

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**2023 PICKEREL/CRANE LAKE P&R DISTRICT SPRING MEETING**  
**MAY 20, 2023 9:00 AM**  
**TOWN OF NASHVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER**  
**1038 CTH Q, PICKEREL, WI 54465**

- 1. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chairman Chuck Sleeter at 9:00AM.
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 3. Welcome New Members:** New members Curt and Jeff Shoemaker introduced themselves.
- 4. Introduce Commissioners:** Present were Chairman Chuck Sleeter, Vice-Chairman Craig Farah, Treasurer Kathy Kupfer, Secretary Dan Stoehr and Commissioner-at-large John Shuppe. Also present was Steve Kircher, Forest County Conservationist-Land Information/GIS Director. Special guest speaker, Jeannie Fannin, was also present.
- 5. Approval of the Fall 2022 Meeting Minutes (Handouts Available):** A motion was made by Keith Verhagen to approve the Fall 2022 meeting minutes. Seconded by Marge Shuppe. Motion carried.
- 6. Treasurer's Report:** Kathy Kupfer first thanked the three-person audit committee for their volunteer work in auditing the district's books. Those on the committee were Noah Pearson, Melinda Pearson, and Marge Shuppe. She went on to discuss some amendments to the budget that had to be made by the Board which did not affect the tax levy. As of May 20, 2023, the district had \$23,814.76 in revenue, \$3,499.57 in expenditures and a closing balance of \$235,872.35. Details of the report were made available to those attending.
- 7. Old Business**
  - a.) Aeration Report (Jerry Hietpas, aeration boss):** Jerry reported that the aerator was installed in Pickerel Lake in January of 2023 and removed in early April of 2023. He said that all worked well, but they will need a new ½" drill and a new breaker. He thanked all those that helped with this annual project. Those volunteers who helped were: Jerry Hietpas, Dick Ackerman, Marc Dannermeier, Gene Ebben, Mark Starich, Gary Stoffel, Gus Turk, Keith Verhagen, Dan Welhouse, Dennis Welhouse and Todd Gnacinski. Jerry said that he is 85 and thinks it's time for someone younger to take over, so please let him know if you are interested.
  - b.) Wild Rice Update (John Shuppe):** John reported that the Mole Lake Tribe contributed \$500 worth of wild rice that could be planted in designated spots on Pickerel Lake. On September 23, 2022, John and his brother Eric, along with Mike Pruel (Mole Lake Fish Biologist), planted the wild rice on Pickerel Lake by "broadcasting" it in a select area over a two-hour period. In the future, John will work with Mike in finding new areas on Pickerel Lake that can be used for wild rice planting rather than putting all 500# in only one area.

- c.) **Boat Landing Maintenance (Craig Farah for Curt Haga):** Craig reported that Krueger/Steinfest will be doing the maintenance work on all 3 boat landings and they hope to get them all done this year. The Lake District is responsible for 25% of the cost and the Town of Nashville is responsible for the rest. The Town is also applying for the DNR permit and a grant for the Crane Lake boat landing. Shannon Thiex of Thiex Construction out of Birnamwood, offered his services to help defer the cost. This information will be given to Curt Haga.
- d.) **Motion to Amend the Agenda to include a Harvester Report:** A motion was made by Chuck and seconded by Kathy to amend the agenda to include a weed harvesting report. Motion carried. Chuck reported for Jim Huss, weed boss, that weeds were down last summer on Pickerel Lake so there were only 8 truck-loads of weeds harvested compared to 101 the year before. Harvesting started on July 8, 2022 and ended on September 26, 2022. Please consider volunteering for weed harvesting by contacting Jim Huss at 715-216-2453.

## 8. New Business

- a.) **Bullhead Overview (Brad Kupfer for Greg Matzke, WDNR Fish Biologist):** Brad reported that over 40,000 bullheads have been removed from the Pickerel/Crane Lake system by the DNR since the project started in 2012. A more efficient way of removing the bullheads, however, is to remove them in their juvenile stage when they are in swarms near the shoreline. They can be removed effectively with special nets which our lake district will provide. Those present should see Brad after the meeting for more information about getting the nets and required permits. If not in attendance and wish to help, please contact Brad Kupfer (715-484-2520.)
- b.) **New County Rental Requirements (Jeannie Fannin, Forest County Zoning):** Jeannie reported that the only new change is that a conditional use permit is no longer required, but one just needs to get a permit to rent. She noted that 30% of the room tax generated goes back to the Township. The other requirements are ones that have been in effect since 2018. She discussed the septic requirements and the very important need to have a well working septic system because that can directly affect the water quality of the lakes. Handouts were available on "Sizing a Septic System," "A Homeowners Guide to Septic Systems," Short Term Rental Requirements, and a Forest County Land and Water Resources Master List of Fees. The bottom line is that the number of people that can occupy a rental is equivalent to 2 times the number of bedrooms with the typical septic system. **This means that for a 3- bedroom rental, only 6 people can stay in that rental, including children.** Questions were raised as to how this is going to be monitored and what type of action can be taken. Jeannie said that one can call her office and report problems to her. She will make notes in their file and when the renter is up for permit renewal, they can be denied. You can contact Jeannie Fannin at the Forest County Zoning office with any questions for your particular situation.
- c.) **Welcome to Our Lakes flyer (Kathy Kupfer):** Kathy reported that due to an increase in the number of the renters on the lakes, a document was needed that would give basic information such as fishing guidelines, boating guidelines and boat landing information. She and her husband Brad developed the flyer that was included in the

spring newsletter and also some copies were laminated and made available to anyone who is renting on Pickerel or Crane lakes. Kathy and Brad Kupfer will hand deliver the laminated copies to all known renters.

**d.) Crane Lake Limnologist Study (Overview, Brad Kupfer):** Brad reported that White Water Associates will be conducting a limnology study on Crane Lake starting on June 5, 2023. Water samples will be taken while conducting the Eurasion milfoil project and will be used for chemical lake analysis and conductivity studies (indication of shoreline pollution.) Volunteers of the Crane Lake Citizens Monitoring and Action Committee will be tracking water levels, water transparency, rainfall totals and incoming/outgoing stream discharges. Volunteers include Gene Ebben, Mark Starich, Brian King, Brad and Kathy Kupfer.

**e.) Candidates for the Fall Election (Secretary and Vice-Chairman):** Lake Commissioner positions for Secretary and Vice-Chairman are up for re-election at the annual fall meeting. These positions are open to any member of the Lake District whether you have attended a recent meeting or not. Current Vice-Chairman Craig Farah is not running for re-election.

**f.) Nomination Committee for Fall Election:** Chairman Chuck Sleeter appointed Craig Farah (920-470-8845) and Lyn Hansen (715-484-3508) as the nomination committee for the fall election. Please contact either of them if you would like to be nominated for either Vice-Chairman or Secretary.

**9. Public Comment:**

- Chuck reported that he has a “floating dock” that became dislodged when the ice melted. If you are missing one, please contact Chuck.
- Chuck reported that a member of the district who has property on Pickerel Lake complained that she has a lot of muck and wanted to know if the district could do anything about it. Since this is pretty much a problem for everyone on the lake, other than weed harvesting, the district can’t do anything.
- Brad Kupfer asked those in attendance to give him a general approval or disapproval of the following:
  - Introduction of muskies: consensus NOT in favor
  - Limit on panfish: consensus IN favor of adjusting the limit of panfish
  - Slot limit on walleye: consensus IN favor of having a slot limit with 2 under the slot and one over the slot.
- Door Prizes were awarded to: The Hansens, Jeff Schumacher, Keith Verhagen and Glen Rueckl.

**10. Adjourn:** A motion was made by Craig Farah and seconded by John Shuppe to adjourn. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 AM.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

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