



Pickerel/Crane Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District Spring Newsletter, 2024

From the Chairman's Desk – Chuck Sleeter

Hello Everyone,

I hope this message finds all of you doing well.

As the Chairman of the Lake District, I am writing to you today with a mix of sadness and gratitude as we announce the retirement of Phyllis and Jim Huss (our weed boss).

Jim and Phyllis have been an integral part of our organization, dedicating countless hours and immeasurable effort toward operating a successful Aquatic Plant Harvesting Program. Their contributions have been pivotal in shaping the direction and success of our largest and most popular program.

Jim has trained numerous volunteers in the operation of the harvester. He and Phyllis have created daily and yearly operational forms, spent hours keeping records on the machine's maintenance, and helped the volunteers set up the many pieces of equipment. In addition, they provide many other benefits for our Lake District. For example, they allow access to their property for the disposal of our aquatic plants, provide equipment parking, storage of a semi-trailer, and fuel storage. Finally, they have allowed us to hold our commissioners' meetings in their family club house at no charge to the Lake District. As you can see, these folks have been very generous to the Lake District and to our community.

It has been a pleasure and a privilege to work with Jim who has a wonderful ability to work with folks in a thoughtful and informative way while sharing his friendly laugh and kind smile. In honor of their retirement, the district has decided to name our harvester the "USS JIM HUSS". Our district has purchased two signs that will be placed on the starboard and stern of the machine as a forever



Harvester in Action on Crane Lake

reminder of the countless hours Jim has willingly given for the betterment of our Lake District.

On behalf of our Lake District, I will close with a sincere thank you to Jim and Phyllis. We will miss you!

Chuck Sleeter

Volunteers in Action

Over last fall's Labor Day weekend, two of our volunteers observed a large unattended campfire on the island on the southwest end of Pickerel Lake. This island is known to be used by all kinds of critters as well as a large eagle family. Because the volunteers feared the fire could get out of control, they extinguished the fire and advised the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' warden of the unattended campfire.

Thank you! Without your actions, Pickerel Lake might have lost the island. Please let this be a reminder to all of us to be more careful in an effort to protect our lakes for present and future generations.

For Your Information

Lake District Annual Spring Meeting

You are invited to attend our annual spring meeting to be held on Saturday, May 18, 2023 at 9:00 AM in the Town of Nashville Community Center located at 1038 Cty Rd Q, Pickerel, WI. The fall 2023 minutes will need to be approved at this meeting so you may either read them ahead of time on the pickerelcranelakedistrict.org website or there will be a limited number of copies available for review at the meeting.

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

Board of Commissioners – Please contact Noah Pearson (920-318-4209) if interested in being nominated to the Board of Commissioners. The following position will be up for election in the fall: Chairman.

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 **John Shuppe at 608-698-3061**.

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

Northwoods Six-County Lakes Meeting July 12 -

“Protecting Our Waters: We’re All Connected” is the theme for the annual Northwoods Six-County Lakes Meeting, set for Friday, July 12th at Nicolet College. Lake association leaders and members along with the general public will convene to learn about and discuss our interconnected water resources and our human connections to each other and to our lakes, streams, wetlands and groundwater.

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

Wake Boats

A bill proposed by Rep. Robert Swearingen (R-Rhineland) and Sen. Mary Felzkowski (R-Irma) to regulate wake-surfing and wakeboarding fails to provide any meaningful

protection against the activities’ impacts. Rather than setting minimum levels or protection for Wisconsin, the bill (as written) would actually limit the regulation of wake-sports.

The bill prohibits wake-surfing and wakeboarding within 200 feet of the shore or structures like piers and swim rafts. The overwhelming majority of studies say that at least 500 feet is required for these “enhanced wakes” to lose their size and power.

Current studies are showing that impacts to lakebeds, from the creation of enhanced wakes, are seen to depths of at least 20 feet. Lakes across Wisconsin are seeing pollutants in the lakebed kicked up into the water column and aquatic vegetation being scoured. The bill fails to include a standard related to depth. The minimum standard for Wisconsin should prohibit enhanced wake creation in waters shallower than at least 30 feet

Most recently, a number of proposals have been delivered to the state legislature, and even petitions to the DNR trying to regulate wake-boarding concerns among Wisconsin residents. Some local townships have even conducted meetings and debated the topic among citizens. Some calling for an all-out ban on wake-boating, while others asking for some type of regulation. This hotly contested issue in the state of Wisconsin is far from being resolved.

-Compiled from various Internet Articles

Walleye Stocking 2024 and Survey Results - Brad Kupfer

An electro-shocking survey was conducted on Crane Lake last September to determine the health of our walleye population. There were zero age-0 walleye caught (which is the first time we have not caught one since the reef was installed. Although water clarity was quite poor (about 6-12”), we did get 6 age-1 walleye which would be naturally reproduced fish, and 15 other walleyes from 12-16.9”.

Mole Lake Fisheries walleye stocking occurred last October with 3,410 walleye fingerlings going into Crane and another 12,841 fingerlings being stocked into Pickerel. Average size of those fingerling walleyes was 7.42”. Remember, walleyes must be a minimum of 18” and 3 may be kept. Please practice catch and release of larger walleyes as they are the reproducing females that are so critical to growing and sustaining our walleye population.

Bullhead Extraction for Crane Lake - Brad Kupfer

Numerous conversations occurred last March with Mike Preul, Mole Lake fisheries director, and Greg Matzke, DNR fish biologist, where the bullhead issue and the need to remove those fish on both lakes was discussed. After much discussion, Mike and Greg decided to focus their efforts on Crane and postpone Pickerel until later. Greg has agreed to let our District volunteers use the DNR's Fyke Nets on Crane Lake. Mike has agreed to help place the nets on Crane Lake, capture the bullheads, and then dispose of them. We will need volunteers from Crane Lake to help with the nets, and a place to put the bullheads once extracted. Please contact Brad Kupfer (715-484-2520) if you are willing to assist with the removal.

LMP Update - Brad Kupfer

This will be the last year of our three-year Eurasian Milfoil grant that was approved by the DNR in 2021. This June, White Water Associates will be conducting the survey maps identifying areas of Eurasian Milfoil. Those survey maps will be forwarded to Aquatic Plant Management for removal via DASH (diver assisted suction harvesting) shortly thereafter. We still have a major concentration of milfoil in the channel that is coming from Pickerel Lake on boats. Please observe the sign near the culvert on the Pickerel side of the culvert asking boaters to clean their props before entering the channel. Thank you for helping us control further spreading of Eurasian Milfoil.

Crane Lake Limnology Study

Dean Premo from White Water Associates will be in attendance at our spring meeting to review the Limnology Study (water analysis) conducted last summer.

Septic Survey for Crane Lake - Brad Kupfer

In conjunction with the Limnology Study on Crane Lake, a septic survey was conducted on Crane and Pickerel Lakes providing Forest County Zoning with all of the addresses on both lakes. We now have a complete list of all properties on both lakes, their last mailing of the 3-year scheduled maintenance,

when it was returned, and when the next mailing is due. Compliance and accountability for all of us will be the key focus in the future, so please take care of your septic system or holding tank, so that we can eliminate this factor of potential phosphorus and nitrogen being leaked into our lakes. For example, one (1) pound of phosphorus into the lake can yield over five-hundred (500) pounds of algae.

Shoreline Improvements - Brad Kupfer

Last summer, as we were boating around Pickerel and Crane Lakes, Kathy and I noticed several properties that had recently made positive enhancements to their shoreline. These ranged from adding rip-rap, adding native plants, or just letting the natural vegetation grow along the shoreline. All of these simple enhancements can have a significant impact on preventing run-off from entering the lake. Studies in the Midwest have found that lakes with clearer, cleaner water commanded higher property values. It was also discovered that when water clarity went down 3 feet, property values also went down by the tens of thousands. Please visit our website for shoreline restoration and improvement ideas. Thanks.

Collaborative Approach Funds Boat Landing Repairs & Improvements

All three boat landings: Pickerel Lake – North, Pickerel Lake – South, and Crane Lake were in need of extensive repair. The launch areas had been damaged by the power loading of boats (which created large holes) and the yearly spring ice-out (which moved the small deteriorating concrete planks.) Curt Haga led the planning, fundraising, permitting, and overseeing of the 2-year project which was developed to address deferred maintenance with a longer-term solution while minimizing the cost, improving safety, and addressing environmental issues.

The improvement efforts started in 2021 with Pickerel Lake – North, the most heavily used of the three boat landings. The shoulder on Pickerel Lake Road, across from the boat landing entrance/exit, was widened to increase the number of parking spots and improve pedestrian safety. Trenches were dug and infiltration trenches were added to redirect runoff, minimize erosion, and reduce water runoff into the lake. Decreasing the grade of the driveway entrance/exit helped with line-of-sight

exiting and improved vehicle traction while towing boats up the hill. Nice job done by Charles Jackson Trucking & Excavating. (Chuck Jackson and Jimmy Wagnitz).

Early 2023, grants and contributions were received to fund repairs and improve all three boat launch areas. During the summer, Krueger & Stienfest, Inc. (K & S) began pouring the large (6' x 12' x 9") concrete planks. During the fall, the holes in the lakebed were filled, and the 9,000-pound concrete planks were carefully lifted and placed in the boat launch area. The planks (which extend out to where the holes were filled) are linked together with 1' rebar creating a ramp. To complete the work, gravel was added and finish grading was done near the approach to the boat launch areas. Nice job by Tim, Corbin, John & Brandon of the Krueger & Stienfest team.



Pickerel Lake-North Boat Landing

Thanks to the assistance of Steve Kircher (Forest County Conservationist) in obtaining DNR permits and the DNR grant application, we were fortunate to be awarded a DNR Waterways Grant which accounted for half the total project cost. Furthermore, these projects would not have happened without the grant funding from Visit Forest County (Formerly known as Forest County Tourism Commission) and generous contributions from the Pickerel-Crane Lake P & R District and the Town of Nashville room tax funds. No Town of Nashville general operating funds (property tax dollars) were used for this project. Time will tell if Mother Nature (ice) moves the new and heavier planks. Hopefully, the repairs/improvements will last for many years.

BE SAFE & ENJOY!!!

Pickleball Courts Coming

The Pickerel Area Lions Foundation is fundraising to build two Pickleball courts for community use. The courts are planned to be located between the Pickerel Laundromat and Quig's Maplewood Driving Range on Hwy. 55. Many of the area businesses have been extremely supportive with prize donations for a raffle and are selling raffle tickets in their businesses with a June 15th drawing. Other fundraising is planned through a spaghetti dinner and raffles after the Lions Golf outing on July 7th.

The Lions are off to a roaring start at about 30% of their fundraising goal. The goal is to start excavating this spring, and construction will progress based on funding. There is a family gathering area being designed near the entrance with signage to acknowledge donors with the various donation levels. Please help support the efforts with donations. For more information and on how to make donations, please visit either the [pearsonpickerellions.org](https://www.pearsonpickerellions.org) website, facebook page of the Pearson-Pickerel Lions Club or contact Curt Haga at 262-385-7398.

\$3,000 Donation Received

The Pickerel/Crane Lake P&R District is pleased to announce a \$3,000.00 donation was received this past February from the Mole Lake Band of Sokaogon Chippewa Community. The Lake District Board will decide how to best use the money for use in the protection and rehabilitation of Crane and Pickerel Lakes.

New Weed Boss/Harvester Report

Hello Pickerel/Crane Lake area residents:
The weed harvester program will change a little this year. Jim Huss will be stepping down as weed boss. He will be missed. I, John Shuppe, will be taking over his duties and will have a helper, Don Albright.
2023 Weed Report: 61 loads were harvested on Pickerel Lake which amounted to 305 tons and 178 man hours. THANK YOU to all the volunteers that made this happen. I wish to meet all of you. There will be a sign-up sheet at the spring meeting for any new volunteers.
Commissioner and new weed boss, John Shuppe

Water Balloons Discouraged During Pontoon Parade

The Lake District, DNR and all the wildlife lovers would like to discourage the throwing of water balloons during the 4th of July Pontoon Parade. Wildlife, including loons, have been seen trying to eat these balloons and have a hard time digesting them. Last year was much improved in the lack of water balloons thrown compared to the year before so the Lake District (and the loons) thank you!

Pickerel/Crane Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District Year-End Treasurer's Report 1/01/2023 - 12/31/2023

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	487.00
Credit	21.79
Donation	3,000.00
Interest	5,310.50
Tax Levy	27,800.00
12-Month Revenues	\$36,619.29

Expenditures	
Administrative	279.25
Aeration	1,673.34
Boat Landings	18,700.00
Capital Purchases	0.00
Dues	200.00
Insurance	4,034.00
Invasive Aquatic Plants	3,000.00
Lake Management Plan	7,086.02
Meetings/Mileage	228.96
Postage	531.35
Printing	246.65
Rent	700.00
Webpage/Newsletter	1,656.76
Weed Harvesting	4,093.51
Mid-Year Expenditures	\$42,429.84

Closing Balance	
CD Boat Landings	0.00
CD's Capital Purchases	56,862.50
CD Invasive Aquatic Plant Control	41,510.21
CD Lake Management Plan	5,218.25
CD Walleye Restoration	8,273.63
Savings	10,946.24
Checking	7,124.72
Money Market/Contingency Fund	79,811.06
2023 Year-End Balance	\$209,746.61

Respectfully Submitted, *Kathy Kupfer*, Treasurer

Treasurers' Audit

The 2023 annual Pickerel/Crane Lake P&R District treasurer's audit was completed independently by Fred and Linda Maas and Marge Shuppe. Our independent audits found no discrepancies in the 2023 Lake District's financial records. Respectfully Submitted, Fred and Linda Maas and Marge Shuppe

Please visit us online for more information at:
pickerelcranelakedistrict.org

Pickerel/Crane Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District 1st Quarter Treasurer's Report 1/01/24-3/31/24

Opening Balance	
CD's Capital Purchases	56,862.50
CD Invasive Aquatic Plant Control	41,510.21
CD Lake Management Plan	5,218.25
CD Walleye Restoration	8,273.63
Savings	10,946.24
Checking	7,124.72
Prior Year Balance	\$209,746.61

Revenues	
Donations	3,000.00
Interest	1,669.12
Tax Levy	18,185.78
1st Quarter Revenues	\$22,854.90

Expenditures	
Aeration	118.87
Boat Landings	189.09
Dues	50.00
LMP	5,306.70
Rent	700.00
1st Quarter Expenditures	\$6,364.66

Closing Balance	
CD's Capital Purchases	57,500.35
CD Invasive Aquatic Plant Control	41,867.78
CD Lake Management Plan	14,298.93
CD Walleye Restoration	8,354.93
Savings	10,976.14
Checking	21,948.13
Money Market/Contingency Fund	71,290.59
Closing Balance, March 2023	\$226,236.85

Respectfully Submitted, *Kathy Kupfer*, Treasurer

Mission Statement:

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

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



NOTICE OF PICKEREL/CRANE LAKE P&R DISTRICT SPRING MEETING
MAY 18, 2024 9:00 AM
TOWN OF NASHVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER
1038 CTH "Q", PICKEREL, WI

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Welcome New Members to the Meeting
4. Introduce Commissioners
5. Approve Fall 2023 Meeting Minutes
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Volunteers, Jim and Phyllis Huss
8. Old Business
 - a) Aeration Report for 2023-2024 (Jerry Hietpas)
 - b) Weed Harvester Chairman (John Shuppe)
 - c) Audit Report (Fred & Linda Maas and Marge Shuppe)
 - d) Crane Lake Limnologist Study Update (Dean Premo)
 - e) Bullhead Removal (Brad Kupfer)
 - f) Boat Landing Project Update (Curt Haga)
9. New Business
 - a) 3-Year Financial Plan
 - b) Potential Filamentous Algae Removal on Crane Lake (Brad Kupfer)
 - c) Candidates for the Fall Election (Chairman)
 - d) Nomination Committee for Fall Election
10. Public comment
11. Announce raffle winners
12. Adjourn

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

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Report on Action Items from 3/4/24 Com. Mtg.
4. Approve Commissioners' Meeting Minutes (3/4/2024)
5. Review Action Items from today's spring meeting
6. Adjourn

Sign up for our gift raffle when entering.

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

Chuck Sleeter, Chairman chucksleeter@gmail.com	715-219-0835
Noah Pearson, Vice Chairman noah.pearson@gmail.com	920-318-4209
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.	715-478-1387
Doug Curler, Langlade Cty Board	715-623-2253