

COCHRAN LAKE DISTRICT MEETING

March 13, 2004

ATTENDEES: Board Members – Karen Boyle, Carlene Bauer, Mary Kaminski, County Rep. Butch Lobermeir, Fire Chief Terry Mantor, Town Supervisor Jack Wierzba, and 14 Land Owners

ABSENTEES: Town Chairman Doug Noetzel

LOCATION: Pike Lake Fire Station

DATE/TIME: 3/13/04 – 9:00 AM

ADMINISTRATION:

- Minutes from the October meeting approved

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Mary reported the following:

- \$6,176.04
- Postage and water testing bills to be paid

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Terry Mantor – Fire Chief

Terry discussed the red stickers that are on the fire numbers

- To have a fire number the driveways are required to be 16 wide with 14 high clearance
- Driveways are to narrow especially during the winter
- Need room by the houses to turn their trucks around
 - Trucks are 24 feet long by 8 feet wide
- If curves are in the driveway add 4-5 feet in width
- Response time from the fire station to Cochran Lake is 10-15 minutes
 - Add 15 minutes is they need to fight the fire from the road because of the driveway situation
 - Spotters are sent so they know how to attack the fire
- Tom Loewe would be willing to come and tell each owner what would need to be done
 - Rocks and stumps need to be removed so damage will not be done to Tom's plow
- George Gunderson offers stump grinding for \$1.00 inch
- Check how close trees are to the buildings
- Fire truck was paid off 4 years early

Dry Hydrant

- Discussion of which lots would be the best for a dry hydrant
- Possible site for a buried tank would be the outlot which is centrally located
 - A 10,000 gallon stainless tank buried near the road was discussed
 - Boat landing would give access to refill the tank if needed
- Terry will call DNR if grant money is available

- Greg, Stan and Butch will check the site
- If the boat landing becomes gated then a key will be given to the fire department
- Talked about an early warning system that could be added to the Cochran Lake area at a cost of \$17,000

Jessica Loewe - EMT

- EMT arrival time is good with ambulance time 35 minutes
- Area has 2 defibrillators only for the 4 EMT'S
- Goal is to add 4 units that fire fighters are trained to use
- Cost is \$1,500 - \$2,500
- First Responders can use defibrillators
- \$1,000 is committed from other groups
- Motion was made and approved to commit \$500.00 to this cause

WAL Convention

- Approved the spending of \$200.00 for room and registration for Francis and Karen Boyle to attend conference
- Stan Kmiecik is another possible attendee
- Ski Kamenski will donate a wooden tree he made as a donation to the conference

Plants

Stan reported the following:

- Sandy will provide brochures on plants, how to clean boats, and signage for the boat landings
- Folder will be started by next meeting with plant life
- Another survey will be done in July
- Snow cover on the lake might help reduce the weeds
- 2 Otters and muskrats were seen on the lake

Public Relations

Mary Hartung reported the following

- Post cards were sent out to people we didn't have e-mail addresses
 - This will help reduce postage and get information out quicker
 - If any information needs to be changed for the directory please contact Mary Hartung

Adopt a Highway

Greg reported the following

- Spring cleanup will be the first part of May before the black flies are out
- Karl and Dottie will help along with those who have helped in the past
- If interested contact Greg

Fisheries

Frank reported the following

- DNR will not let us stock walleyes
- Bass don't eat bluegills
- Lake should only have Bass, Perch, and White Suckers

- Exotics such as Crappies, Northern, Smallmouth Bass should be taken out
- Mercury tests from 3 years ago still no results
- Shocking could happen again in spring if DNR has the money

Water Quality

George reported the following

- Testing has happened since 1998 with a Spring and Fall testing
- Water is sent to UW Stevens Point
- Numbers are the same as they were 6 years ago
- Lake is clearer when the levels are higher than lower
- Letty has dishwasher and sink soap available

Website

Don reported the following with a memo

- Changed website address to <http://sky.prohosting.com/cochran2>
- Cost was a one time fee of \$9.95

Price County Waterways

Membership was approved for a cost of \$10.00

Tax Exempt Status

Karen reported on the following

- Tax Exempt one time fee is \$150.00
- Number is required for applying for grants
- Motion was made and approved to get the Tax Exempt number

County Representative Report

Butch reported the following

- DNR won't be there to back-up Counties
- Stay involved in issues such as shoreline, zoning, forestry
- Fifield is progressive in solving issues compared to other area
- Our Lake District minutes, letters and issues are used as models for other organizations

Off Lake Lots

Karen reported the following

- Brian on Lot 37 stated that people on off lake lots were using the boat landing last summer
- This party then approached Karen about having them have access to the lake through the landing
- Motion was made and approved not to let off lake lots have access to the landing
- Karen will contact the party and let them know of our decision

Liability Insurance

Karen reported the following

- Chuck Cummings opinion on the issue suggests that the pier at the boat landing is the biggest problem
- Home owner insurance would cover the boat landing

Town Report

Jack reported the following

- Town project is the old school
 - Find a buyer to renovate the building to housing
 - Grant money to tear it down
- Town of Fifield to get it's identity back
- Possible date for 144 would be 2005
- Paving will be done by the garbage dump area and by the staorage area by the fire station
- Issue of Springstead and Cy's Drive in Spring with the washboard affect
 - Contact Ted with this issue

Annual Meeting

Motion was made and approved to move the meeting to May 29th at 9:00 am

- Volunteers came forward to bring juice, coffee, breads, and paper products



Cochran Lake Management District
(Established since 1998)

Quarterly Meeting—Saturday— July 3rd at 9:00 AM
(At the Pike Lake Fire Station's Meeting Room)

Cochran Lake's Web Site: <http://sky.prohosting.com/cochran2>

Thank you for all of the home-bake treats at our Annual Meeting.

Congratulations to Mary Hartung for being elected as Secretary for our district!

Ski's (Lot 1) Wood Carvings sold for \$75 at the WAL's Silent Auction for Youth.

Loon Alert—there maybe two nesting sites on the islands. Please do not disturb them!

Enjoy Cochran Lake—but please allow all of your neighbors to enjoy it by keeping noise within your lot or boat, turn off outside lights when retiring so everyone can enjoy the stars, and observe the no-wake speed—sometimes 10 mph may be too fast. And, fireworks that are air-born like bottle rockets or exploding displays are illegal—you can be fined \$200+. In addition these fireworks have the potential to start fires and to remain in our seepage lake forever!

Adopt a Highway—thanks everyone for the on-going pick-up of trash on our adopted roads. Our roads continue to be trash-free all year around!

Phosphate-free dishwashing detergent will again be available for \$7.00 at our meeting or call Karen Boyle or Letty Rasmussen.

Thank you, Jim Robb, Price County Supervisor, Doug Noetzel, Fified's Town Chairman, and Butch Lobermeir, Price County Land Conservationist for attending our annual meeting. We appreciate your support.

Cochran Lake T-shirt can be ordered at our July meeting.

Cochran Lake District extends our condolences to Judith Knoblauch, Lot 13, for the death of her husband.

Highlights from our Annual Meeting

Water Access during the Winter to fight structure or forest fires:

At our March meeting, Butch, Stan, and Greg volunteered to check on the cost and feasibility of having a buried tank of water at the boat landing. They reported that Ritchie Oil had a used tank for sale; but, when they physically inspected the tank, they

found it to be very questionable at any price. And, if the district would consider buying a stainless steel tank, it would cost roughly \$8,000.

[Terry Mantor, Pike Lake Fire Chief, also, checked on a tank and installation costs. He estimated that the cost of the tank with site preparation and installation would be \$12,000. And, the DNR told him that a grant for this would be denied because they viewed this a temporary solution.]

Doug Klein, Assist Pike Lake Fire Chief, reported that we probably do not need a buried tank for water access. Pike Lake does have portable pumps. What the Fire Department needs is easy access to the structure fire and to the lake.

Doug is recommending that members look at their lots for easy access to the lake--especially at the north end of the lake by the public boat landing. And, it would be helpful for our boat landing and our lots to have a path—maybe snow-blowed to the lake. He is also recommending that if a turn-around is not feasible on any lot that these lots consider joining driveways so that the fire department can go down one access road and out the adjoining access road.

If there are any members whose lots—especially the north end of the lake—that could accommodate an easy access to water, please notify Karen who will share this info with the Pike Lake Fire Department.

Also, you can contact Pike Lake Fire Department for an on-site evaluation of your road by calling Tom Loewe or Terry Mantor.

2003-2004 Budget

Proposed Budget was approved with the addition of \$1000 for the gate at the boat ramp. Jessica Loewe, Pike Lake EMS, thanks us for \$500 contribution for a heart defibrillator.

Honor Library

Cochran Lake has accumulated volumes of resources including restoring buffer zones and catalogs for native plants. Feel free to take home any of these resources—no check-outs and no fines. These will be available at all of our meetings.

Karen's Apology to the Town of Fifield

When I wrote the letter to the town, county, and forest services, I did not intend on insulting anyone. My goal was to have Springstead's wash burn and dust problem addressed before another dry month like last August. The following are corrections to this letter:

- 1) Town of Fifield plows Springstead as soon as the bus routes are plowed. Only two times during the 50+ inches of snowfall that we had last winter did Sherman beat Fifield to the turnaround. And, this was due only to the illness of one of the snow plowers for Fifield. The snow plowers for Fifield do an admiral job and they do not hesitate to get up in the middle of night or to work long hours to keep our roads clear of snow.
- 2) Town of Fifield encompasses 150+ square miles. The state of Wisconsin allows them two weeks to clear snow. But, the town clears the snow as soon as they can—usually within hours not days.

- 3) Doug Noetzel, Town Chairman, is aware of our concerns about Springstead—especially when the lack of rain and the speed of the cars cause a wash burn. The town has and will continue to grade our roads; but, this grading is only effective after a rain. Also, Doug recommends that everyone slow down and try not to drive in another tracks after grading.
[Just before Memorial Day Weekend, a red car from around our boat landing was observed speeding on a freshly graded Cy’s Drive—this quickly negates the grading.]
- 4) Doug Noetzel, Town Chairman, is listening to our requests to pave Springstead Road and as well as Cy’s Drive’s problems. And, Doug has voiced the possibility of these road improvements to be included within their multi-year plan of road improvements.
[To date, neither Springstead nor Cy’s Drive are on any list for road improvements. Also, the forest service is looking to the possibility of paving Springstead if and when they have monies to do Twin Lakes Road.]

District Liability Insurance

Chuck Cummings has volunteered to draft a by-law that would say that the district would pay for all legal fees if a board member were sued. At the WAL Convention, the session on district insurance indicated that more lawsuits are filed to change a decision than liability. [This is our district—you can call me or e-mail me anytime with your concerns. I will represent all views. And, decisions will be made openly.]

Other Items

(Proposed) Mission Statement: The stewardship of Cochran Lake and its islands will be proactive by its 50 families to promote water clarity, work towards a natural self-sustaining fishery, and encourage the establishment of native birds and plants. *The stewardship of Cochran Lake District will abide by its Cochran Lake District’s By-Laws to facilitate Cochran Lake District Meetings and to focus on any polluting issue(s).*

(Proposed) Harmony Mission Statement: Cochran Lake owners will preserve the natural tranquility of their surroundings so that all owners can enjoy the wind, the stars, the wildlife, and the natural flow of the waves on the lake.

Cochran Lake Meetings—Please park by the entrance to the garbage/recycling entrance. Do not park next to the entrance to Fire House Meeting Room so that these spaces can be reserved for volunteer firemen—if a fire call is activated your car may be blocked from leaving until the fire call has been terminated.

Cochran Lake T-Shirts and long-sleeve shirts will be available to order—see Karen. Cost is \$15 for adult sizes S, M, L, XL and \$17 for 2X or 3X. Any profit will go to the Lake District.

Cochran long sleeve shirts with loon on the pocket and your name on the other side will also be available to order. Cost is roughly \$25—see Karen. Any profit will go to the Lake District.

Quarterly Meeting--4th of July Weekend—does it allow for more participation?

Please bring this agenda to our Quarterly Meeting!

Quarterly Meeting—Saturday— July 3rd at 9:00 AM
(At the Pike Lake Fire Station’s Meeting Room)

Agenda:

Karen Boyle, President	Facilitator--District By-Laws/Proposals
Mary Hartung, Secretary	Approval of Minutes—May’s Annual Mtg
Mary Kaminski, Treasurer	Financial Report
Karen Boyle, President	Approval of Mission Statements*
Frank Sevcik	Fishery DNR shocking on June 2, 2004
Brian Mandt	Gate for Boat Landing
George Rasmussen	Water Quality
Greg Yorton	Adopt a Highway
Mary Hartung	Directory/E-mails
Stan Kmiecik	Lake Plants—Keeping our lake Exotic Free
Mary Hartung Mary Kaminski	Public Relations (Home and Lot 13 is for sale.)
Donald Schmitz	Web Site: http://sky.prohosting.com/cochran2
Karen Boyle	Old/New Business not addressed

Adjournment

COCHRAN LAKE DISTRICT MEETING
July 3, 2004

ATTENDEES: Board Members – Karen Boyle, Mary Kaminski, Mary Hartung,
County Rep. Butch Lobermeier, Jim Robb Price County
Supervisor

LOCATION: Pike Lake Fire Station

DATE/TIME: 6/3/04 – 9:06 a.m.

ADMINISTRATION:

- Motion made by Carl Schmelzer and 2nd by Frank Sevcik to approve minutes from the May meeting.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Mary reported the following:

- Beginning balance of \$5576.27
- New Balance of \$4292.19
- \$2165.02 in year to date expenses
- Deposits will be made for T-shirt sales

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Jim – County

Jim gave information regarding new storage and maintenance facilities:

- County hired Becker/Hopper in Wausau to prepare study of options
- Three possible options were proposed
 - A – Buy new land and build all new facilities at a cost of approximately \$8 million
 - B – Replace satellite buildings in Fifield and Prentice and refurbish buildings, tear down two old buildings and upgrade the existing maintenance buildings at a cost of approximately \$6.6 million
 - C - Eliminate facilities in Prentice and Fifield and upgrade Phillips at a cost of approximately \$5.6 million
- Taxes would be raised approximately \$20/year
- Petitions have been signed with approximately 660 signatures to oppose option C
- The current maintenance building is not large and the ceiling is not high enough to accommodate the existing equipment
- A lot of equipment is currently stored outside
- Jim believes that due to the cost, the county will ask for other options

Boat Landing

- The gate is now in place
- Rocks and logs were placed on either end of the posts to prevent people from trying to go around the gate

- The gate will be locked beginning August 1
- Combination was passed out and will be emailed or mailed to residents
- It is recommended that if you have guests that wish to put their boats in the lake that you go with them to open the gate instead of passing out the combination
- There was discussion about adding signage at the road by the gate and it was decided to leave the signage alone and determine if any more is needed

T-Shirts

Karen will be handling the sale

- T-shirts are a fundraiser for the Lake District
- There are short-sleeved and long-sleeved T-shirts in two colors
- We may be offering hats with the Cochran Lake logo on it
- Fundraising will help replenish our funds without having an assessment of residents

Adopt a Highway

Greg reported that cleanup will be in Spring only because people are good about picking up trash throughout the year as they drive down the road.

Directories

Please give Mary Hartung any changes with e-mail addresses

Fishery

Frank reported the following

- Bass larger this year
- No count because bass had not spawned
- Croppies are larger this year
- Quite a few Northern in the lake
- DNR still refusing to allow stocking of Walleyes
- Frank will ask about stocking perch
- DNR wants to make it a Bass and White Sucker lake
- No size limit on Bass
- Bass limit is 5 per day/per person
- No more than 10 per person in freezer/house

Lake Plants

Stan reported

- Nothing new on pressings
- Stan will take more samplings during the summer, especially at the shore
- Lake plant growth in back compared to last year and just beginning to bloom
- Watch for a blue green algae on land because it is extremely poisonous to both people and animals

- Be sure to thoroughly clean your boat if you have had it in another lake before putting it back in Cochran. Be sure to wash the trailer and wheel wells. If possible, let the boat sit out of the water 5 days before putting it back in.

Public Relations

- Two lots are for sale - #13 & #6
- #6 is by realtor and information has been forwarded to realty regarding Lake District and by-laws

Water Quality

George reported

- Clarity down to 15 feet as good as it's ever been
- Water sample results are not back yet
- Water temperature is 67°
- Don't use items with phosphates
- Weed growth is a lot less than last summer

Miscellaneous

Butch Lobermeir reported

- There is a new invasive weed called "Garlic Mustard"
- Plant grows on land only
- Stalks are tall with an onion-looking stem
- Has large flowers similar to Queen Ann's Lace
- Has been found around Butternut and Schmers lakes
- If you find it, let Butch know as it needs to be destroyed

Butch Lobermeir reported

- There will be a meeting on July 19 at 7:00 at the Park Falls library regarding South Fork development
- By-laws were accepted last week
- In order to vote you must be a member
- Membership costs \$20
- You may attend the meeting without being a member

Next meeting

October 9th 9:00 am

Motion was made by Carl Schmelzer to adjourn, seconded by Greg Yorton. Meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

COCHRAN LAKE DISTRICT MEETING
October 9, 2004

ATTENDEES: Board Members – Karen Boyle, Mary Kaminski, Mary Hartung,
Jim Robb Price County Supervisor, 7 lake district members

LOCATION: Pike Lake Fire Station

DATE/TIME: 10/9/04 – 9:03 a.m.

ADMINISTRATION:

- Motion made by Mary Kaminski and 2nd by Diane Korinek to approve minutes from the July meeting. Motion passed

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Mary reported the following:

- Beginning balance of \$4292.19
- New Balance of \$4014.00
- \$2443.21 in year to date expenses
- Deposits will be made for T-shirt sales \$88.24
- rough draft of the 2005-2006 Budget will be drafted at the next quarterly meeting
- With the anticipated expenses for water quality testing and newsletters/meetings notices, there will be a proposed tax increment to maintain this communication.
- There may be an expense for stocking of yellow perch--roughly \$2000+
- Our March 5th meeting will fine tune our Budget that will be voted upon by all members who attend our Annual Meeting on May 28
- Per state statute there are no absentee ballots allowed
- Karen projects at most \$100 tax per family with the hope that this tax would not have to be imposed for at least two more years.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Boat Landing

Brian Mandt is committee chair

- Nancy Sevcik indicated that the lock was not on the gate because of the construction of the garage on Brian's property. Brian Mandt confirmed this and will work with Karen Boyle to develop proposed boat landing lock/unlock times for approval at our annual meetings.
- It is recommended that if you have guests that wish to put their boats in the lake that you go with them to open the gate instead of passing out the combination
- There was discussion about adding signage at the road by the gate

T-Shirts & Hats

Karen will be handling the sale

- The last of the T-shirts has been sold
- We may be offering hats with the Cochran Lake logo on it
- Mary Kaminski and Mary Hartung are going to check into pricing
- Fundraising will help replenish our funds without having an assessment of residents

Adopt a Highway

Greg reported that people are good about picking up trash throughout the year as they drive down the road.

Directories

Please give Mary Hartung any changes with e-mail addresses

Fishery

Frank invited Skip Sommerfeldt of the DNR to discuss lake issues and he reported:

- Shocking is done late May or early June at spawning time
- Spawning was late and down this year due to the cold spring
- Large Mouth Bass are about 2” behind this year
- During the past four years, 6 new species have been found in the lake
- We have a larger population of Northern Pike since 2001
- Bluegill are established and are replacing Perch
- Bluegill are not the favorite of Bass but if there is a large population, the 12” – 14” Bass will eat them
- 10 years ago we had only perch
- Our population of Pumpkin Seed and Black Crappie are down from 1999
- Yellow Perch are low in abundance and will remain low due to the introduction of other fish and will be hard for them to take hold again
- Bass are considered predators and are more prominent than Skip would like to see
- We now have Muskies, Bluegill, Pumpkin Seed and Northern Pike
- The DNR still considers our lake a Large Mouth Bass and Perch lake and are proceeding with that type of management
- No changes in the DNR management of our lake will be made for 5-10 years and they will re-evaluate
- The DNR is removing all Northern Pike, Muskies, Small Mouth Bass and other fish not natural to this lake
- The DNR will not consider stocking Walleye because they don’t want to introduce yet another species that is not natural to our lake.

Also, if the breeding conditions are right, we could end up with the Walleye spawning and have a large population of those

- The limit size and number are still the same
- Our fish sample from the 2001 shocking are missing; there were some personnel changes and problems with consistency in storage. They will most likely not be recovered
- Skip said that the DNR would be in favor of us stocking the lake with more Perch. We would have to get approval and acquire the fish from a certified, disease-free fishery.

A motion was made by Frank Sevcik and seconded by Ray Korinek to look into the cost of stocking the lake with Perch. Motion passed

Lake Plants

Stan absent

- Be sure to thoroughly clean your boat if you have had it in another lake before putting it back in Cochran. Be sure to wash the trailer and wheel wells. If possible, let the boat sit out of the water 5 days before putting it back in.

Public Relations

- Lot #13 still for sale
- Karen in touch with realtor to make sure new owners are aware of our Lake District concerns
- #6 is off the market

Water Quality

George reported

- The next testing will be done in November just prior to first freeze
- Kit will not arrive for another couple of weeks
- George will share our water data with Skip

Website

- There was discussion about not printing the directories, newsletter or agendas (except for the annual meeting) but instead putting in on the website. This would contain the most current information, especially for the directory. This would save printing and mailing costs.
- Some residents prefer to have the printed material sent to them
- Further discussion was tabled until the annual meeting when the figures are available as to cost

Miscellaneous

- We are looking for volunteers to attend the WAL conference. If you are interested, call Karen.

Next meetings

- March 5, 9:00 – 11:00 – Snow day March 12

- Annual Meeting – May 28, 9:00 – 11:00

Motion was made by Mary Kaminski to adjourn, seconded by Ray Korinek. Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.