

PICKEREL/CRANE LAKE PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT
FALL MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 24, 2024 9:00 AM
TOWN OF NASHVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER
1038 CTH "Q" PICKEREL, WI

1. Call to Order: Chairman Chuck Sleeter called the meeting to order at 9:06 AM.
2. Roll Call: Board members present were Chairman Chuck Sleeter, Vice-Chairman Noah Pearson, Treasurer Kathy Kupfer, Secretary Dan Stoehr, and Commissioner-at-large John Shuppe.
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Welcome to all new members: New to the area were Andy and Amy Braun who purchased a place on Crane Lake. Chuck also welcomed those who were attending a lake district meeting for the first time.
5. Approve May 18, 2024, Spring Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Craig Farah and seconded by Jim Heckendorf to approve the May 18, 2024, spring meeting minutes. Motion carried.
6. Treasurer's Report: Kathy reported that the lake district is in very good financial shape at this time. We had a starting budget of \$35,800 and our current expenses are \$34,949.75 with remaining budget expenditures of \$2,714.50. Estimated revenue for the remainder of 2024 from interest, boat landing donations and other donations are estimated at \$1,500.00. A motion was made by Dan Mitchell and seconded by Marge Shuppe to approve the budget as presented. Motion carried.
7. Old Business
 - a. Summer 2024 Harvester Report (John Shuppe): John reported that it has been a very busy summer for the weed harvester. As of August 24th, 133 loads have been collected and he noted that it can take up to 4 hours to collect just one load. Nineteen volunteers have run the harvester including 4 new operators. Each operator has collected anywhere from 1-31 loads with Craig Farah collecting the 31 loads. There have been a few minor breakdowns during the summer, but for the most part the harvester has been running very well. The weed harvester is scheduled to come out on September 13, 2024, but will continue to operate until then. As a note of appreciation, Tom and Val of the Pickerel Point Resort offered a free meal to all the weed harvester volunteers a week after Labor Day. Thank you to Tom and Val at Pickerel Point Resort, and all the weed harvester volunteers. A question was raised as to why Crane Lake has not had the weeds harvested this year. Brad Kupfer explained that Crane Lake is in the final year of a 3-year grant to

get rid of Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM). According to the requirements of that grant and to prevent the potential spread of EWM, weed harvesting cannot be done. John also reported that the weed harvesting permit will expire at the end of this year and when applying for next year's permit, he will try to get permission to expand its harvesting options.

- b. Pickerel Lake Eurasian Water Milfoil Outlook (Chuck): Chuck reported that according to Greg Matzke of the DNR, the EWM in Pickerel Lake is here and will not go away. Chemicals are not safe to use and not effective in the long run. Chuck further explained that due to the mild winter and lack of snow, the weeds did not totally die off and therefore there was a far greater weed growth compared to other years.
- c. Crane Lake Eurasian Water Milfoil Extraction Update (Brad Kupfer): Brad reported that we are in the final year of a 3-year grant project to eradicate EWM from Crane Lake. Using money from the grant, Crane Lake was surveyed for EWM and those locations were targeted for DASH (Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting). The primary locations were the channel and the northwest parts of Crane Lake. With this method, most of the EWM (108 cubic feet) was removed. Brad is again looking into applying for another grant for the next 3 years. Brad also mentioned that Crane Lake does not have the large masses of filamentous algae compared to last year at this time.
- d. Juvenile Bullhead Netting on Both Lakes (Chuck and Brad): It was reported that no juvenile bullhead "pods" were found on Crane Lake and very few on Pickerel Lake despite extensive efforts by volunteers.

8. New Business

- a. Three Volunteers Needed for the 2024 Financial Audit: Treasurer Kathy Kupfer asked for volunteers for the 2024 audit and Marge Shuppe, Linda Maas, and Fred Mass volunteered.
- b. EWM Channel Pollution (Chuck and Brad): Chuck and Brad emphasized the need for boaters to make sure they clean off their props (boat and trolling) as well as any anchors, before entering the culvert and channel from Pickerel Lake since this is the main transport of the EWM into Crane Lake. Thank You to volunteers, Gene Ebben and Mark Starich for assisting Brad in removing floating EWM in the channel. Brad and Chuck will be looking into a possible buoy and/or signs in the water before entering the culvert to make boaters more aware since they seem to be ignoring the large signs that are currently next to the culvert.

- 9. Budget Hearing / Adoption of Tax Levy: Kathy reported that our current budget for 2024 is \$35,800 and next year's 2025 budget will be \$33,000. The tax levy will again stay the same at \$27,800, so there will be no increase in taxes for the lake district. A motion was made by Craig Farah and seconded by Len Hadovski to accept the tax levy of \$27,800. Motion carried.

- 10. Election of Chairman: Election chairman Craig Farah explained that there would be a written ballot for the board position this year since both incumbent Chuck Sleeter and

district member Faye Randerson were running against each other. Both candidates took a few minutes to introduce themselves and explain their goals for the next 3 years. Craig further explained that the election was for a board position and that the Board of Commissioners would elect the officers at their meeting following today's annual fall meeting. Results were compiled by Craig with the help of Lyn Hanson. After the compilation of 98 votes, Craig announced that Chuck Sleeter retained his position on the board with a vote of 84-14.

11. Public Comment:

- Keith Verhagen announced that Jenny Vick will be taking over as the new aerator chairperson to replace Jerry "Hotdog" Hietpas. She was introduced and was well received by the members. Thank You, Jenny!
- Dan Mitchell had a question of who regulates the size and number of walleyes caught and why we don't have a slot size. Chuck answered that this is a DNR regulation and varies from lake to lake and locally the lake districts have no control over those regulations.
- Art Seidl asked about what is being done about wake boaters on our lakes. It was reported that there was a wake boat on Crane Lake for about a week and there was none seen on Pickerel Lake this summer. Chuck reported that a letter had been drafted by the board requesting wake boats NOT be used on Crane or Pickerel Lakes. This was sent to both the Town of Nashville and Town of Ainsworth this past June. (Thank you to Doug Neuman for his assistance in the original draft of the letter). There has been no response from either township, so Dan will follow up to see what is being done.

12. Announcement of Raffle Winners (Noah): 2 lucky waffle winners were announced.

13. Adjourn: A motion was made by George Rock and seconded by Craig Farah to adjourn. Motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 10:56 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

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