

Pickerel/Crane Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District Fall Newsletter, 2023

From the Chairman's Desk – Chuck Sleeter

As I write this, I am sitting at my deck overlooking Pickerel Lake. I can see just about every type of watercraft that is made traveling in all directions. I can hear people laughing and having fun. Yesterday, my wife and I went for a boat ride and found seventeen pontoons parked at the east-end sand bar. The people were having a great time swimming in water as clear as I have ever seen it. This got me thinking about our lakes and all our volunteers including the Pickerel/Crane Lake District Board of Commissioners. I wonder, do most of us know or even consider the work they do to make our summer fun and more relaxing? We should.

I will start with the three docks our volunteers put into both lakes in the spring and then remove in the fall before ice-over. Then there are the volunteers who go out on the ice to install safety fencing around our aeration system and man the air pumps, making sure they are functioning throughout the winter. (Since this system was installed many years ago, there has not been a major fish kill in Pickerel Lake.) There are also several volunteers who have worked to create and maintain our wild rice beds. And what about our great Citizens' Monitoring and Action Committees on both Crane and Pickerel Lakes? These folks have been called upon for countless activities including monitoring water quality, educating lake property owners on numerous topics, assisting the DNR in various capacities, resolving issues, reporting violations, and even helping locate any distressed loons. There are also those volunteers responsible for the walleye reef in Crane Lake as well as all the fish stocking in both lakes. Let us not forget to mention the district folks who write the many grants and monitor the results for important projects including our Lake Management Plan, the work done to eradicate invasive aquatic plants from Crane Lake, and the extensive repairs to our boat landings. And if you happen to notice the signage at the culvert and the landings, that did not happen

by itself. Our district volunteers did the work. The weed harvester program has operated for over twenty years with only volunteers who operate the machine, repair it, and drive the trucks. Our weed boss schedules the operators, keeps records of maintenance repairs, and files an end-of-year report with the state, fields the calls and complaints and has done so for over twenty years. Let us not forget those responsible for creating and maintaining our webpage, pickerelcranelakedistrict.org, which provides valuable information and resources in an easy to navigate format.

I also want to give recognition to our Board of Commissioners. I am so very proud of each of them. Our treasurer is the best there is and her talent and ability never cease to amaze me. Our secretary is also one of the best. Not only is he required to compose the minutes from the spring, fall, and all commissioners' meetings, but he is also responsible for the two newsletters you receive each year. For sure we keep these two very busy. What about the other members of the Board? Outside of attending meetings and helping make decisions about which projects to undertake and how to get the most value out of our tax dollars, they volunteer on the harvester program and work behind the scenes to help and fill in when necessary. Finally, I will miss our vice chairman as he is stepping down. He is not only a good friend but has been my go-to person who is there when I need him for over twenty years.

So, when you see one of our volunteers or board members (your friends and neighbors), please thank them for all they do to help make our time on the lakes safer, fun, and more relaxing. Please, consider volunteering with us whether it be as a board member, a committee chair, or just someone we know we can call when we need a hand. I think you'd enjoy it!

As always, it is my honor to serve with such a great Lake District.

Thank you,
Chuck Sleeter

For Your Information

Lake District Annual Fall Meeting

You are invited to attend our annual fall meeting to be held on Saturday, August 26, 2023 at 9:00 AM in the Town of Nashville Community Center located at 1038 Cty Rd Q, Pickerel, WI.

There will be a **Door Prize Drawing** for those attending.

Board of Commissioners – Please contact Craig Farah (920-470-8845) 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.

Weed Harvesting – Pickerel Lake

Please remember to place a green flag at the end of your dock if you would like your dock-area weeds harvested. If interested in volunteering to help, please contact **Jim Huss at 715-216-2453**.

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

Thank You!

Dan Stoehr, Secretary Pickerel/Crane P&R District
email: dtstoehr@gmail.com

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

Fisheries Update

Walleye Stocking for Pickerel and Crane Lake will begin around October 1st, depending on water temperatures. We are scheduled to receive a total of 16,000 fingerling walleyes, 13,000 for Pickerel and another 3,000 for Crane Lake.

Bullhead Removal Project

During the month of June, we distributed 18 bullhead nets that were purchased by the lake district. To date, results have been extremely disappointing with no confirmed results of netted bullhead fry reported back to me. If you will remember, the purpose of this project is to: 1) protect our growing walleye population on both lakes and 2) to demonstrate to the DNR that our volunteers can be self-sufficient. The success or non-success of this project will determine whether the DNR will conduct another bullhead shocking or netting in future years. We will again pursue this initiative in 2024. I know we can do a much better job than what all of our volunteers have demonstrated this year.

Crane Lake 2022-2024 Grant Project for Eurasian Milfoil Update

This is our second year of a DNR approved grant to remove Eurasian Milfoil using DASH (Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting) in conjunction with White Water Associates and Aquatic Plant Management. This past June White Water Associates conducted the pre-survey for Eurasian Milfoil and identified several areas on Crane Lake where it seemed to be concentrated. Those coordinates were then passed on to the Aquatic Plant Management team for removal. After the removal, White Water Associates conducted a post-survey and discovered that most of Eurasian Milfoil is now "scattered" and the most "moderate" concentrations have been eradicated. Somewhat concerning was the amount of Eurasian Milfoil that was discovered in the channel. The lake district has invested in two large signs near the culvert asking boaters to please remove all weeds from their boats before entering the culvert. We need to do a better job of educating people of the signs and to please clean your props before entering the channel.

Limnology Study-Crane Lake Update

This is the first report following the beginning of a comprehensive water study for Crane Lake conducted by White Water Associates. This is a combined effort between White Water and lake volunteers to determine causes of "green water" and past algae blooms, including blue-green algae. White Water will conduct deep hole water samples in June, July and August, looking for various nutrients including phosphorus, nitrogen, chlorophyll and sulfates. They also will be conducting a deep hole sediment sample looking for phosphorus deposits. Mark Starich has been conducting weekly water transparency data using a secchi disk since May 1st. Gene Ebben has been monitoring lake levels on a monthly basis through October and Brian King is monitoring our rainfall amounts. Brad and Kathy Kupfer have been conducting the incoming and outgoing water discharge rates and also conducting water samples around the lake after significant rainfall amounts to determine pollutants entering the lake via runoff.

Once all of the data has been collected, White Water will provide us with the analysis and recommendations for correcting our water issues on Crane Lake. The second phase of this study will be conducted in 2024 identifying specific types of algae found on Crane Lake and options for controlling future algae growth.

Please visit us online for more information at:

pickerelcranelakedistrict.org

**Pickereel/Crane Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District
Mid-Year Treasurer's Report 1/01/2023 - 7/18/2023**

Opening Balance

CD Boat Landings	9,713.50
CD's Capital Purchases	52,218.83
CD Invasive Aquatic Plant Control	40,545.83
CD Lake Management Plan	5,012.73
CD Walleye Restoration	8,072.66
Savings	10,668.30
Checking	9,228.59
Money Market/Contingency Fund	80,096.72
Prior Year Balance	\$215,557.16

Revenues

Boat Landing	103.00
Credit	21.79
Donation	3,000.00
Interest	2,023.82
Tax Levy	19,671.91
1st Quarter Revenues	\$24,820.52

Expenditures

Administrative	11.93
Aeration	1,417.03
Dues	150.00
Invasive Aquatic Plants	3,000.00
Lake Management Plan	2,037.05
Postage	177.95
Printing	34.65
Rent	700.00
Webpage/Newsletter	1,299.65
Weed Harvesting	242.20
1st Quarter Expenditures	\$9,070.46

Closing Balance

CD Boat Landings	9,797.46
CD's Capital Purchases	52,711.34
CD Invasive Aquatic Plant Control	40,846.38
CD Lake Management Plan	5,113.62
CD Walleye Restoration	8,162.22
Savings	10,722.84
Checking	22,965.32
Money Market/Contingency Fund	80,988.04
Mid-Year Balance as of 7/18/23	\$231,307.22

Respectfully Submitted, *Kathy Kupfer*, Treasurer

**Pickereel/Crane Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District
2024 Proposed Budget**

Expenditures

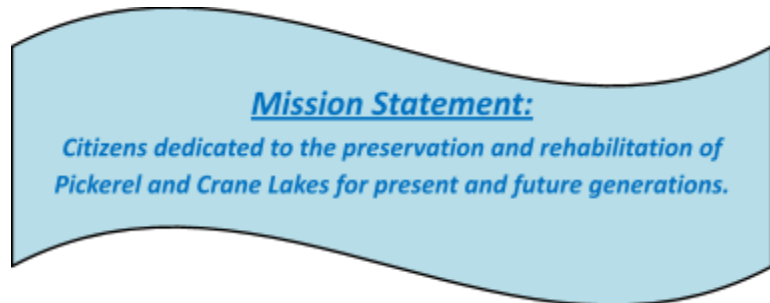
Administrative	400.00
Aeration	2,000.00
Boat Landings	7,000.00
Dues	200.00
Insurance	4,000.00
Invasive Aquatic Plants	5,000.00
Lake Management Plan	6,000.00
Lake Monitoring	200.00
Meetings/Mileage/Telephone	2,000.00
Postage	400.00
Printing/Ads	100.00
Rent	1,000.00
Webpage/Newsletter	1,500.00
Weed Harvesting	7,000.00
Total Expenditures	\$36,800.00

2024 Proposed Tax Levy is \$27,800.00 (0% Change)

Revenues

Boat Landing Donations	0.00
Interest	0.00
Capital Purchases Reserve	2,000.00
Walleye Restoration Reserve	1,000.00
Weed Harvester Reserve	6,000.00
Tax Levy	27,800.00
Total Revenues	\$36,800.00

Respectfully Submitted, *Kathy Kupfer*, Treasurer



Weed Harvesting: Controlling the Uncontrollable

In a session at a Harvesting Seminar last May, one of the Wisconsin DNR speakers asked an insightful question regarding lake management. Essentially it was: What would you prefer to have - Soup or Salad?

Of course, the answer depends on what the waterbody is being managed for, i.e. a bass pond versus a natural lake. A pond managed for fish might even require the addition of phosphorus to stimulate phytoplankton and algae, ultimately leading to bigger bass. On the other hand, having a lot of algae is not desirable in most lakes, especially the blue-green variety that can lead to a toxic bloom.

In our nutrient-rich lakes, something is going to grow to consume the available nutrients. It will either be algae or aquatic plants, or a combination of both. If you kill too many plants, you will be left with algae. If the water becomes opaque as a result, an aquatic plant population cannot reestablish itself and you're left with something resembling pea-soup.

So what shall it be, Soup or Salad? Our customers prefer salad. They would rather give the weeds a haircut with the harvester, removing excess nutrients and leaving behind living plants to provide habitat, oxygen and clear water for all to enjoy.

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



NOTICE OF PICKEREL/CRANE LAKE P&R DISTRICT SPRING MEETING
August 26, 2023 9:00 AM
TOWN OF NASHVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER
1038 CTH "Q", PICKEREL, WI

AGENDA

1. Call to order
2. Roll call
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Welcome
5. Approve May, 2023 Spring Meeting Minutes
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Old Business
 - a) Summer 2023, Harvester Report
 - b) Wild Rice Report
 - c) Lake Management Plan Update (Brad Kupfer, LMP Chair)
 - d) Crane Lake Limnologist Update (Brad Kupf)
 - e) Boat Landing Update (Curt Haga)
8. New Business
 - a) By-Laws Update
 - b) Three volunteers needed for 2023 Audit
 - c) New Aeration boss needed
9. Budget Hearing / Adoption of Tax Levy
10. Election for Vice Chairman and Secretary
 - a) Nominations
 - b) Written ballot vote
 - c) Announcement of results
11. Public comment
12. Announce raffle winners
13. Adjourn

There will be a commissioners' meeting immediately following the spring meeting.

AGENDA

1. Selection of Positions on the Board
2. Take photos for the webpage
3. Approve July 14, 2023, Commissioners' Meeting Minutes
4. Review Action Items
5. Adjourn

Sign up for our gift raffle when entering.

**Pickerel/Crane Lake District
Commissioners & Representatives**

Chuck Sleeter, Chairman chucksleeter@gmail.com	715-219-0835
Craig Farah, Vice Chairman aznwis@yahoo.com	920-470-8845
John Shuppe, Commissioner jmsbceb@gmail.com	608-698-3061
Kathy Kupfer, Treasurer kathykupfer52@outlook.com	715-484-2520
Dan Stoehr, Secretary dtstoehr@gmail.com	715-484-2393
Steve Kircher, Forest Cty. Conserv. Doug Curler, Langlade Cty Board	715-478-1387 715-623-2253