

Meeting Minutes
Pickerel / Crane Lake P&R District Spring Meeting
May 27, 2017 9:30AM
Nashville Town Hall

Call to Order 9:35 A.M.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Present: Chuck Sleeter, Kathy Kupfer, Dan Voster, Rod Sternhagen, Mike Zelinski

Moment of silence for Walt Ferguson, Sonny Wrezycki and all our fallen veterans

Introduce New Secretary and Commissioners

Welcome New Members to the Meeting

Reading of the Minutes

September 3, 2016	Rod moved to accept, Kathy second, all accept
September 30, 2016	Kathy moved to accept, Rod second, all accept
October 22, 2016	Dan moved to accept, Rod second, all accept
May 18, 2017	Rod moved to accept, Dan second, all accept

Treasurer's Report

Kathy conveyed current state of financials and no major issues or concerns were brought to the table.

Question: Where does the income come from? *Answer:* Tax levy and donations

Question: Can you please explain the CD for Invasive Aquatic Plant Control? *Answer:* Moneys have been put aside for select projects if and when the need arises. Specific to Invasive Aquatic Plant Control, moneys are set aside in the event that a viable solution is identified that can resolve the Eurasian Milfoil infestation in Pickerel Lake. To date, there are a number of solutions reviewed but none have been deemed suitable to resolve the problem without inducing other potential issues.

**Action* taken to review CD values and determine if allocations are appropriate and align with Lake District expectations. Provide clarification at the fall meeting.

Len Hadovski moved to accept treasurer's report, Curt Haga second, motion passes.

Old Business

Chuck moved to modify Old Business agenda bringing Walleye Stocking Report prior to Aeration Report, Rod seconded, all approved.

a. Pickerel/Crane Lakes Walleye Stocking Report Overview for 2017

Brad Kupfer provided overview of stocking throughout the last 3 years in Pickerel and Crane Lake. General comment from WDNR is that Crane now has a healthy population of adult fish and a strong population of juvenile fish. Pickerel is about 3 years behind on walleye but noted an extremely healthy population of juvenile perch.

Multiple comments offered from the Lake District that the walleye population is healthy and sizable fish are being caught. Joe Saggio, from Pickerel Point Resort, has offered a \$1k donation to support future developments. Saggio indicated his contribution may be used for any Lake District initiatives as he is very pleased with the progress he has seen.

WDNR noted that the next priority in the Walleye Restoration Project on Crane is to enhance the process of natural reproduction. A proposal was put forward by the WDNR to create a reef of small - mid-size rock to an area north and west of the mouth of the channel as it enters Crane Lake from Pickerel. Expense would range between \$20-25k with a potential donation from the WDNR of \$10k. It was noted that if the project were to

move forward, volunteers would be required in addition to suitable equipment to move and level rock. The hiring of contractors is also to be evaluated. See Appendix A for graphical representation.

Joan Sternhagen moved to add the reproduction project to the fall agenda for review of funding, seconded by Len Hadovski, motion passes

It was also noted that Greg Matzke from WDNR would like to meet with the committee to review options to address the perceived overabundance of bass in Pickerel and Crane Lakes. Meeting to be scheduled in June.

b. Aeration Report

Jerry Hietpas reported the 2016/17 winter weather was somewhat of a challenge but overall Jerry and his volunteers were able to keep the machines running with the appropriate safeguards. Thank you, Jerry, for your continued support!

c. Aquatic Plant Harvesting Report for 2016 & plans for 2017

Jim Huss reported there were 35 loads taken out of Pickerel and 22 out of Crane. Overall, a very successful year. The harvester pumps have been replaced and Jim believes it is now in working order. There are some belting issues that need to be addressed which Jim and Chuck will be correcting early this summer. Brian King, who took over Weed Boss duties on Crane Lake in 2016, has agreed to again be the Weed Boss for 2017. For Pickerel, on the other hand, we are in need of a Weed Boss. It is critical this role be filled or we may be at risk of not putting the harvester into Pickerel Lake this summer. Main responsibilities consist of coordinating the volunteers

d. Pickerel Lake North Side Landing Update

After a thorough overview of previous activities, it was communicated that no action has been taken and the project was put on hold by the committee. Key points to the decision included; the potential high expense exposure to the Lake District, lack of participation/contribution from the Town of Nashville, and the potential conflict of interest induced by the town due to the inappropriate following of the bidding process for engineering fees. Multiple alternative options were discussed knowing that some level of action must be taken to assure the landings are safe for general users and the utilization of the harvester.

Joan Sternhagen moved, seconded by Ted Corona to review the feasibility of expanding the launching area to the west to be used specifically for the harvester. Motion passes.

New Business

a. Discuss status of our inter-governmental relationship with Nashville

The Committee was notified by the Town of Nashville that the south facility is being closed. After further discussion with the Town, there will be no change to the current agreement.

b. Sokaogon Chippewa Lake Protection Award

The Sokaogon nation has again generously provided a donation for \$3k. Thank you for your support! The Lake District received a one-time grant of \$1k from WPS for our aeration efforts on Pickerel Lake. Thank you for your support!

c. 2017 Bullhead Extraction Project

Jim Huss communicated that ~8,000 bullheads have been extracted from Pickerel Lake. The catch was perceived down due to cooling water temperatures. A big thank you to the committee for the \$880.00 contribution to the WDNR. They noted that reducing the bullhead population is one of the key determining factors to the resurgence of other game fish species.

d. Pickerel / Crane Fish Survey Update

See comments under Old Business section a.

e. Appoint Nominating Committee

Open committee positions as follows: Chairman, Treasurer, and Vice Chairman. All respective interested parties should contact one of the committee members.

Public Comment

- a. The topic of changing the spring and fall meeting dates from the holiday weekends was brought to the table. Generally speaking, the members would like to see the meetings moved to potentially enhance member turnout but most importantly not interfere with the holiday festivities planned during these weekends.

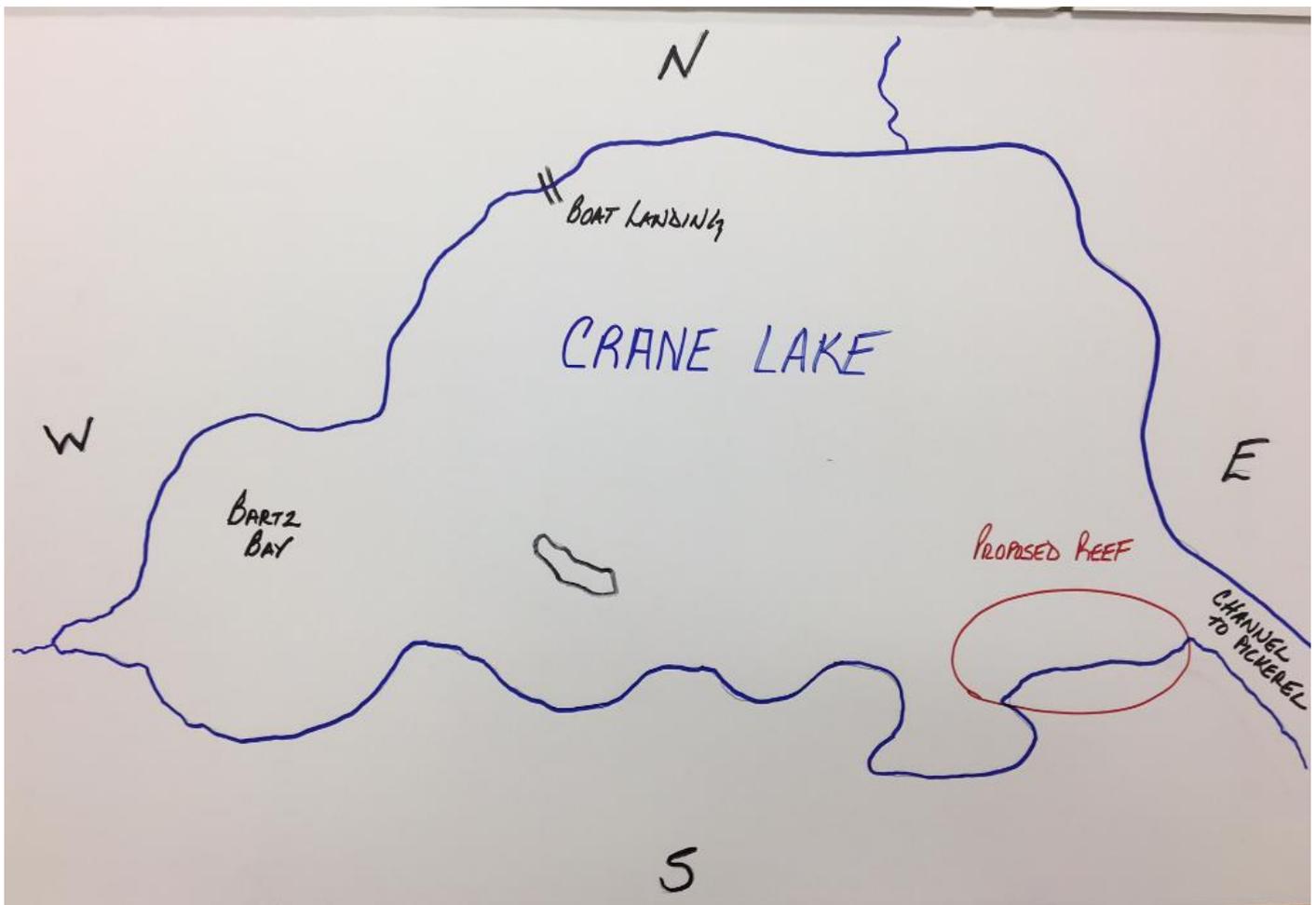
Gene Ebben moved, Joan Sterhagen seconded to add to the fall agenda the feasibility of moving the spring and fall meeting schedules to non-holiday weekends. Motion passes.

- b. Alternative methodologies for the issuance of the newsletter were also discussed. The feasibility of utilizing electronic means was discussed with a full understanding that all members do not have access to the internet. Alternative options will be reviewed by the committee and brought forward to Lake District members.

Joan Sternhagen moved to adjourn, seconded by John Laird, motion passes.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:50 A.M.

Appendix A



CRANE LAKE "ENHANCED" SPAWNING REEF

- FEBRUARY 2018 - THICKEST ICE
- ABOUT .4 ACRES OF 1 1/2" - 5" DIAMETER GRAVEL
- 800 YDS OF MIXED GRAVEL (CHUCK JACKSON)
- ACCESS LAKE (LEO ALEXANDER)
- 1984 LAST RECORDED N.R. (NATURAL REPRODUCTION)
- WALLEYES ARE ALREADY USING REEF - OBSERVED
- M. TRUDEL WILL ADDRESS SPERRING W/TRIBE - 2019
- COST: \$20,000 - 25,000 DNR: \$10,000 CONTRIBUTION
- 4/6 SUCCESS RATE OF REEFS IN U.P.

