

COCHRAN LAKE DISTRICT MEETING
March 3, 2007

ATTENDEES: Board Members – Don Schmitz, Mary Hartung
Board Members Not present - Donna Mandt
Town of Fifield – Not present
Price Co Land Conservationist – Not present

LOCATION: Pike Lake Fire Station

DATE/TIME: 3/3/07 – 9:02 a.m.

ADMINISTRATION:

- Motion made by Mark Kaminski and 2nd by Carl Schmelzer to approve minutes from the October meeting. Motion passed.

FOLLOWUP FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- Skip Sommerfield was not able to attend but submitted a report to Don. The pertinent points are as follows:
- Spring shock on 5/25/2006 large mouth bass were still abundant 156/hr and size structure improves with more bass in the 15 – 17 inch size
- Most were good condition with a few “skinny fish” still noted
- 9 northerns at 16 – 22 inches, species continues to show significant presence in lake
- 1 walleye at 14.6 inches
- Panfish were mainly bluegill, high abundance (1300/hr) with most in 3 – 5.5 inch size
- 8 new species introduced since 1999
- Developing/changing of new species continue to muddy the picture and can’t really predict what will happen
- Continue to monitor and strongly discourage unauthorized stocking of “exotic” species
- Mercury testing results from fish collected in June 2004 were large mouth bass in 10 – 12 inch size average 0.25 ppm and bass in 13 – 14 inch size averaged 0.27 ppm. Northern pike in the 19 – 22 inch size average 0.42 ppm. All levels were below the 0.50 ppm standard that indicates elevated mercury levels and extra consumption restrictions.
- Cochran Lake is not exempt for permit requirements and permits would have to be obtained for any fish habitat improvement structures. Permit fee is \$50. The Lake District may be able to purchase “group” permit, but Skip is not sure of this. Another option would be for Skip to “sponsor” the lake and make the process faster/easier.
- Skip would support tree drops but would be hesitant to support brush bundles as they are a short-term (maybe 5 years) solution. It is preferred that these trees be dropped from the shoreline or imported off-site. The best success is pine, cedar, birch, aspen and ash. Stay away from maples.

- Skip would support fish cribs involving a minimum of 16 cribs. These would be placed in groups of 8 in a reef formation, not scattered around the lake.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Mary Hartung reported for Donna Mandt:

- New Balance of \$3,288.80

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Fishery

Frank Sevcik reported:

- Steve Avlallemand stated at the WAL sponsored meeting in July 2006 that brush bundles were very effective which was not what Skip has stated. Should we ask Avlallemand to attend Annual Meeting to report?

Water Quality

- George Rasmussen absent

Adopt a Highway

Greg Yorton absent:

Boat Landing

Donna Mandt absent buy Frank Sevcik & Don Schmitz reported:

- Someone keeps closing the gate at the boat landing. It is not locked, but we need to leave it open for the Fire Dept.
- The landing has not been plowed well and we need to find out who is responsible and make sure it is plowed for the Fire Dept.
- Don said that he gets calls regarding the combination to the boat landing lock. We will publish the combination in the Annual Letter and also have someone people can call if they need the combination.

Directories

Mary Hartung reported:

- Post cards were sent out to all residents who have not provided an e-mail address to inquire whether they would like to provide one or have the minutes mailed. Two residents requested them mailed and other either didn't respond or didn't wish to have them mailed.
- In an effort to have one database for residents, Don and Mary provided drafts of proposed directory formats. It was decided that we would use Don's format which will reduce the amount of work to keep the directory current and facilitate creating new directories when needed. Don and Mary will work to combine databases.
- New directories will be provided at the Annual Meeting.

Lake Plants

Stan Kmiecik reported:

- Plants are dormant now and with the thick layer of ice and the recent snow, it is hoped that we will see a reduction of weeds in the Spring.
- The weeds stayed green and up longer last year because of the lake water level being down so much and a warm fall.

Website

Don Schmitz reported:

- Our website is http://in.geocities.com/cochran_lake_district/

Miscellaneous

Don reported:

- He has contacted the Price County Board regarding getting a new representative to replace Butch Lobermeier. They were considering having us share a representative with Taylor County. A Group called Price County Waterways Association is also voicing its opinion to have Price Co. fill this position instead of Subcontracting with Taylor Co. In the last email Don received from PCWA it said that it sounds like the Price Co. Board is reconsidering and may begin the interview process.
- Don will be sending out an e-mail asking for refreshment volunteers at the Annual Meeting. Board members will provide something and Nancy Sevcik will provide coffee.

Ski Kaminski reported:

- He would provide three small tree decorations to be given out at a drawing as we did at the 2006 Annual Meeting.
- Ski said that he would also supply a large tree statue for a silent auction at the Annual Meeting as a fundraiser. THANKS SKI!!

Motion was made by Carl Schmelzer and 2nd by Stan Kmiecik to adjourn. Motion passed. Meeting adjourns 9:45 a.m.

Next meeting

May 26, 9:00 a.m. Fire Station, Annual Meeting

COCHRAN LAKE DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING
May 26, 2007

BOARD MEMBERS:Present: Don Schmitz, President; Donna Mandt, Treasurer; Jack Wierzba, Town of Fifield Rep.
Absent: Mary Hartung, Secretary; Price County Land Conservationist

LOCATION: Pike Lake Fire Station

ADMINISTRATION:

- Meeting called to order at 9:10 a.m.
- Report on Mary Hartung by Dotty Ford; Lake District will send flowers in appreciation of her service on the Board
- Motion by George Rasmussen and seconded by Sharon Kmiecik to approve March 3, 2007, minutes. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

- None

ELECTION:

- Don called for an immediate election to fill the vacant position on the Board
- Pat Schwai was elected and began serving as secretary

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:

Donna Mandt, Treasurer, reported:

- Total expenditures: \$449.82
- Total income : \$1,357.84
 - Included \$12 per lot special charge on tax bills (same amount in 2007)
- New Balance: \$3,878.69
- Budgeted amount from 06/01/07 to 05/31/08: \$536.00
- Motion by Ev Houkom and seconded by Mike Buckna to accept budget as presented. Motion carried.

Don Schmitz reported on behalf of Mary Hartung, Past Secretary:

- New directories are available from Don Schmitz; also on website at: http://in.geocities.com/cochran_lake_district
- Send any directory corrections/changes to Don Schmitz

Jack Wierzba, Town of Fifield Representative reported:

- For training purposes, the Fire Dept. used our private boat landing to obtain water for road work on Springstead Rd. and Cy's Dr. Permission will be sought in the future.
- Springstead Road is on schedule for paving in late summer

- F.R. 144/Shady Knoll:
 - The Town received preliminary federal funding approval for repaving. Awaiting September outcome.
 - Clean up, stumping, ditching and culverts will begin soon.
 - If no federal funding, township will repave 2 miles per year.
- Cy's Drive:
 - Residents voiced their preferences for alternatives to gravel
 - Brian Mandt reported that it appeared repeated trips by the tanker truck affected our private boat landing drive. Jack will look into restoration.
- Fifield Town meetings will be held at the Pike Lake Fire Station from May to October, on the 3rd Thursday of the month.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Fishery

Frank Sevcik reported:

- Shocking hasn't occurred yet
- Suggested creating a kids' fishing contest with pictures posted on the web.

Don Schmitz reported:

- Private pier installers have been on the lake. Are their boats maintained in accordance with "clean boats/clean waters" program?
- Next spring, lock boat landing gate at start of fishing season, May 1
- Due to reports of VHS in Wisconsin, do not transport bait minnows between lakes.

Boat Landing

- Discussion ensued on how best to insure that boats launched are clean/free of AIS (aquatic invasive species).
- Rick Schwai volunteered to research how best to coordinate pier company installations. He will survey property owners via email.

Water Quality

George Rasmussen reported:

- Testing is now only done in spring. Temperature 62; clarity to 14 ½ feet
- Phosphorus, nitrogen and nitrate levels at less than 8 year average
- Please use phosphate-free fertilizers and cleaning products

Adopt a Highway

Greg Yorton absent, no report

- Please pick up trash as you see it throughout the year.

Lake Plants

Stan Kmiecik reported:

- Contacted 2 pier services and requested they be accountable for their procedures in cleaning boats when going from lake to lake
- Emerald ash borer infecting Wisconsin trees. Don't transport downstate firewood into our area.

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President's Report

Don Schmitz reporting:

- The googlegroup email may be used for selling items. If the demand increases, he can create a "for sale" area on the website.
- Dropping trees into lake to improve fish habitat under consideration; permit required.
- Skip Sommerfeldt of DNR has offered to identify potential live shoreline trees. Cutting will require property owner's permission/approval.

Loons

Pat Schwai reported:

- Pair on lake but no nesting activity
- Please continue to observe minimum wake speeds
- All anglers are encouraged to "Get the Lead Out" replacing lead jigs/sinkers with non-lead alternatives. Suppliers' list available from Pat.

A motion to adjourn made by Carl Schmelzer and seconded by Ray Schave carried.
The meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

Post-meeting drawing:

Many thanks to Sig "Ski" Kaminski for again donating several of his signature fir tree carvings as door prizes! Many lucky people went home with an original piece.

NEXT MEETING: SATURDAY, AUGUST 18, 2007 PIKE LAKE FIRE HALL

COCHRAN LAKE DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING
August 18, 2007

BOARD MEMBERS: Present: Don Schmitz, President; Donna Mandt, Treasurer; Pat Schwai, Secretary.
Absent: Town of Fifield Rep (Wierzba/Noetzel); Price County Land Conservationist

LOCATION: Pike Lake Fire Station

Meeting called to order at 9:02 a.m.

Motion made by Rick Schwai and seconded by Carl Schmelzer to approve minutes of May 26, 2007, Annual Meeting.

SPECIAL REPORT

Terry Mandt, Fire chief reported:

- Fire danger is moderate to high. Without adequate rain, increased fire when leaves drop.
- Keep current on burning restrictions through radio & TV reports.
- Terry needs volunteer firefighters - truck drivers, pump operators, etc. No age restrictions. Contact Terry at 715.762.4245
- Fun Day is Sunday, September 2, at the Firehouse grounds. Contact Doug Noetzel to volunteer.
- A new 5,000-gallon tanker truck is due to arrive in February 2008.
- With heating/wood burning season approaching, it is time to have chimneys cleaned and inspected. Fire Dept., though not certified, can perform these services.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Donna Mandt, Treasurer reported:

- 3 checks written since May 26 meeting:
Water quality testing, directory printing and flowers for Mary Hartung
- A \$30.00 donation received
- Balance \$3792.11

Pat Schwai, Secretary reported:

- Schaves and Kaminskis are now permanent residents. See website to update your directories.

Town of Fifield - Rep. absent; Dotty Ford reported:

- Rep. Dave Obey was unsuccessfully in securing a Federal grant for repaving FR144
- Springstead Road has been paved

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Fisheries - Frank Sevcik absent; Don Schmitz reported

- Skip Sommerfeldt, DNR fisheries biologist, drafted a proposal for new restrictions on largemouth bass for Cochran, Newman, Riley and Twin Lakes
 - 5 fish/day; only 1 greater than 14" in length
 - 10 year plan is experimental with bass
 - Intent is to improve size structure by harvesting slow-growing 8-14" bass
- Don took exception to statement in proposal indicating our prior approval

- Question arose if past surveys have been used to determine trends in fish size to substantiate proposal
- Attendees directed Don to inform Skip we would not endorse the proposal as a 10-year plan

Boat Landing - Brian Mandt reported

- Use caution: due to low water level, a large log situated 20-30' from ramp could be problematic
- George Rasmussen suggested we add another cement pad; Don will check into it

Water Quality - George Rasmussen reported:

- 10-foot Secchi disk reading was one of the clearest August readings

Town Board Meetings – Nancy Sevcik absent

Adopt a Highway - Greg Yorton absent

Lake Plants -Stan Kmiecik reported:

- Floating leaf pond weed is more prevalent due to lower water level

President's Report - Don Schmitz reported

Website

- See website for draft of fishing regulations proposal
- Note updated directory listings

Tree drop update

- Don and Skip Sommerfeldt (DNR) identified and tagged potential trees for dropping into lake to improve fish habitat
- Don notified owners by email of selections. Owner should remove marker(s) if they do not want their tagged tree(s) included.
- Required permit will be secured
- If water level remains low in spring, *some* exposed logs *may* be moved back in

A lot of broken glass and bottles have been exposed by lower water levels. Use caution and please keep glass items away from lake.

Pier Services – Rick Schwai reported:

- All four owners using a pier service contract with the same company.
- Rick will contact owners and coordinate a same day removal.

Lost and Found

- Trailer hitch lock found; Makita cordless drill lost. Contact Pat Schwai.

A motion to adjourn made by Carl Schmelzer and seconded by Mary Kaminski carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:49 a.m.

NEXT MEETING: Nov. 3rd 9:00am Firehouse

COCHRAN LAKE DISTRICT MEETING

November 3, 2007

LOCATION: Pike Lake Fire Station

BOARD MEMBERS: Present: Don Schmitz, President; Donna Mandt, Treasurer

Absent: Town of Fifield Rep (Wierzba/Noetzel)
Price County Land Conservationist
Pat Schwai, Secretary

Meeting called to order at 9:04 a.m.

Motion made by Carl Schmelzer and seconded by Gregg Yorton to approve minutes of August 18, 2007, meeting.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Donna Mandt, Treasurer reported:

- No checks written since August meeting:
- Balance \$3793.36

Pat Schwai, Secretary - Absent (Attending Funeral)

Town of Fifield - Rep. absent

Don Schmitz, President reported:

- The Town's Jack Wierzba and Doug Noetzel are contacted about Lake Meetings. Under the District's charter they are supposed to be at the meeting but have only been present at the Annual Meeting.
- Tree drop update: The majority of the homeowners who had trees marked as candidates to be dropped in the lake have decided not to donate these trees. It doesn't look like we will have enough to make it worthwhile.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Fisheries - Frank Sevcik absent, Don Schmitz reported:

- Fish Restriction limits/proposal for Cochran Lake by Skip Sommerfelt (DNR) appears to be stalled. Skip's boss rejected proposal so it looks like **it's** not going to happen.

Boat Landing - Brian Mandt reported

- Dead Aspen tree leaning towards the gate at the boat landing has been removed.
- Gate will be left open with no lock for the remainder of the year so the fire department can access in case they need water.

Water Quality - George Rasmussen reported:

- With the added rain in October (5 + “) the lake level has come up some and lake clarity is very good at 13.5 feet for the fall readings.

Town Board Meetings – Dotty Ford & Carl Schmelzer reported:

- Roadwork on FR 144 (From Hwy 70 – Moose Jaw) has ended for the season. Gravel surface will stay until spring when road will be paved.
- County Land Conservation position is posted again.

Adopt a Highway - Greg Yorton reported:

- Roadways in general pretty good and free of garbage.....Spring Cleanup will be the next time.

Lake Plants -Stan Kmiecik absent

Website Report - Don Schmitz reported

- See website for draft of Four Corners Forest Service Project
- If you have items you wish to sell we can post on Website in new area called “For Sale”

Other Business -

- Tax Re-Assessments seem to be up
- Sig Kaminski felt the newly paved Springstead road was not pitched enough around some of the corners and could be a problem in the winter with snow and ice, making the corners very slick.....be careful and slow down.

A motion to adjourn made by Carl Schmelzer and seconded by Mary Kaminski carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:42 a.m.

NEXT MEETING: March. 1st 9:00am Firehouse