

Pickerel/Crane Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District
Commissioners' Meeting
September 30, 2016, 1 P.M.
Town of Nashville Community Center and Offices

ROLL CALL

Board Members Present:

Chuck Sleeter, Dan Vosters, Rod Sternhagen, and Kathy Kupfer

Non-Board Members Present:

John Laird and Brad Kupfer

AGENDA

Chuck Sleeter moved and Dan Vosters seconded to amend today's agenda by putting any budget considerations after discussion of new business items. Motion passed unanimously.

WEED HARVESTER REPAIRS AND COSTS

In early September, when it was time to take the harvester out, it was determined that the weed harvester was in need of repair as there were serious mechanical problems with the front conveyor.

There are 4 individual hydraulic pumps on the harvester. It was determined that one malfunctioned and perhaps some of the other remaining hydraulic lines were affected.

Chuck had an estimate (\$8,382.88) from Inland Lakes for the repair of the harvester. The problem is that Inland Lakes, after completing the necessary repairs, will not guarantee the harvester will work next spring. Many of the Pickerel Lake volunteers were present when it was time to remove the harvester from Pickerel Lake. A discussion occurred and a recommendation was made to contact Steve Bailey to do the work rather than Inland.

The harvester trailer was also taken to Steve Bailey for repair. Chuck and Steve built a railing for the trailer with an iron channel. It is very strong, perhaps stronger than new.

Steve has evaluated the harvester but no actual estimate has been provided as he wants to determine which pumps are bad before giving an estimate. Chuck is very confident that Steve can do the job. A dealer for hydraulic pumps has been located in Plover, WI where the necessary pumps can be purchased. They have someone who comes to Antigo every day so we wouldn't have to pay freight. Depending upon weather, the repair may carry over into spring.

Brad mentioned that we have a \$250,000 harvester machine and we should develop a more proactive preventive maintenance program. Chuck mentioned that we have a machine run by volunteers. We haven't had serious things in the past. All issues have been repairable. Things happen that we need to deal with as we're volunteers, not professionals.

Brad reiterated that when you have that much invested in something, we shouldn't be taking short cuts on having it function properly. Our biggest concern for not going with Inland is the fact that they will not guarantee their work. Dan Vosters guarantees it will be \$4000 if Steve does it.

Dan moved to go with Steve which was seconded by Rod. Rod, Dan, and Chuck voted yes. Kathy abstained.

PARKING THE HARVESTER AT PICKEREL’S NORTH LANDING

Jamie Anderson, our town chair has gone to meetings with weed harvester parking on his agenda. One supervisor has a problem with parking our harvester on Pickerel's north landing. Last Wednesday, the town board gave permission for next summer as we've already removed the harvester this year. That permission comes with conditions. The day we pull the harvester out, we must notify the town chairman, who will give notice to the superintendent. The superintendent will supervise that the removal of the harvester, the installation of reflectors, and the snow fencing placement is done properly.

After this approval, the town will be liable. We will ask the board member to sign a release indicating we are not liable.

BOAT LANDING IMPROVEMENT

Chuck shared information from e-mails he and Jamie Anderson (Town of Nashville Chair) have been discussing.

As of 9/17, Jamie Anderson quoted

- \$18,000 is the Lake District's portion for engineering plan, and grant writing.
- Town of Nashville Board has agreed to waive the rent (\$3000 per year) for a maximum of 3.25 years that we are involved with the project. Therefore, if it's a 3-year commitment, we are only paying \$9000 rather than \$18,000 due to rent credit which means the town board is actually funding 50% and we are funding 50% of the initial costs. If it takes 3.25 years (\$9,750) we will be paying \$8,250)
- Lake District is allowed to apply for grants for 2 cycles only if we don't get 90% the first year.
- Worst scenario could cost the lake district up to \$150, 000
- Total construction costs = \$250,000
- Best scenario is the lake district would end up paying \$25,000
- All agreed we will only proceed with at 90% funding.
- Maximum of 2.35 years
- After 2nd cycle, if we abandon the project, we will need to pay back 3 years of free rent.

Discussion revolved around the fact that the landing belongs to the town and we “appear” to be making a bigger financial commitment. One of the main reasons boat landing repairs were investigated was to safely get the harvester in and out and also benefit the people who live on the lake.

Chuck suggested that instead of the big boat landing project, we should spend \$1000 every year to hire Chuck Jackson to fill the holes with good-sized stones to prevent power loading. Kathy stated that seemed like another band aid and we only accomplish half the goal if we continue to have Chuck fix/fill the landing every year.

Kathy also stated she was not comfortable overturning the vote of the lake members at our annual district meeting as they voted to go ahead with the boat landing repair project. The members present also voted to allow the board to rework the 2017 budget to allow for these repairs. Chuck noted that the Board of Commissioners is to “use the vote to guide them. It's up to the commissioners to decide what is best for the Lake District.”

Key question is what is the chance of getting 90% of the grant? Chuck stated that it's hard to tell as it depends on how many applications there are that year and other factors. In the past when he's gone to waterways commissions, "if others are ahead of you, there's not a lot of money left."

John mentioned the current cement slabs can be dangerous. Originally had 10, now only 3 left and the remaining 3 are "busted up." Might be better to remove the slabs from a safety standpoint. Rod said at one time there were metal gratings and that didn't work. It got pushed up and was dangerous for snowmobilers. John mentioned that something has to be done to make it more usable.

Dan suggested we offer the town an exact amount of money. Since it's their landing, not ours, they should be making the improvements. They own the landing. We'll chip in this amount to help you and that's it." Chuck stated that one supervisor on the town board was against improvements. It is fine the way it is."

Chuck continued, "Do we want to make it improved enough to be usable by the average guy or do we want to make it suitable for the harvester? Do we take \$18,000 and improve both Pickerel and Crane Lake boat landing?"

Discussions continued on the possibility of raising taxes to increase funds. The tax levy has been the same for 20 years. On the other hand, inflation is 3% every year." Brad went on to say that a raise of .025% would be an incredibly small amount for individuals, but could add up to a helpful amount for the district. To raise taxes, run the numbers: .025% on a property worth \$100,000 would raise their taxes \$25. It's too late now as the 2017 budget was already approved. It's something to keep in mind with next year's budget. Chuck said it's not easy to do.

Brad said, if the landings go through, we need to do envelopes for boat landing fees. Dan stated that the town gets the money (fees) as they own the landings. We can only keep "donations" not "fees."

Chuck said, this all started because of the harvester. He feels, "Improvement is needed, but not our responsibility. The town owns the landing. They should pay for improvements." We need to remind the town that the Lake District bought the new docks on Pickerel & Crane. Otherwise town would be out that money, and town workers would be there putting and removing the docks every year. It might make them work harder to get the grant.

Chuck made a motion to table it until next year. Dan 2nd. Chuck, Dan, and Rod approved the motion; Kathy is opposed and voted against the motion. Motion passed.

AMENDING 2017 BUDGET

Chuck moved to use money from the \$5000 contingency fund for weed harvester repairs. Rod 2nd. All approved.

SECRETARY

We desperately need a secretary. We all need to talk to everyone we know to come up with suggestions.

SPRING 2017 AGENDA ITEMS

- Boat landing improvements

- Raise tax levy
- Harvester repairs
- When Crane Lake wants harvester
 - 10-14 days on Crane
 - Plenty volunteers this past year
 - Crane Lake weed boss

WALLEYE RESTORATION UPDATE

- Fish shocking: noticeably more walleye (8 in 2015 to 42 in 2016). We may want to step back and not put any walleye in to save money for boat landings.
- What we've been doing is working
- Hope to enhance spawning habitats on both lakes
 - ❖ Charles Jackson put gravel on ice which would drop down with the thaw and create habitats
 - ❖ Clean out creek on Crane
 - Benefits:
 - ✓ Increase water turnover rate
 - ✓ Reduce phosphorous
 - ✓ Become natural habitat for fish spawning
- Bullhead removal on both lakes: spring ,2017
- 2017 comprehensive survey on both lakes

Rod moved to adjourn the meeting. Dan2nd. All were in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 3:05 P.M.