

COCHRAN LAKE DISTRICT MEETING
March 5, 2004

ATTENDEES: Board Members – Karen Boyle, Mary Kaminski, Mary Hartung, Jim Robb Price County Supervisor, Jack Wierzba Town Representative, 9 lake district members

LOCATION: Pike Lake Fire Station

DATE/TIME: 3/5/05 – 9:04 a.m.

ADMINISTRATION:

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

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Mary reported the following:

- Beginning balance of \$4,032.81

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Boat Landing

Brian reported

- Bass season starts June 15 so we will begin locking the gate on June 1.
- It was proposed that we simply close the gate and post a sign saying “Private Property” instead of locking the gate due to people forgetting/not having the combination to the lock. Brian was opposed to this.
- Copies of the combination will be passed out at the annual meeting and it can also be obtained from Karen.

Adopt a Highway

- Greg reported that people are good about picking up trash throughout the year as they drive down the road.
- Contact Greg about the Spring cleanup if you are interested in participating. Volunteers will be assigned a section and can clean up anytime that is convenient for them.

Directories

- Please give Mary Hartung any changes with e-mail addresses
- There was discussion as to not printing a new directory every year and instead, supplying a sheet listing changes at the annual meeting. New directories would be printed every two to three years. This would save about \$200 - \$300 over that period. Further discussion will be at the annual meeting.

Fishery

Frank reported:

- Only one response to inquiries for stocking Perch from Mama's Fish Hatchery in Phillips
- Mama's indicated larger Perch would be better due to smaller Perch would compete with Bass and Crappies for food
- 5" and under in size costs 10 cents per inch or about \$1.50 per fish
- There is also a \$1.00/mile charge to deliver
- The fish would need to put in before they spawn
- We would need to stock more than one year
- With the grant, the Lake District would pay 25% of the cost, or about \$1,500 over three years
- The Fishery grant \$ applied for will depend on Frank and Skip's expertise as to our needs--Possibly \$3000 for two years of stocking. Scott from Rhinelander's DNR is waiting for their evaluation cost; then Scott, Frank, Skip, and Karen will write the grant to reflect the stocking of yellow perch w/o harming other fish species already established in the lake.
- There was discussion regarding how to inform/enforce having people fishing to put the Perch back if caught
- Also discussed was the fact that since we would be using public funds (grant) to stock the Perch, would this increase the number of people using the lake once they found out we had stocked the lake with Perch
- Would this eventually lead to a request to the DNR to improve the public access to the lake?
- The grant is due May 1 and Karen needed a vote at this meeting to be able to file on time. This grant is not binding as we can always decline if the members wish at the annual meeting.
- A vote was taken and 15 voted to approve, 4 voted against and none abstained.
- The grant will be for a one-time \$10,000
- We now have Muskies, Bluegill, Pumpkin Seed and Northern Pike

Lake Plants

Stan reported

- There is about 24" of ice on the lake with low to moderate snow cover.
- Quite a bit of green vegetation which is normal under these conditions and it is down at the bottom
- The lake is really clear and you can see the bottom almost everywhere
- Nothing new since the survey done this summer as far as new plant life
- Stan may prepare a comparison of species to last year
- Quantity and size of plant life is related to water temperature

Public Relations

- Discussion about the responsibilities of this committee: To provide new lot owners a copy of covenants and the packet of County/DNR regulations for building.
- Not responsible to enforce covenants or get involved in disputes between neighbors

Water Quality

George reported

- The Fall sample was taken before the lake froze and the sample was sent to U. at Stevens Point. The results came back the 1st of February.
- The results of water tests were good and nitrogen levels were good
- Water comparisons in several parts of the lake showed that the water was clearer in 2004 (12' – 14') as compared to 2003 water clarity was about 10'. The reason could be due to the water temperature in 2003 being 70 degrees. With the water being colder in 2004 it inhibits algae bloom.

Website

- As of January 3rd, there have only been 19 hits on our website. This is very low.
- Should we continue to have a website?
- Should we have a web forum to post questions, issues, etc.? Don will check into this.

Miscellaneous

- We are looking for volunteers to attend the WAL conference. If you are interested, call Karen.
- Should we include money in the budget for WAL convention?
- Should we “officially” put money in our budget for the web? Could this lead to liability if there were an accident? This will be discussed at the annual meeting.
- It was established that the Lake District ends at the shore and therefore has no standing in enforcing covenants on our properties. Issues with covenants are handled directly neighbor to neighbor.
- Clarification was made that the “members” elect a Board of Directors and the Board appoints who will serve as secretary, treasurer and president. Therefore, members are not electing a president, etc. They are electing a Board Director who will serve one of these three positions.
- FR144 (Shady Knoll) will not be repaved until 2008.
- All associations and districts are eligible for a one-time \$10,000 planning grant--due on August 1 or February 1 of each year. A rough draft of a typical planning grant will be available at the annual meeting; if the district decides to go for the August 1st deadline, then a final draft must be ready by the July meeting so the district can vote on approving this grant application--called a resolution.
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Next meetings

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

Motion was made by Greg Yorton to adjourn, seconded by Carl Schmelzer. Meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

COCHRAN LAKE DISTRICT MEETING
May 28, 2005

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

LOCATION: Pike Lake Fire Station

DATE/TIME: 5/28/05 – 9:04 a.m.

ADMINISTRATION:

- Correction made to the March minutes to reflect the correct time and date.
- Motion made by Donna Mandt and 2nd by Mike Buckna to approve minutes from the March meeting with the corrections.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Mary reported the following:

- Beginning balance of \$4032.81
- New Balance of \$3,939.05
- \$93.76 in year to date expenses
- \$125.00 check to Water and Environmental testing was received in February but has not cleared the bank yet.

LOON REPORT

Pat Schwai reported the following:

- Loon Watch is a state-wide organization, created in 1978, to protect the loons and their habitat
- There are 251 Loon Rangers that monitor 256 lakes
- Loons nest near the shore particularly the islands
- If humans get near a Loon nest, the Loon rushes forward across the water toward the intruder and rises with head drawn back and bill almost touching breast while feet beat the water and create spray around the breast of the bird. This interesting behavior sometimes encourages humans to go near again not realizing the bird is very distressed and trying to protect its nest. Repeated intrusion will cause the Loon to abandon the nest.
- Last year we posted signs but still lost the Loon nest, believed to be human cause
- We can help the Loons successfully nest by staying away from the nest area, try not to create a wake near the islands because the wakes reach the shore and disturbs the nest and let everyone know if you locate the nest so others can stay clear.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Fishery

Frank reported:

- The lake was shocked 5/28 but this may not be a good survey because the water temperature is still so low
- Frank and others have caught several large Perch and Crappies
- Frank believes the population may be back on the rise
- Frank recommends that we not stock Perch at this time and give the lake a couple of years to see if it can recover on its own
- The grant application has been put on hold until we can assess the need to stock
- DNR has said that adding hardwood logs at certain areas around the lake shore and island shore may help the Perch population as this is where they like to lay their eggs
- DNR and Butch would help locate areas along the shoreline where this would be most beneficial
- If we want to pursue the grant for funds to help with the cost of stocking Perch, we will need to add these shoreline trees along with the permits to place them
- It was asked why we have to fell trees when there are already many down trees already, this was not answered or discussed further

A motion was made by Carl Schmelzer and 2nd to put the stocking of Perch on hold until we can determine if the population will come back on its own. Approved 41, Opposed 0. Motion passed.

Boat Landing

- Everyone should have gotten a copy of the combination of the lock at the boat landing with the last newsletter
- If you cannot remember the combination, call Brian or another lake resident
- Brian will begin locking the gate on June 1.

Water Quality

George reported

- The water sample from the fall showed that our phosphates and nitrogen levels are low, which is very good
- The spring sample has been taken, but the results will not be back for some time
- A comparison of our lake to 36 other lakes of similar type found that they have a phosphate level of 0.27 mpl (milliliters per liter) while Cochran has a level of 0.19 mpl and the nitrogen level of the other lakes are 0.72 mpl as opposed to Cochran at 0.48 mpl. Low levels of these are very, very good.
- The water is still cold, 56°
- Right after the ice melted the water was clear to about 11 feet but last week it was clear to 15 feet

- Fertilizer without phosphates is now available at Ace in Woodruff and perhaps other garden outlets

Adopt a Highway

Greg reported:

- People are good about picking up trash throughout the year as they drive down the road.
- The stumps along 144 will be removed and were taken down to allow widening of the road and shoulder

Directories

Mary reported:

- Changes/additions to the 2004 directory were available
- Should we print a new directory every two years or every three years in order to save money?
- A motion was made by Carl Schmelzer and 2nd by Randall Cook to revisit the need to print a new directory in three years. In favor – 41 Opposed 0. Motion passed.
- Each year an update page will be provided at the annual meeting for changes to the directory.
- All changes will be available on the website at any time.

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.
- We're going to check on what the DNR procedures are for cleaning their boats before entering the lake as they may visit 5 or 6 lakes a day.
- If you use a dock service, please check their procedures for cleaning their equipment before entering our lake.
- It's a little early to monitor plant life.
- Stan recommended that we ask Sandy to come out again in the summer to do a survey of our plant life.
- Remove all plant life from your anchor while fishing. Any weeds that are torn from anchors and thrown back in the lake will continue to spread and grow. One plant torn into six different pieces will then become six different plants to take root. While it is extra work to do this, it should help keep water plants under control. Keep a 5 gal pail on your boat and deposit anchor debris into this.

Website

Don reported:

- We have a new group area on our website. If you would like to sign up, you can do so on the website. This group site allows you to post questions, information, notices, etc. to the Cochran Lake residents and allows for discussion between Cochran Lake residents on issues. Please sign up as it is a good tool to communicate.
- You can find information, phone directory, minutes, newsletters and information on our website.

Public Relations

No report

Miscellaneous

Butch Lobermeir reported

- 95% of life depends on the lake shoreline
- A new organization, Natural Shores, has been created to encourage shoreline standards.
- 50% or more of lakes are deficient with regards to shoreline plant life, etc.
- There should be a 35' buffer back from the shoreline left in its natural state with 30' wide area which can be cleared for lake access/view.
- If you would like to have your lot examined, contact Butch. If you are in compliance, you will receive a certificate and a shirt from the organization. If not, recommendations will be made.
- The state law reads that you can clear 30' per 100' of frontage but the Price County law would supercede this and it only allows 30' per owner. This would mean if you have two lots you would still only be able to clear 30' not 60'.
- It was asked that if it found a lot owner was not in compliance, would the matter then be reported to the DNR. Butch said that Price County tries to work with property owners to correct the problems rather than apply fines.

Karen reported:

- We are still waiting for her IRS contact to finalize our paperwork for our tax exempt status.
- She has mock grants made up so if the District wants to pursue them in the future, much of the work is done.

ANNUAL BUSINESS

Annual Budget

- Since members of the Lake District agreed we would not stock Perch at this time, \$450.00 for stocking was deducted from the proposed budget.
- Members agreed to revisit the printing of the directory in 3 years and \$100 was removed from the proposed budget.

- Miscellaneous Expenses will be changed to Contingency Expenses.

Motion was made by Carl Schmelzer and 2nd by Gil Janes to accept the proposed budget with the above changes. Approved 41, Opposed 0. Motion passed.

- Karen asked if the members felt that we need an assessment of \$50.00 this year.
- After discussion, it was decided that we didn't need to make an assessment for 2005.

An Amended Motion was made by Ev Houkom and 2nd by Carl Schmelzer to approve the proposed budget including all above revisions. Approved 40, Opposed 1. Motion passed.

Amendment to By-laws

- The State has changed the Chapter 33 laws indicating who can vote at Lake District meetings. Our current by-laws allow for one vote per property owner. The new law allows for voting based upon tax roll lists which could allow more than one vote per property.
- While our by-laws allow for indemnity of Board members, the wording will be rewritten to reflect the recommendations of WAL.

A motion was made by Rick Schwai and 2nd by Ray Schave to change our by-laws to reflect any Chapter 33 changes. Approved 41, Opposed 0. Motion passed.

- Discussion was held as to whether the liability protection should extend to Committee Members and other Lake District members who are performing a service for the District.

A motion was made by Brian Mandt and 2nd by Randall Cook to add the liability protection to all Lake District members performing work for the Lake District. Approved 41, Opposed 0. Motion passed.

BOARD ELECTION

- Karen Boyle asked for any nomination from the floor or volunteer who was a permanent resident. No permanent resident was volunteered.
- Karen Boyle then asked for other nominations from the floor of a Lake District Member.
- Greg Yorton nominated Don Schmitz. Don accepted the nomination.
- Karen asked if there were any other nominations. Since none were forthcoming,

A motion was made by Carl Schmelzer 2nd by Nancy Sevcik to close the nominations. Approved 41, Opposed 0. Motion passed.

- Vote count 41 for Don Schmitz, 0 for other candidates.

Next meeting

July 30, 2005 at 9:00 am

Motion was made by Ev Houkom and 2nd by Diane Nierode to adjourn. Approved 41, Opposed 0. Meeting adjourned at 10:56 a.m.

COCHRAN LAKE DISTRICT MEETING
July 30, 2005

ATTENDEES: Board Members – Don Schmitz, Mary Kaminski, Mary Hartung,
Jim Robb Price County Supervisor, Butch Lobermeir Land
Conservationist

LOCATION: Pike Lake Fire Station 7/30/05 – 9:03 a.m.

ADMINISTRATION:

- Correction made to the May minutes to reflect the correct time and date of next meeting.
- Motion made by Jeff Bauer and 2nd by Diane Korinek to approve minutes from the May meeting with the corrections.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Mary Kaminski reported the following:

- Balance of \$3,628.61
- No new expenditures

Mary Kaminski reported:

- Checking into having hats made for Cochran Lake with logo for sale as a fundraiser
- No price yet on purchasing the hats and the resale value

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Fishery

Frank Sevcik reported:

- The DNR shocked the lake in May and found a new breed of sunfish, green in color
- The bass are abundant and size and quality are improving
- Bluegills are 6” and northern pike are larger.
- Some Lake District members have reported seeing a few perch
- Frank checked with the DNR regarding their policy of cleaning their boats before entering lakes and was told that they have a person who is assigned that job exclusively.
- There is still not size limit on bass

Boat Landing

Brian Mandt not present

Water Quality

George Rasmussen reported:

- The water temperature is the warmest in 11 years, above 80 degrees this summer – last summer it was never above 70 degrees

- With the higher water temperatures, more algae bloom would be expected but so far this has not been the case
- Water clarity is down slightly but is still very good
- The April water sample is back and everything is normal

Adopt a Highway

Greg Yorton not present

Directories

Mary Hartung reported:

- The new group site is up and running
- To make it easier for everyone, we entered everyone into the group site
- An e-mail will be sent out explaining how to use the site and anyone wishing to be removed should let Mary or Don know and we will remove you
- This will be a great communication tool and we hope everyone will take advantage of it

Lake Plants

Stan Kmiecik reported:

- No new plant life
- Hasn't seen any blue green algae
- Minimal floating pond weed
- If you see anything new, let Stan know
- Stan will attend a workshop on Oct. 19-20 on evaluation and strategies for lake plant management in Lac de Flambeau. Anyone interested in attending with Stan should let him know.

Website (<http://sky.prohosting.com/cochran2/>)

Don Schmitz reported:

- Don added two new links to the website – University of Wisconsin Lakes program and WAL
- There is a lot of good information at the UW link and is worth reading
- UWSP - Extension offers a newsletter called LakeTides which contains some very nice information for lake owners. The newsletter is available in either electronic or mailed, if you are interested in signing up follow the link from our page to UW Extension to Lake Tides.

Miscellaneous

Butch Lobermeir reported

- 8 residents have participated so far on having their shoreline evaluated:
Randy & Debbie Cook
George & Letty Rasmussen
Rick & Pat Schwai
Don & Lori Schmitz

Everin & Sue Houkom
Frank & Nancy Sevnik
Sig & Mary Kaminski
Jeff & Carlene Bauer

- Butch passed out awards and shirts for their participation
- Butch is encouraging everyone to participate. There is no obligation to make any changes that are recommended. He can be reached at 715-339-2550
- 50% or more of lakes are deficient with regards to shoreline plant life, etc.
- Stan Kmiecik asked if we could also participate in protecting the shoreline of the islands. Skip will talk to the DNR to see if this would be possible
- Flambeau River Association thanks Cochran Lake District for their support in setting up their association. They will be using our District as a guideline for their new association.
- On Sept. 17, Pike Lake is having a gathering at 2:00 p.m. at the Logging Dam to review the history of the dam and from 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. country music will be provided
- Butch was asked to report on the status of ATV access on certain roads in Fifefield Township
- The ATV club and the Township are currently working on how responsibilities would be divided
- When this is complete, the Town Board will make a decision on which roads will be opened. There are a lot of concerns from residents on dead end roads being opened to public access
- Frank said there was a “sting” operation Sunday 7/24 to stop ATV riders and check for violations such as expired stickers and age limits for riding. Frank got several calls back on the various people that were stopped and the violations.

Next meeting October 22, 9:00 a.m. at the Pike Lake Fire Station

Motion was made by Stan Sevnik and 2nd by Sharon Kmiecik to adjourn. Motion Approved. Meeting adjourned at 10:26 a.m.

COCHRAN LAKE DISTRICT MEETING
October 22, 2005

ATTENDEES: Board Members – Don Schmitz ,Mary Kaminski, County Rep.
Butch Lobermeier, Jim Robb Price County Supervisor

LOCATION: Pike Lake Fire Station

DATE/TIME: 10/22/05 – 9:03 a.m.

ADMINISTRATION:

- Motion made by Nancy Sevcik and 2nd by Sig Kaminski to approve minutes from the July meeting.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Mary Kaminski reported the following:

- Beginning balance of \$6507.51
- New Balance of \$6297.31
- \$210.20 paid since last meeting

COMMITTEE REPORTS

County:

Jim Robb reported the

- Price County Board Meeting, which includes the annual budget approving on November 15th at 9:00 A.M. Suggested any one interested come by and see where you money is going

President:

Don Schmitz reported:

- Don is checking into Lake Grants for our Water Quality Lake Monitoring. Kevin Gothier is in charge of this and he will follow up with him.
- Karen Boyle turned over the tax-exempt status information to him. She was having difficulty getting in contact with someone and Don will try to follow up on this.
- This is your lake and important that you know what is going on and new rules and regulations that come up at our meetings. Attendance is important to the Lake District meetings.

Boat Landing:

Brian Mandt – not present

Fundraising:

Mary Kaminski reported:

- Mary circulated a design for hats which features a black silhouette of an eagle and red lettering for Cochran Lake.

- Prices will be sent around via Google Group in hopes of having them for March and the May Annual Meeting.

Adopt a Highway

Greg Yorton reported:

- Clean-up is done for this year.
- Clean will begin again in the Spring.
- Anyone interested in helping please contact him.
- Our group has done a good job policing the area and now only need a clean-up once a year.

Directories

Please give Mary Hartung any changes with e-mail addresses

Fishery

Frank Sevcik reported :

- No one available at Park Falls for calls with the DNR cutting back etc.
- Con Schmitz knows someone with the DNR and will try to get Frank a contact.

Lake Plants

Stan Kmiecik was not present.

Public Relations

No Report

Water Quality

George Rasmussen was not present.

Miscellaneous

Butch Lobermeir reported:

- There was a picture in the Park Falls paper showing the residents of Cochran Lake that have certified (9) with Natural Shore.
- We would like to see our entire lake get certified. Please contact Butch and he will certify your property.
- Butch also reported E. coli Testing for our Lake. We need to get a sample to send to the State.
- When Butch talked to the County Nurse, she said it probably wasn't necessary as the water quality around here has been very good.

General Discussion:

- The Fire Department is doing chimney sweeping, if interested contact the Fire Department at 715-762-4245.
- The lake water level has come back up with the recent rain, however, it is still down 4-5 inches.
- Nancy and Frank Sevcik asked that people who have pontoon or pier work on our lake to make sure that the company doing the work is cleaning their

boats and not spreading invasive species. Once they are in, they are almost impossible to get out.

- Frank and Nancy also asked that the pier service or pontoon service contact the board or Nancy or Frank so we know who is coming in and out.
- You may attend the meeting without being a member
- Ray reported a cougar or mountain lion was spotted on Win Lakes Road off Figi Road – in a clear-cut area!
- The possibility was discussed of having three meetings per year and skipping the fall meeting. Don will look into this and we may have to vote on this to change the by-laws at our annual meeting. Attendance at the fall meeting is low.

Next meeting

February 25th 9:00 am

Motion was made by Nancy Sevcik to adjourn, seconded by Greg Yorton. Meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.