



Pickerel/Crane Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District Spring Newsletter, 2026

From the Chairman's Desk – Chuck Sleeter

Dear Residents, Taxpayers, and Volunteers,

There's a sense of peace that returns each year as folks make their way back to Pickerel and Crane Lakes. Even in a time when many families are feeling the strain of rising energy costs and the broader challenges facing the country, these lakes continue to offer something steady. Whether it's the quiet paddle of a kayak, picking up your old faithful rod and reel, settling into your favorite chair to watch the water and the eagles, or simply reconnecting with neighbors, this place has a way of grounding us. It reminds us that even in difficult seasons, there is still room for calm, connection, and the simple beauty of being here.

Your District Board of Commissioners understands how deeply people feel about these lakes. That sense of connection is why we continue working hard to protect the quality of lake life for everyone. This year, the district applied for three separate lake-management grants, and we are proud to share that all three were awarded. I want to acknowledge Brad Kupfer for his efforts in writing these grants and for his true love of the lakes. A thank you also goes out to Dean Premo of White Water Associates who assisted Brad in the writing of these grants. Brad will outline each grant in detail later in this newsletter.

As we move into the new season, the Pickerel/Crane Lake District continues its work to protect the health, safety, and long-term sustainability of our lakes. Your commissioners remain focused on improving communication, strengthening district operations, and ensuring that residents have a clear understanding of ongoing initiatives. Residents are always encouraged to reach out with questions, suggestions, or concerns — your input directly shapes district priorities.

As we look forward to warmer days, we're excited to share that this spring and summer we will again be enhancing our Bullhead Fishing Competition program. This year, the person catching the most bullheads will receive a prize. The competition will be championed by Dan Voster and Tom from Pine Point Resort whose

steady support and enthusiasm help make this a fun, family-friendly tradition for everyone on the lake.

PLEASE NOTE: The following messages are important for all boaters.

* I have been the Chairman of the Pickerel/Crane Lake District for over 23 years, and during that time we have never asked much of the boating public. We have worked hard to completely improve and maintain the Town of Nashville's boat landings so they remain safe, functional, and accessible for everyone. The issue we are now facing is a serious one: power loading of boats. The thrust from boat motors is cavitating the lake bottom, washing out the material beneath the concrete slabs, and threatening the loss of the very slabs that make up the landing. If this continues, the landings will fail — and repairing or replacing them will not be a realistic option. The Town of Nashville has taken the power-loading issue seriously and has passed an official Town Ordinance prohibiting POWER LOADING and setting fines for violators. The District and the Town of Nashville ask for your cooperation, and there is a \$500 fine for violators.

* All boats must stop before entering the culvert under Pickerel Lake Road from Pickerel Lake. This culvert connects directly to Crane Lake, and we all are working hard to keep Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) out of the channel and Crane Lake. As we all know, Pickerel Lake has a considerable EWM population, and we cannot allow it to spread into Crane Lake. You will see signage at the culvert instructing you to stop and remove all plant fragments (WEEDS) from your boat and equipment — including motor props (trolling motors included), anchors, fish baskets, fishing baits and the interior of your boat. Every fragment matters. Your cooperation is essential to preventing EWM from entering Crane Lake. Put simply: if we want healthy native fish reproduction, and if we want our families to continue enjoying a lake that isn't overtaken by EWM, then we must clean off our boats every time.

Thanks for your time and cooperation,

Chuck Sleeter, Chairman

For Your Information

Lake District Annual Spring Meeting

You are invited to attend our annual spring meeting to be held on Saturday, May 16, 2026, at 9:00 AM in the Town of Nashville Community Center located at 1038 Cty Rd Q, Pickerel, WI. The fall 2025 minutes will need to be approved at this meeting so you may either read them ahead of time on our website, www.pickerelcranelakedistrict.org, or there will be a limited number of copies available for review before the start of the meeting.

Board of Commissioners – The following positions will be up for election in the fall: Vice Chairperson and Secretary. Please contact any board member if you are interested in being nominated.

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**.

Crane Lake Volunteers

If you are interested in volunteering, we're looking for Crane Lake volunteers to help in harvesting weeds on Pickerel Lake. At a minimum, we should have volunteers to "clear-cut" a path 24' wide (8' on either side of the culvert) and 100' out from the culvert entering Crane Lake. If this area is kept clear of weeds, it will help to reduce the number of weeds carried into the channel.

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 www.pickerelcranelakedistrict.org for a list of all the volunteer opportunities within our Lake District.

"ALL THINGS WATER"

All in One Place/All at One Time

Presented by Langlade County Waterways Association

Free to Participate/Free to the Public

May 9th from 10:00 to 4:00

Langlade County Fairgrounds

Mission Statement:

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

Wake Boats Update

The State Legislature has tabled any further action on developing a state mandated ruling regarding Wake Boats and their usage on Wisconsin Lakes. The Town of Nashville has since rescinded its ordinance prohibiting Wake Boats on any lake in the township.

\$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 in the protection and rehabilitation of Crane and Pickerel Lakes.



Board Member John Shuppe accepting the check

Grant Applications for 2026 - Brad Kupfer

White Water Associates and I submitted 3 Grant Proposals for 2026. All Three Grants were accepted and work will begin this summer on both lakes.

Crane Lake: EWM (Eurasian Water Milfoil) Monitoring and Removal

Financials:

- 3-year grant runs from March 15, 2026 through December 31, 2028
- Total amount of the project over 3 years: \$22,486.00
- Grant dollars requested: \$10,000
- Grant dollars received: \$9,379.65
- District share over 3-Year period: \$13,106.35
- District share per year: \$4,368.78

Activities:

- Point Intercept Survey (Required every 5 Years-last one in 2019)
- EWM Monitoring and Mapping
- DASH Removal

Pickerel Lake #1: Point Intercept Survey

Financials:

- 2-year grant runs from March 15, 2026 through December 31, 2027
- Total amount of project: \$13,632.00
- Grant dollars requested: \$9,133.44
- Grant dollars received: \$9,133.44
- District share over 2-Year period: \$4,566.72
- District share per year: \$2,283.36

Activities:

- Point Intercept Survey (Required every 5 years-last in 2019)

Pickerel Lake #2: Water Quality Sampling; Lake User Survey and Public Education Meeting

Financials:

- 3-year grant runs from March 15, 2026 through December 31, 2028
- Total amount of project over 3 years: \$10,213.00
- Grant dollars requested: \$6,842.71
- Grant dollars received: \$6,842.71
- District share over 3-Year period: \$3,370.29
- District share per Year: \$1,123.43

Activities:

- Water Quality Volunteer Sampling and Secchi Disk Readings
 - Melinda Pearson-Crane Lake
 - Dan Vosters-Pickerel Lake
- Lake User Survey to all Property Owners and those within 1000 ft of Lakes
- Public Meeting to discuss Options for EWM (Eurasian Water Milfoil) Reduction

Town Nashville Adopts New Power Loading Ordinance

Ordinance No. 2025-4

Section 1: Title and Purpose This ordinance shall be known as the "Power Loading Regulation Ordinance" for the Town of Nashville. The purpose of this ordinance is to protect town-owned boat landings and adjacent lakebeds from damage caused by power loading practices. Power loading contributes to erosion, rutting, and structural damage to boat ramps and aquatic habitats. This ordinance is intended to promote safe, responsible launching and retrieval of watercraft on Town of Nashville lakes.

Note: To view the entire *Regulation of Power Loading at Public Boat Landing* ordinance see the Lake District's website www.pickerelcranelakedistrict.org.

Pickerel/Crane Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District Year-End Treasurer's Report 1/01/2025 - 12/31/2025

Opening Balance		
CD's Capital Purchases		62,599.55
CD Invasive Aquatic Plant Control		47,325.65
CD Lake Management Plan		14,834.35
CD Walleye Restoration		4,029.51
Savings		6,258.23
Checking		1,066.76
Money Market/Contingency Fund		70,007.84
.	Prior Year Balance	\$206,121.89
Revenues		
Boat Landing		392.00
Credit		84.79
Donation		3,000.00
Interest		6,703.28
Tax Levy		27,800.00
.	12-Month Revenues	\$37,980.07
Expenditures		
Administrative		325.28
Aeration		1,047.99
Boat Landings		680.21
Capital Purchases		0.00
Dues		200.00
Insurance		4,654.00
Invasive Aquatic Plants		567.79
Lake Management Plan		1,489.22
Lake Monitoring		0.00
Meetings/Mileage		274.56
Postage		666.08
Printing		521.55
Rent		700.00
Walleye Restoration		0.00
Webpage/Newsletter		786.73
Weed Harvesting		4,000.74
.	12-Month Expenditures	\$15,914.15
Closing Balance		
CD's Capital Purchases		65,309.00
CD Invasive Aquatic Plant Control		49,191.48
CD Lake Management Plan		15,387.02
CD Walleye Restoration		4,182.82
Savings		6,512.11
Checking		16,443.48
Money Market/Contingency Fund		71,161.90
.	2025 Year-End Balance	\$228,187.81
Respectfully Submitted, <i>Teri Geurts</i> , Treasurer		

Pickerel/Crane Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District 1st Quarter Treasurer's Report 1/01/26 - 3/31/26

Opening Balance		
CD's Capital Purchases		65,309.00
CD Invasive Aquatic Plant Control		49,191.48
CD Lake Management Plan		15,387.02
CD Walleye Restoration		4,182.82
Savings		6,512.11
Checking		16,443.48
Money Market/Contingency Fund		71,161.90
.	Prior Year Balance	\$228,187.81
Revenues		
Donations		3,000.00
Interest		1,387.97
Tax Levy		11,376.44
.	1st Quarter Revenues	\$15,764.41
Expenditures		
Aeration		524.65
Dues		50.00
Rent		500.00
Printing		57.94
.	1st Quarter Expenditures	\$1,132.59
Closing Balance		
CD's Capital Purchases		65,957.82
CD Invasive Aquatic Plant Control		49,580.60
CD Lake Management Plan		15,508.74
CD Walleye Restoration		4,225.99
Savings		6,517.44
Checking		29,692.78
Money Market/Contingency Fund		71,333.52
.	Closing Balance, March 2025	\$242,816.89
Respectfully Submitted, <i>Teri Geurts</i> , Treasure		

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



**NOTICE OF PICKEREL/CRANE LAKE P& R DISTRICT
2026 SPRING MEETING
May 16, 2026 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
4. Introduce Commissioners
5. Approve Fall 2025 Meeting Minutes
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Audit Committee Report
8. Old Business
 - a) 2025-2026 Aeration Report (Ginny Vick)
 - b) 2025 Weed Harvester Report (John Shuppe)
 - c) Grant Applications (Brad)
 - d) Lake User Survey Committee (Brad)
 - e) Fall Walleye Stocking (Brad)
 - f) Door Hangers Distribution (Noah); Discussion on Methods to Stop EWM
 - g) Placing Strobe Lights at Culvert Entrance
 - h) Signage Committee (Chuck)
 - i) Posting Board Renovation (Chuck)
 - j) 2026 Bullhead contest (Dan and Tom)
 - k) Snow Club Donation for Tractor Use
9. New Business
 - a) Mole Lake Tribal Donation
 - b) Candidates for Fall Election (Secretary and Vice-Chairperson)
 - c) Nomination Committee for Fall Election
10. Public comment
11. Adjourn

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

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approve 01/15/2026 Commissioners' Meeting Minutes
4. Report on Action Items from 01/15/2026 Commissioners' Meeting
5. Review Action Items from Today's Spring Meeting
6. Adjourn

**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
Teri Geurts, Treasurer terigeurts@gmail.com	920-621-3834
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

