

Meeting Minutes
Pickerel / Crane Lake P&R District Spring Meeting
May 28, 2016 - 9:30
Nashville Town Hall

All Board members present except - Dan Voss

Fall meeting minutes read, motion to accept, all agreed.

Commissioner's report for October 17, 2015 read, motion to accept, all agreed.

Treasurer's Report: Kathy's list of duties for next year is in July - it is a lot of guess work. Good to review these numbers at Commissioner's meeting. Insurance cost tend to get higher and higher - Kathy called Schwartz insurance and took off for trucks when not in use - another way to save money. The main thing about the budget; if we have extra money where does it go? The rule of thumb is in excess of \$2,500 in any line item - put into reserve on next budget which can be used in the following year. After this - if not used - all reserved amounts gets put into a CD at CoVantage for that purpose. Septic inspection, Invasive Aquatic Plant Reserve and possibly Walleye if we don't use the money this year. At Commissioner's meeting discussed changes to the new budget and possible amendments. The board took your comments from the fall meeting seriously and changes were made to make the budget documented as much as possible.

On the back side of the budgets (handouts) - Treasurer's Report - updated the moneys spent and in the account since the newsletter printing. Asked for questions. None from floor. Motion made to accept, seconded, all voted in favor.

Old Business:

Aeration Report / Information/Discussion

Hot Dog - everything went perfect. #2 blower shut down after initial set up, restarted and ran #2 blower all year. Next year blower # 1 will be run to ensure that the hours are evenly distributed. it was a mild winter. The pipes were re-spliced and are good for another 10 years. System repair was only \$400. One incident a snowmobiler ran the water and took out a couple of stakes which needed to be repaired. Not one dead fish for spring kill - aeration is working and is very effective. Comment from floor, has consideration ever been given to applying for a grant from WPS for aeration. Kathy took a note and will look into it.

Aquatic Plant Harvesting Report, 2015 / Plans for 2016

Jim Huss took 59 truck loads - majority were water celery; the paddle wheel was fixed, three of the batteries - 1 in harvester - 2 in truck were replaced - conveyor belt holes will be repaired - change the oil and be ready to put in. Scheduling the tractor is always an issue - There is another option than using the snowmobile clubs". The Town of Nashville has purchased a trailer which can be used to move the harvester. Jamie Anderson is going to ask the Town Board if we can rent their truck. This will free up the dates the trailer is available for moving. We will pay an hourly rate plus the employee's hourly rate. We would like to move it in June. The meeting is

towards the end of June. Jamie will make phone calls and see if this is a possibility. They would like to see a Town employee be the driver.

2015 Walleye Fingerling Stocking in Pickerel / Crane Lakes / Greg Matzke's Fisheries Activities for Pickerel/Crane 2016 and 2017 / Brad Kupfer Crane/Pickerel Lakes Walleye Stocking Overview for 2016

This covers c, d, and e on the agenda / 4,300 walleye were put in Crane 11,000 in Pickerel compliments of DNR and Mole Lake Fishery. There is evidence that there is walleye fry in the lake which looks like they are spawning on their own. This will be confirmed in the 2017 survey. The restoration project is working. Greg Matzke says keep this thing going - stock to full extent in 2016 - we now have \$9,000 but we also have the reserve of \$6,900 his recommendation is to use the reserve fund and spend \$15,000 to put in 8,300 walleyes - the majority in Pickerel and some in Crane. Greg said that it is time to go for the goal of 5-10 walleye per acre. Once we get to that number, it is considered a walleye lake. Previously, we stocked most in Crane which is the breeding ground. Now it is time to put into Pickerel and still put some in Crane. 4,000 in Crane - 5,000 or balance into Pickerel. The motion was made and seconded all voted aye. The floor was asked which fishery we should purchase the fish from since we have developed a relationship with Mole Lake Fishery and they are closest which is best for the survival rate for fish. In addition to the fish, we also use Mole Lake to help with the bull head removal and we get comprehensive surveys.

It has been five years since we started this project, and the lake survey will be like our final exam. Question from the floor about the results from the shocking last year? Brad said Crane saw a lot of walleye 6-7" that they put in some 18" - The number of the smaller fish are adequate. The comprehensive survey will be both boom shocking, netting, and looking at all the species, bass, walleye, northern pike, and pan fish for both Pickerel and Crane Lake by DNR. According to Matzke, in the spring of 2017 there will be netting and electrofishing; there will be another survey in the fall. By the end of this, we will have a good picture of what is truly happening.

What about the result of the bull head removal? In 2014, only 82% were removed in Pickerel and 97% in Crane. In 2017, there will be another bullhead removal in both Pickerel and Crane lakes. Once we get these walleye #s up to the required number, then they will look at changing regulations - possibly moving to a slot for a trophy. 335 walleyes speared in Crane Lake this spring.

Motion was made to use Mole Lake Fishery, seconded by Ken Olson; all voted aye.

Seasonal Dock Removal and Installation

Thanks to Danny Wellhouse and his brothers and Mr. Fields, these docks come in and out. Gift certificates were bought for these guys. He uses his own machinery to do this. We appreciate their help tremendously.

Pickereel Lake Northside Landing 2015 Repairs

Gravel delivered by town, some bad trees were removed, and three truck loads of debris were removed. Jamie Anderson is here who is the Town Chairman but also works for an Engineering Firm in Rhinelander who does remodeling of boat landing. There are grant dollars available. If approved to move ahead, this means that the boat landing will be shut down. Boaters may need to use other sites for boat landings. The problem with the current boat landing is that the harvester has a hard time getting it in and out of the lake. If we improve the boat landing, we can get harvester in and out, add more parking places, get a better dock, and add handicapped access. Each year what we have keeps shifting, if we get concrete, it should last for a while. Should we form a committee and look at this issue? Town of Nashville has \$1,000 for all boat landings in all of Nashville. It is owned by the Town of Nashville. If Nashville will support us, and we take the ball, our chances are fairly good to get a grant.

Brad Kupfer and Chuck are willing to be on this committee. Brad has done some investigating. It seems doable. Make a motion to investigate the possibility of improving Northside boat landing and come back at the fall meeting with the figures. Then the lake district can decide if we want to do this. Questions to consider is how much it will cost, how much we might get from the grant, how long will the landing be closed, and can it be done in off season? The details will have to be worked out to see if the boat landing even needs to be completely closed. Another question - will property owners be involved with this? When there is an overload of boats, the neighbors find a substantial amount of waist on the shoreline. There will be more boat trafficking - of the weeds, garbage. How much will it affect the local shoreline? Per Jamie, he does not anticipate more problems than we have now. Should we have cameras to catch the offenders? Dale Migacz is willing to join the committee to address these concerns. He is a neighbor to the boat landing. Motion made, seconded. all in favor

Volunteers

Please see the list of two pages of volunteers - please sign up for volunteers as well.

New Business:

Sokaogon Chippewa Lake Protection Award

\$3,000 was given to us. They gave out \$100,000 to the various clubs. Rod Sternhagen picked it up.

Discuss Harvesting on Crane Lake

Some people do want harvesting and some do not. There is no problem taking the harvester to Crane Lake if it is wanted. The residents from Crane Lake casted private paper ballots to determine if harvesting is wanted after the following discussion. Questions? Why do we have a scum problem in late July and August? - According to Jim Huss (who was not present) says Crane doesn't have enough weeds. The harvester hasn't been there for two years, and there is still scum on Crane. Some thought it was less, others said it is still heavy in Bart Bay. Mr. King - the weeds are going deeper and deeper. There were areas where they used to be able to fish and cannot be fished anymore. Yes, we do need weeds. Mr. King would like to recommend to

clean up around shore and docks and run channels through areas so boats can get in and out. Don't clean out the whole area but they do need channels to run boats properly. Chuck - we are limited to what we can harvest by the state. It has to meet the requirements of the permit. There is also an issue to what kind of weeds can be cut. Lily pads cannot be cut. Mike Pruehl per Brad, there is no evidence that there is any connection between the harvester and these issues. We have EWM; Brad is pursuing to find out what the scum is. John Pruss (who was present) is the aquatic plant specialist. In your experience have these questions been dealt with with the Harvester? A concern is if you cut EWM it helps it spread. Mr. King remembered reading in one of the magazine regarding weed harvesting, if you don't harvest it sets back your lake with silt for a number of years. This is also a point. A harvester extends the life of the lake. Hot Dog read an article that our oxygen level has increased because of the harvester. One vote per family.

Paper Ballot Vote on Future Harvesting on Crane Lake

Votes were counted - 11 Yes - 3 No - Even though the yes's won - there still needs to be volunteers on Crane Lake - Len Hadovski has already volunteered to be weed boss. Now the schedule needs to be looked at to move the harvester to coordinate with the volunteers. If this all aligns, it can happen. The Snowmobile Club has issued concerns as to if it is willing to go to Crane - If Town of Nashville is doing it - no problem.

Can we use pellets in the lake? No it needs a permit, and this is a parcel owner's decision not a lake district issue. How many volunteers ran the harvester last year? 7-9 at the most? Crane may only need 3? The goal is the first week of August - and let it sit there until it is needed. There does need to be preplanning for those who have to coordinate volunteers. Putting your name on the list is the first step to doing this. The problem is always that we can only get the tractor with a limited window of time. Since we don't have an answer yet from the town as to whether we can use their equipment, we cannot be sure on what date. If necessary - there is a volunteer while it is on Crane Lake. The question was posed to hire handlers, but hiring people requires a lot of accounting - checks, W-2, and the treasurer volunteer is already overwhelmed - do we want to pay more for insurance? There is more than just paying a kid to run the machine. It has been talked about.

Nashville Boating Ordinance Discussion

As it reads now the hours are from 9:00 - 4:30 for motor boats of a speed of more than two miles per hour. This was dated 7/29/1957 - the fine is \$15 and not more than \$50. If it is changed, it has to be considered that this ordinance covers all lakes in Nashville and two other counties. This is not a simple thing to do. There is a conflict of lake users. Jamie Anderson, Town of Nashville Representative, understands that it is old and outdated. The fines are not a deterrent and enforcement is difficult. There are definitely challenges as it includes the following lakes - Arbutus, Jungle, Walsh, Crawford, Mole - all the lakes within our borders. Brad Kupfer says that 9 - 6 is the norm for the lakes down in Germantown. Jamie can put it on his agenda. This is his domain, and he will reach out to the other lakes and see how they feel.

Appoint Nominating Committee

Mrs. Hansen will be on the nomination committee - Lauren Freston will finish the fall newsletter and will be stepping down. We do need a new secretary. A possible volunteer, Amy Evers, asked for information.

John Preuss Pontoon Boat Class

Offered two educational opportunities. One is a pontoon trip to learn about the local water chemistry and plants. There is also a mussel workshop. This is free to the public.

Public Comment

Walter Ferguson - The Pioneer Express is publishing in early June the new zoning laws - Langlade is working on their ordinances - the state has to ok it - that is in flux - maybe by the time this is in print there will be something.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn 11:45