,800. Seconded by Mark Starich. Motion carried.

10. Election for two positions (Treasurer and Commissioner)

- a. Nominations from the floor:** Kathy discussed the treasurer's job description, but in addition to her treasurer's duties, she is also in charge of the webpage. She asked if anyone would be willing to take over the webpage and Noah Pearson volunteered. Thank you, Noah, for doing this for our lake district! After some more discussion, John Shuppe volunteered for the commissioner-at-large position. Marge Shuppe mentioned that she currently has experience in managing her husband's auto repair business, and when he retires in several years, she would consider the treasurer's

position. She would also be willing to work with Kathy for a while to start learning about the position before the end of Kathy's term. With that in mind, Kathy Kupfer agreed to continue to be the treasurer. Kathy Kupfer made a motion to approve John Shuppe as Commissioner-at-large for a three-year term. Seconded by Keith Verhagen. Motion carried. Chuck made a motion to approve Kathy Kupfer as Treasurer for another 3-year term. Seconded by Dan Stoehr. Motion carried.

11. Public Comment:

- a. **Door Prize Drawing:** The following 5 people won the drawing of a Litez All Vintage Lure Lite donated by the Lake District: Gordy Pucker, Marge Shuppe, Brad Kupfer, Dennis Welhouse and Sarah Stoehr.
- b. **Water Quality of Crane Lake:** Dan Welhouse told the assembly that the quality of the water in Crane Lake is the worst it has been since he or anyone else can remember. He asked if anything could be done about it. Gene Ebben asked if White Water Associates could do something since this is the company that we have used for our Eurasian milfoil survey. Brad Kupfer mentioned that he has sample bottles and would be willing to send in a sample drawn from the north side of Crane Lake this weekend. Dan Welhouse and Mark Starich will assist.

12. Adjourn: Gene Ebben made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Mark Starich. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:42 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dan Stoehr, Secretary, Pickerel/Crane Lake P&R District