



Pickerel/Crane Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District Spring Newsletter, 2025

From the Chairman's Desk – Chuck Sleeter

Dear Residents, Taxpayers, and Volunteers,

As the vibrant colors of spring return to our beautiful Lake District, I am filled with gratitude and admiration for the incredible community we have built together. This season is a time of renewal and reminds us of the collective efforts that keep our district thriving.

First and foremost, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to all the taxpayers whose contributions ensure the maintenance and development of our cherished lakes. Your support allows us to preserve the natural beauty and serenity that make our District so special.

To our dedicated volunteers, your selfless commitment is the backbone of our community. Whether it is lending a helping hand to a neighbor or spending the entire day operating the harvester wherever needed, your efforts do not go unnoticed. You inspire us all with your passion and dedication to our lakes.

I also want to highlight a District volunteer program that has not been featured in recent newsletters. For those who are new to our lake community or were not aware of the Pickerel Lake Aeration System, allow me to provide some background. About 20 years ago, the district secured a WDNR grant of approximately \$64,000 to install an aeration system near the narrows. To make this possible, we relied on the generosity of some incredible lake residents.

Thankfully, Art and Deb Smith stepped up and allowed us use over their lakefront property for the system. They have also consistently plowed access to the system and allowed us to use their driveway for entry. Their dedication to our District and community is truly inspiring. As a result of this system, Pickerel Lake has not experienced a major fish kill since its installation.

The importance of maintaining the aeration system during the winter cannot be overstated. It plays a key role in preserving water quality and supporting the delicate balance of our lakes' ecosystem.

Unfortunately, due to warm weather this year, we had to shut down the system early. This has created conditions similar to the previous year, leading to another rise in aquatic plant growth.

If this is the case, the harvester program will once again face high costs, exacerbated by rising fuel prices and repair expenses. Harvester volunteers will be asked to fill the schedule for harvesting, much like in the 2024 season. I understand this is a significant request, but what are the alternatives? Together, we can navigate these challenges to keep our lakes beautiful and thriving.

Thank you all for your continued support and dedication to the Lake District. Your efforts make all the difference, and together we will ensure our lakes remain a source of pride and joy for generations to come.

Sincerely, Chuck Sleeter

Mission Statement:

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

For Your Information

Lake District Annual Spring Meeting

You are invited to attend our annual spring meeting to be held on Saturday, May 17, 2025 at 9:00 AM in the Town of Nashville Community Center located at 1038 Cty Rd Q, Pickerel, WI. The fall 2024 minutes will need to be approved at this meeting so you may either read them ahead of time on the pickerelcranelakedistrict.org website or there will be a limited number of copies available for review at the meeting.

There will be a **Door Prize Drawing** for those attending.

Board of Commissioners – The following positions will be up for election in the fall: Treasurer and Commissioner. 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 pickerelcranelakedistrict.org for a list of all the volunteer opportunities within our Lake District.

Fishing Line Disposal Containers to be Installed at all Three Boat Landings

The improper disposal of fishing line is a major threat to fishing areas. It threatens marine life, damages boats, and fouls propellers. Recycling your old fishing line is one of the best actions you can take to solve these issues.

Thank you to FCAL (Forest County Association of Lakes), who has made and donated fishing line disposal containers to be installed at each of our boat landings.

Obey the Sign "Clean off Your Props" BEFORE Entering the Channel

Please take time to observe the signs posted on the Pickerel Lake side of the culvert, asking boaters to remove weeds from their props. This is done either manually or putting your boat in reverse (throttle up forcing the weeds off) before navigating through the channel. This process will help keep Eurasian Milfoil hitchhikers from entering the channel and eventually populating Crane Lake.

Run-Off Issues on Crane and Pickerel Lakes

Create a shoreline buffer.

- Allow at least 3-5' of natural vegetation next to the water, to prevent any nutrients like nitrogen or phosphorus from entering the water. For more information on Shoreline Restoration ideas, visit our webpage: pickerelcranelakedistrict.org

Lawn Fertilization

- If you live next to a lake or stream, **do not fertilize within 25 feet of the water's edge**.
- Never apply fertilizer if moderate or heavy rain is forecasted for your area within the next 24-48 hours.
- Consider using a liquid fertilizer versus a granular fertilizer, as liquids are absorbed rather quickly by the lawn whereas granular fertilizer is a slow-release formula.
- All bags of fertilizers will have a label showing the nutrient analysis. It will have three numbers, such as 22-0-15, which correspond to Nitrogen-Phosphorus-Potassium or N-P-K. Nitrogen (N) is important in overall plant health. Phosphorus (P) is integral in root formation. Potassium (K) regulates water movement. Remember, most established lawns in our region do not require added phosphorus.

Simple Reminders

- Please DO NOT mow next to the water and blow clippings into the lake.
- In the fall, do not intentionally blow leaves into the water, as leaves contain phosphorus which will contribute to future algae blooms.
- In the winter, please DO NOT build fires on the lake. Ash also contains phosphorus.

Bullhead Removal

Once again, we are looking for volunteers who would be willing to help net pods of bullheads from Pickerel and Crane Lakes. Once volunteers complete a form from the DNR and receive a permission letter and a time sheet from Brad Kupfer, the Lake District will supply all volunteers with a net. These nets are property of the Lake District and are to be used solely for the purpose of netting bullhead fry. At the fall meeting, Brad will be collecting the nets and your time sheets. If a net is not returned, you will be asked to pay for the net.

Walleye Stocking

2025 is a stocking year for walleyes from the DNR and Mole Lake Fisheries. We can expect around 3,400 fingerlings to be stocked in Crane and 13,000 to be stocked in Pickerel Lake. If anyone is interested in helping with the draining of the ponds at the Mole Lake fish hatchery in early October, please contact Brad Kupfer.

Pickere/*Crane Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District*
Year-End Treasurer's Report 1/01/2024 - 12/31/2024

Opening Balance

CD's Capital Purchases	56,862.50
CD Invasive Aquatic Plant Control	41,510.21
CD Lake Management Plan	5,218.25
CD Walleye Restoration	8,273.63
Savings	10,946.24
Checking	7,124.72
Money Market/Contingency Fund	79,811.06
Prior Year Balance	\$209,746.61

Revenues

Boat Landing	574.00
Credit	21.79
Donation	3,452.00
Interest	7,443.14
Tax Levy	27,800.00
12-Month Revenues	\$39,290.93

Expenditures

Administrative	159.74
Aeration	911.25
Boat Landings	189.09
Capital Purchases	300.00
Dues	200.00
Insurance	4,983.00
Invasive Aquatic Plants	5,608.39
Lake Management Plan	12,139.20
Lake Monitoring	0.00
Meetings/Mileage	472.20
Postage	626.00
Printing	298.10
Rent	700.00
Walleye Restoration	7,494.50
Webpage/Newsletter	861.76
Weed Harvesting	7,972.42
12-Month Expenditures	\$42,915.65

Closing 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
2024 Year-End Balance	\$206,121.89

Respectfully Submitted, *Kathy Kupfer*, Treasurer

Pickere/*Crane Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District*
1st Quarter Treasurer's Report 1/01/25 - 3/31/25

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

Donations	3,000.00
Interest	1,797.06
Tax Levy	18,782.68
1st Quarter Revenues	\$23,579.74

Expenditures

Aeration	494.32
Boat Landings	171.81
Dues	150.00
Lake Management Plan	3,000.00
Insurance	201.00
Rent	700.00
Weed Harvesting	150.00
1st Quarter Expenditures	\$4,465.13

Closing Balance

CD's Capital Purchases	63,293.51
CD Invasive Aquatic Plant Control	47,898.50
CD Lake Management Plan	15,013.92
CD Walleye Restoration	4,066.26
Savings	6,269.74
Checking	18,385.76
Money Market/Contingency Fund	70,308.81
Closing Balance, March 2025	\$225,236.50

Respectfully Submitted, *Kathy Kupfer*, Treasurer

Please visit us online for more information at:
pickere/cranelakedistrict.org

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



**NOTICE OF PICKEREL/CRANE LAKE P& R DISTRICT
2025 SPRING MEETING
May17, 2025 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 2024 Meeting Minutes
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Old Business
 - a) 2024-25 Aeration Report (Ginny Vick)
 - b) 2024 Weed Harvester Report (John Shuppe)
 - c) 2024 Audit Report (Fred & Linda Maas and Marge Shuppe)
8. New Business
 - a) Algae Study Summary (Dean Premo, Brad Kupfer)
 - b) Pickerel Creek Dam Update (Noah, Kathy, Brad)
 - c) Bullhead Netting (Brad Kupfer)
 - d) Candidates for Fall Election (Treasurer and Commissioner)
 - e) Nomination Committee for Fall Election
9. Public comment
10. Announce raffle winners
- 11.. Adjourn

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

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approve 10/30/24 Commissioners' Meeting Minutes
4. Review Action Items from Today's Spring Meeting
5. Adjourn

Sign up for our gift raffle when entering.

**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
Kathy Kupfer, Treasurer kathykupfer52@outlook.com	715-484-2520
Dan Stoeher, Secretary dtstoeher@gmail.com	715-484-2393
Steve Kircher, Forest Cty. Conserv.	715-478-1387
Doug Curler, Langlade Cty Board	715-623-2253