

2018 Pickerel/Crane P&R District Spring Meeting Minutes
May 19, 2018 9:00 AM.
Town of Nashville Community Center & Town Office Building
1038 CTH "Q" Pickerel, WI 54465

Call to Order 9:17am

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Chuck Sleeter, Kathy Kupfer, Dan Vosters, Rod Sternhagen, Mike Zelinski

Welcome New Members to the Meeting

Introduce Commissioners

Reading of Fall 2017 Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve Fall 2017 Meeting Minutes by Jerry Hietpas and seconded by Don Hansen; motion passes

Commissioners' Meeting Minutes (Handouts Available)

Treasurer's Report

Kathy provided an overview of 2017 end of year statements and 2018 YTD. All statements were audited by Margie Ebben, Crane Lake resident and Deputy Clerk for the Town of Nashville. All books found to be in order. No questions from the members.

Motion to accept 2017 and 2018 YTD budgets by Loren King and seconded by Curt Haga; motion passes

Old Business

(a) Jerry Hietpas Aeration Report/Snowmobile incident /Discussion

Jerry informed the district of the incident that occurred on Pickerel Lake in February where a snowmobiler drove into the open water around the aeration system. The driver was able to escape with no injuries and the vehicle was removed within a few weeks. The driver was charged by authorities and the incident is now closed.

Overall aeration progressed well through the winter. However, during ice out it was noted that one section of guarding was not secured properly and the team is now looking for a number of missing posts. Jerry requested that if the posts are found please contact Jerry, and he will pick them up.

(b) Aquatic Plant Harvesting Report for 2017 and Plans for 2018, Permit

Jim Huss provided the following summary for 2017. Crane Lake 11 loads @ 44 tons and Pickerel Lake 45 loads @ 180 tons. Overall, a positive year and fulfilled the permit expectations.

Chuck stated that minor repairs are underway on the harvester and it will be ready for the 2018 season. During a discussion with the harvester manufacturer, Chuck was informed that replacement value is \$170k and the FMV of our current machine is \$30k. The manufacturer's representative also conveyed that our machine is deemed excellent from a design and construction standpoint and we should continue to repair and maintain appropriately to assure we get many years of good performance.

(c) Brad Kupfer Crane and Pickerel Lakes Walleye Stocking Overview for 2018

2017 Stocking Recap: 9,990 7-10" in Pickerel
3,000 7-10" in Crane
3,400 small in Crane

For 2018, stocking plans are pending as we await feedback on the \$25,000 grant submitted for the walleye reef. If the full \$25,000 is secured, the \$15,000 budgeted funds would then be available for walleye stocking through Mole Lake.

(d) Pickerel Lake Northside Landing Update

Boat Landing was widened and met all expectations.

(e) Update on Crane Lake Walleye Spawning Reef

The creation of a reef was delayed by WDNR from February, 2018 and has now been rescheduled for February of 2019. WDNR confirmed they can complete the reef assessment this summer to determine location, type and quantity of materials required. Once the assessment is completed, a project plan will be developed by Brad Kupfer which will include procurement of the materials and timetable for execution. For the actual deployment of the materials in February, volunteers will be required in addition to mechanized equipment. A volunteer signup sheet was available at the meeting.

Mike Preul (Mole Lake Fisheries Manager) was able to provide additional clarity as to the intent and function of the reef. Mike's expert commentary on walleye reproduction was well received by District members. Mike also provided an overview of how the Native American spearing process commences which also cleared up misconceptions as to how the tribes execute their right to spear walleyes.

From a financing standpoint, Mike Preul submitted a \$25K grant and expects to receive confirmation in June.

(f) District Website update

During the renewal process with Go-Daddy we were informed that the current web platform is no longer offered and we need to upgrade to the newest format. The web site is currently under construction and is projected to go live this summer.

(g) Donation to Pickerel Tombstone Snow Club

Motion by Jim Huss and seconded by Curt Haga to donate \$200.00 to the Pickerel Tombstone Snowmobile Club later this fall for their assistance in moving the weed harvester. Motion passes.

New Business

(a) Discuss Rental Agreement with Town of Nashville

Kathy Kupfer was able to renegotiate the rental fee from \$200.00 / month to \$42.00 / month.

(b) Sokaogon Chippewa Lake Protection Award

Again a big Thank You to the Sokaogon Chippewa Community for a \$3,000.00 donation. Mike Preul commented that the community donates to organizations who are working hard to improve the habitat in the local area. The donation is much appreciated.

(c) Mr. Edward Jacobs Donation

Edward Jacobs was a Pickerel Lake resident who passed away in 2017. At the request of the Edwards family, donations were directed to the Pickerel Crane Lake District. To date, \$2,300.00 has been received. At the family's request they would like to see the money go for the replacement of the dock on Pickerel Lake's north shore. The total cost to replace the dock is \$3,117.00. The District is very grateful for the donations. A letter was written by Ed's family and was included in the spring newsletter.

Motion by Brad Kupfer for the District to finance the additional \$800.00 to complete the purchase of the dock, seconded by Gene Ebben. Motion passes.

(d) Fish Survey Update (Handout from Greg Matzke available)

The Pickerel Lake 2017 Report was received this week from WDNR. The following is a summary based on 5 nights of netting and 1 night of electroshocking.

Bass population is considered average abundance at 9 adults per acre with very good size structure. Northern Pike are over abundant at 7 adults per acre with below average size. Walleye population is very low at .04/acre. However good numbers of juvenile fish were observed as a result of recent stocking and we would expect the population to increase as these fish mature. Perch, crappie and blue gill are all average abundance. Blue gills have decreased since the last survey and perch have become the dominate pan fish. With respect to size structure, perch and crappie are below average and blue gill are average.

(e) Discuss Five-Year Plan for P/C Lake District

A 5-year plan was reviewed with the District members. Key areas of focus as follows:

- Understand the Current State of the Lake Systems
- Implement Improvement Actions Strategically
- Manage / Replenish the Fishery
- Update Capital Equipment

Many of the forecasted expenditures would align to the updated LMP expected to be completed in the spring of 2020. Overall, the members felt it was a good start for a future forecast and we now have a guideline to manage and amend as we move forward.

Pickerel - Crane Lake Distict - 5 Year Plan

May-18

Projects	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Walleye Restoration	\$15,000		\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
Lake Mgmt. Plan		\$10,000			\$5,000
Shoreline Condition				\$5,000	
Shallow Water Habitat			\$5,000		\$5,000
Harvester Repairs	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	
Harvester Replacement					\$150,000
	\$21,000	\$16,000	\$14,000	\$14,000	\$163,000

(f) Discuss the Required update to the Lake Management Plan

Based on recommendations from the WDNR, the commissioner’s reached out to 6 consultants and narrowed it down to two firms which come highly recommended. Proposals were received in May and the commissioner’s will review in the next few months and have a recommendation at the fall meeting.

(g) Mike Preul permission to practice with their new harvester on lakes

Mike has a new harvester and would like to educate himself and his coworkers on the proper practices and lessons learned from the experienced operators on the P&C team. To do so, Mike has offered his machine to be used on Crane Lake this summer and it would eliminate the need to transfer our machine between the two lakes. In addition to using his machine, the harvesting would be completed by Mike and his team members. Brian King will work with Mike to complete harvesting activities on Crane Lake.

Motion by Joan Sternhagen to allow Mike and his staff to practice on Crane Lake, and seconded by Rose Starks. Motion passes.

(h) Mike Preul possible additional bullhead removal

Mike offered to remove additional bullheads by electroshocking which has proven to be more effective than netting. Initial priority would be to work 2 nights on Pickerel and 1 on Crane. Depending on the harvest, additional nights may be scheduled. The harvesting would be completed in June.

Motion by Joan Sternhagen to donate funds to offset the costs to remove bullheads, and seconded by Loren King. Motion passes.

(I) Select Nomination Committee for fall election

Vice Chairman position (Dan Vosters) is up for reelection in the fall. Dan is open to remaining in the role but is more than willing to step down if someone is interested in joining the team. If you would like to learn more about the position, please contact Linda Hansen at 715 484-3508 or 920 499-2638.

Public Comment

It was brought up by district members that the boat landings continue to be abused by boaters utilizing the practice of power loading when replacing boats on trailers. This highly repetitive practice creates large holes in the lake bottom which induces potential problems when unloading your boat. As a corrective action, the question arose as to whether the district can place larger rocks in these holes to maintain a nice tapered beach where boats can be unloaded and loaded safely. Chuck offered to reach out to the WDNR to see if any permitting would be required.

Motion by Joan Sternhagen to fill the holes with rocks, seconded by Brad Kupfer. Motion passes.

From a recognition standpoint, Dan Wellhouse and his volunteers were recognized for their efforts to take out the docks in the fall and install in the spring. Thank you Dan and team for your great support year after year.

A comment was also made thanking the commissioners for following up and reporting progress on suggestions made by District members at the fall meeting.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Brian King and seconded by Keith Verhagen; motion passes

Meeting adjourned at 11:35AM.