

PICKEREL/CRANE LAKE PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT

2026 SPRING MEETING MINUTES

MAY 16, 2026 9:00 AM

TOWN OF NASHVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER

1038 CTH Q PICKEREL. WI

1. Call to Order: Chairman Chuck Sleeter called the 2026 annual spring meeting to order at 9:00 AM.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Welcome New Members to the Meeting: There were no new district members of the 47 in attendance.
4. Introduce Commissioners: Board members present were Chairman Chuck Sleeter, Vice-Chair Noah Pearson, Treasurer Teri Geurts, Secretary Dan Stoehr, and Commissioner-at-large John Shuppe.
5. Approve Fall 2025 Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Craig Farah and seconded by Gary Stoffel to approve the 2025 fall meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.
6. Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Teri Geurts reported that as of April 30, 2026, we are under budget with a balance of \$242,856.65. A motion was made by Craig Farah and seconded by Gary Stoffel to approve the treasurer's report as presented. Motion carried. Teri recommended to the board that we change the districts credit card from Chase Bank to CoVantage Credit Union. After discussion, Chuck Sleeter made a motion to get a new district credit card from the CoVantage Credit Union for use with any future charges. John Shuppe seconded the motion. Motion carried.
7. Audit Committee Report: Marge Shuppe reported that on behalf of the audit committee they completed the 2025 audit. All was in order, except two receipts were not present. Chuck acknowledged that those were his receipts and he would look for them and give them to Teri. Marge also reported that the mileage reimbursement was not at the current rate and that this rate changes each year. After discussion, Chuck made a motion to reimburse any approved mileage at the current business rate. Craig Farah seconded the motion and the motion carried. A motion to approve the audit committee report as presented was made by Craig Farah and seconded by Gary Stoffel. Motion carried. Chuck thanked the audit committee of Marge Shuppe, Fred Maas and Linda Maas for their volunteer work on the audit.

8. Old Business

- a. **2025-2026 Aeration Report (Ginny Vick):** Ginny reported that all went well with the aeration project that lasted a little over 2 months on Pickerel Lake last winter. She did make a request for a new two-handed power drillmaster augur along with two 24v batteries at a cost of \$400. She also suggested getting our own steamer for the aerator. They found someone that will donate the steamer as well as two 20# LP tanks, but they will still need to purchase the fittings and hose. Teri acknowledged that all these items will be within the aeration budget. Ginny would like to thank Tom from Pickerel Point, Dave Nass who did the electrical at a cheaper rate, Duane who unthawed the lines at no charge, the neighbors who let us use their driveway, and all the other volunteers who helped set up and take down.
- b. **2025 Weed Harvester Report and Budget Requests (John Shuppe):** John reported that the harvester was put in on June 13th of 2025 and taken out on September 19th. 128 loads of weeds were harvested at approximately 8,000 pounds per load for a total removal of over 1 million pounds of weeds from Pickerel Lake! 78% was Eurasian milfoil, 12% water celery and 10% other weeds. 90% of the weeds were floaters. Total lake hours of the harvester were 382. John thanked the great group of volunteers who helped with the harvesting as well as their spouses who allow them to “play on the lake”. John did mention that the main truck should have the rear tires replaced and these are estimated to cost around \$2200 for all 4. This is within the budget and Chuck recommended getting them replaced. No date has been set yet for putting in the harvester this summer. John also thanked Jim Huss for allowing us to put all the weeds in his field.
- c. **Grant Applications (Brad Kupfer):** Brad reported that this past fall, he and White Water Associates submitted 3 grant proposals for 2026. All three grants were accepted and work will begin this summer on both lakes. Please see the 2026 spring newsletter for the details of these 3 grants. The newsletter can be accessed on the district’s web site www.pickerelcranelakedistrict.org. Brad did mention that there may likely be a day and a half this summer where the channel will be closed to boat traffic due to Eurasian milfoil removal work being done in the channel. Thank you for your cooperation and patience during this time.
- d. **Lake User Survey Committee (Brad):** As part of the grant activities requirement, Brad reported that we will need to do another lake user survey this summer. The last one that was done was in 2020. This can be done using Survey Monkey which can be sent out electronically to everyone’s email. Brad asked for 3 volunteers from each lake to help update the questions that were used in the last survey. Crane Lake volunteers include Brad Kupfer, Teri Geurts, and Mark Starich. Pickerel Lake volunteers include Craig Farah, Lori Vosters, and Linda Maas.
- e. **Fall Walleye Stocking (Brad):** Brad reported that over 20,000 walleye fingerlings were introduced into Pickerel and Crane lakes this past fall.

- f. Door Hangers Distribution (Noah); Discussion on Methods to Stop EWM From Entering Culvert and Channel:** Noah and Brad discussed ways to prevent people from dragging EMF from Pickerel into Crane Lake through the culvert. A mailer (postcard) was sent out last summer to all district members explaining the problem and numerous signs have been placed by the culvert warning boaters to remove weeds before entering the channel. This spring a door hanger will be distributed by the lake action committee members to all the residents on the lakes. This message is similar to what was said on the postcards last summer. Chuck further commented that the wind brings in floating weeds and milfoil through the culvert which further complicates the problem.
- g. Placing Strobe Lights at Culvert Entrance Rather than Different Signs (Chuck Sleeter):** After thinking over the situation further, Chuck decided not to suggest using a white strobe light since there are already several signs including a large red stop sign at the entrance to the culvert from the Pickerel Lake side.
- h. Signage Committee and Posting Board Renovation (Chuck):** Chuck himself refurbished 4 of the signs at the 3 landings and Sportsman's Lodge. A big thank you goes out to Chuck for all his work in improving the look of the landings.
- i. 2026 Bullhead Contest (Dan and Tom):** For the last several years, an effort was made to reduce the bullhead population on the two lakes by netting the very young bullhead fry that swarm near the shore in early summer. This effort, which sounded like a great idea, just didn't work and was not successful in significantly reducing the bullhead population. It was then suggested to have a "friendly competition" to catch and remove the bullheads from the lakes. Posters were made and the bullheads caught were reported at two area taverns. The results of last summers' bullhead catch are as follows: 1) Paul Panko and grandson Troy (200+); 2) Henry Engman and Avery Mroczerski (72); 3) Paulina (65); Dan V and grandson Connor (56 plus 147 with weed harvester); Triple H cabins (48); Cooper Gentry (43); Jim Albright (40); Hilsart (36); Numerous others (kids) with catches of 1 to 30. Dan Vosters and Chuck Sleeter would like to make this an even bigger event this year with Pickerel Point (Tom) being the central spot for sign up and reporting results. After discussion, Chuck made a motion to set the prize amounts for the bullhead competition at \$50 and down. Motion was seconded by Craig Farah. Motion carried. Chuck and Dan will get together and iron out the details.
- j. Snow Club Donation for Use of their Tractor:** Chuck reported that twice a year the Pickerel Snowmobile Club allows us to use their tractor to move the weed harvester. In the past the district has sent them \$200 for the year. After some discussion, Chuck made a motion to donate \$400 for the year (\$200 each time) to the snowmobile club for the use of their tractor. Seconded by John Shuppe. Motion carried.

9. New Business

- a. Mole Lake Tribal Donation:** John Shuppe and Dan Stoehr attended the check presentation put on by the Mole Lake Band of the Sokaaogon Chippewa Community on January 19th. John accepted a \$3,000 check from tribal chairman Robert VanZile.

This money will be used for protection and rehabilitation projects for the district. A big Thank You goes out to the Mole Lake tribe for their continued support.

- b. Candidates for Fall Election (Vice-Chair and Secretary):** Current vice-chair Noah Pearson and Secretary Dan Stoehr will NOT be running for re-election in August so both positions are open to any district member. A big Thank You to Noah for his 3 years of service as vice-chair and Dan for his 6 years of service as secretary.
- c. Nomination Committee for Fall Election:** Chuck asked for volunteers for the nomination committee and Craig Farah again agreed to head the committee. Please contact Craig at 920-470-8845 if you are interested in either position or would like to nominate someone for one of the positions.

10. Public Comment: George Rock gave a brief history of when the large corporations made the attempt to mine minerals in the area.

The question on the use of wake boats was asked and Chuck reported that the Town of Nashville had rescinded their ordinance against wake boating for the fear that small townships like ours could be sued by the large boat manufacturers. It was also pointed out that there would be no enforcement of any ordinance by either the county or the DNR. In conclusion, wake boats cannot be banned, but their use for wake boarding are not recommended on either Crane or Pickerel Lakes due to the small size of Crane Lake and the shallow depth of Pickerel Lake.

A question was asked if the hole was filled in at the Pickerel north boat landing. Chuck said he would look into it and get it filled if it hasn't been already.

11. Adjourn: A motion to adjourn was made by Chuck Sleeter and seconded by Craig Farah to adjourn. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned by Chuck at 10:48 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

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