

COCHRAN LAKE DISTRICT MEETING
February 25, 2006

ATTENDEES: Board Members – Don Schmitz, Mary Kaminski, Mary Hartung,
Price County Representative(s) Butch Lobermeir

LOCATION: Pike Lake Fire Station

DATE/TIME: 2/25/06 – 9:03 a.m.

ADMINISTRATION:

- Motion made by Mary Kaminski and 2nd by Nancy Sevcik to approve minutes from the October meeting. Motion passed.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Mary Kaminski reported the following:

- Total expenses \$491.56
- New Balance of \$3,497.34
- \$140.00 check for Water & Environmental testing.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Fishery

Frank Sevcik reported:

- Frank checked on the possibility of cutting dead trees from the islands to put along the shore to provide fish habitats and was told that we can only cut live trees for this purpose.
- We would need a permit to cut trees from somewhere else and bring them in.
- Don asked Frank to check with the township and see if we could get some of the trees they are cutting down.
- Butch said there was also money available if we have to bring in trees that would pay 70% of the cost. This is state money and not grant money and would include all expenses including labor. We would have to pay to have it done up front then submit receipts to be reimbursed.
- It was asked why we have to fell trees when there are already many down trees already. We were told they need to be green trees to maintain their weight so they will sink when put into place.

Water Quality

George Rasmussen reported:

- George took the water sample in late October
- The chloride level was really high, usually 1 part per million and now is 9 parts per million. A level jump this high is highly unlikely and George thinks there might have been a mistake or a contamination of the sample.

- There is an interesting article in Lake Tides about the rise of chloride levels due to water run-off from roads that have been salted. Butch added that water softeners will also increase the salt level when the salt leaches through the septic field but didn't think that would cause this large of a jump.

Adopt a Highway

Greg Yorton reported:

- Volunteers are in place for the upcoming spring cleanup.
- Mary Kaminski and Don Schmitz Family's have volunteered to take care of the section from Cy's Drive going north to the townline.

Directories

Mary Hartung reported:

- People are using the Google Group and it is a good way to keep in touch.
- Make sure to notify us of any changes to your address or e-mail.

Lake Plants

Stan Kmiecik absent

Website

Don Schmitz reported:

- Our old Web hosting site has changed due to the fact the service provider was blocking PDF files which is how we are currently posting content on the web. It's still free but requires users to change there bookmarks/favorites. A notice of the new site is on the old site and will remain for as long as the old site allows. Please note the new address for the page.
- Our new website is http://in.geocities.com/cochran_lake_district/

Fundraising

Mary Kaminski reported:

- The silk screen fee for the hats is \$85.00
- There is a minimum order of 50
- The hats will be a kaki color and high quality brushed cotton with a cloth and buckle adjustment in back.
- The emblem will have an embroidered silhouette of an eagle in black with Cochran Lake District in a dark red lettering.
- At \$10.00 per hat, if all sold, we could make \$415.00 for the Lake District.

Motion was made by Carl Schmelzer and 2nd by Greg Yorton to order 100 hats and price at \$10.00 per hat. Motion passed.

Miscellaneous

Butch Lobermeir reported

- The water test for the South Fork was back and there was e-coli in the water. It is thought that the contamination may be coming from a faulty septic system(s) and further research will be done to correct the problem.
- Studies have been done that show how the development around lakes can affect the water quality and the plant life adversely.
- We need to remember that what goes into our lake stays in our lake and be very careful and watchful.

Don Schmitz reported:

- The Attorney General advises that there are quarterly meetings and an annual meeting every year for the Lake District. We have combined the annual meeting with one of our quarterly meetings. We will continue to have 4 meetings a year. Any changes that are made require a majority of members present at the annual meeting.
- We are not eligible for grants through the DNR because in order to qualify, we have to have a public boat landing and our walk-in access does not count.
- The DNR has a Self Help Program that check water samples for free. However, they only check for Total Phosphorus and Chlorophyll (algae in the water). This test is not as comprehensive as the testing that we pay to have done.
- Gil Janes sent an e-mail to Don requesting approval from the Lake District to construct a Loon nesting platform on the lake. It would be located off the island in front of Stan Kmiecik's property about 30' from shore. Some questions raised in the discussion: would this require a DNR permit and what other restrictions would be in place around the nest. Example, no boat traffic within 100' of the nest, and would there be signs posted in the area to alert lake users. There was discussion about supporting this project but we need more information regarding the 100' limit. We wouldn't want anyone to lose access to their dock due to this. Don is going to get further clarification from Gil.
- Don followed up on the tax exempt status and was told that since we are a government body, we already are tax exempt. Don then asked for our \$150 back for applying for tax exempt status and was told that they will get back to us.
- Don recommended that we get a PO box for the Lake District so that all mail could go there and be forwarded. It sometimes becomes a problem in getting Lake District mail when we change board members. The cost in Park Falls is \$38.00/year but it was suggested that Fifield has them for \$10.00/year. Don will check into this and go with the cheapest.
- A motion was made by Carl Schmelzer and 2nd by George Rasmussen to acquire the PO box. Motion passed.
- Don has researched the name of Cochran vs. Cochram Lake as has come up with very interesting facts which he will share in the newsletter in

detail. In short, the name should be Cochran Lake and it is thought that around 1978 there was a typo made which carried forward. We can apply to the Geographical Names Council for a decision to officially make the name Cochran. Don will fill out the paperwork and submit it to the Council. They only meet about once or twice a year so this could take some time.

- The newsletter will be out in April. Anyone wishing to contribute to it should get in touch with Don.
- The WAL convention is in April and if you are interested in attending, get in touch with Don.

INTERESTING NOTE:

Beca Dittberner caught a 20" Walleye in our lake this winter using a minnow and a tip-up. Congratulations Beca!!!

BOARD ELECTION

- Mary Kaminski's term is up this May and anyone interested in serving as Treasurer, please let us know.

Next meeting

May 27, 2006, 9:00 a.m. Fire Station

Coffee and refreshments will be served. Volunteers need to bring some treats.

Motion was made by Carl Schmelzer and 2nd by Greg Yorton to adjourn. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

COCHRAN LAKE DISTRICT MEETING
May 27th, 2006

ATTENDEES: Board Members – Don Schmitz, Mary Kaminski, Mary Hartung,
Jack Wierzba - Fifield Town Supervisor, Jim Robb - Price
County Board, Butch Lobermeier – Land Conservationist

LOCATION: Pike Lake Fire Station

DATE/TIME: **05/27/2006** – 9:011 a.m.

ADMINISTRATION:

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

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Mary Kaminski reported the following:

- \$889.74 in year-to-date expenses (includes \$585.00 for hat purchase)
- Deposit refund of \$150.00 from tax exemption fee
- New Balance of \$2,970.67

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Boat Landing

Brian Mandt reported:

- The boat landing gate is now closed and locked.
- Please make sure you relock the gate after putting/taking your boat from the lake

Hats

Mary Kaminski reported:

- The Cochran Lake hats are now available for \$10/hat
- Let's support your Lake District! If you haven't already purchased a hat and are interested, contact Mary. The proceeds go to the Lake District.

Adopt a Highway

Greg Yorton reported:

- Spring cleanup already done
- Please pick up any trash you see throughout the year as you are walking/biking/riding

Directories

- Please give Mary Hartung any changes with e-mail addresses
- We will be printing a new directory next year

Fishery

Frank Sevcik reported:

- DNR shocked the lake last Thursday night
- Found a Walleye & Northerns
- Good population of Crappies & Blue Gill
- Lots of good size and weight on Bass
- They may take the size limit off

Lake Plants

Stan Kmiecik reported:

- Nothing new has been noticed, but let Stan know if you see any new species
- There are no surveys planned this summer
- Make sure you clean your boats before and after entering the lake

Public Relations

- Lot 40 (Cummings) is for sale

Water Quality

George reported

- Spring sample is not back until late fall
- Our last test showed phosphate levels were good but chloride was extremely high, so high that there has to be some mistake in the testing
- We now have a 7 year base on twice a year testing so that we may now go to once a year testing

A motion was made, by Sharon Kmiecik, to begin testing only once a year, in the spring, leaving the Board the discretion to go back to twice a year if there is a problem with a test, 2nd by Carl Schmelzer. 36 Approved, 2 Opposed. Motion Passed.

Loon Nest:

Pat Schwai reported:

- A permit was obtained and the Loon nest is now in place
- It is constructed of white PVC pipe and has netting over the top to protect against predators
- Loons only nest 3 out of 4 years so we may not have chicks this year
- The eggs hatch 1 day apart so if you see a chick, stay away as there might be more hatching
- These nests have been very successful in other areas
- Please stay 200 feet away from the nest
- Go very slow when in the area of the nest
- Try to stay out of the channel for 1 month
- Make sure that your visitors are aware of the Loon nest and the need to stay away from it

Miscellaneous

Butch Lobermeir reported:

- \$6,000 has been earmarked by the LCD for Shore restoration which could include dropping trees on the shoreline to provide optimal breeding for fish
- There is a cost/share arrangement by which 80% is paid from the grant and we pay 20%
- We can include labor and equipment in our 20% and by using volunteers, reduce the amount we would have to pay
- Live trees must be used and can be donated but they must be hardwoods such as maple, oak, yellow birch, pine & hemlock
- The brush on the trees is where the perch lay their eggs and it was questioned if we could simply wire or attach brush to the existing trees in the water around the islands
- Trees are anchored to the shore to keep them in place
- You need a permit to place the trees in the water, but this permit is easily obtained
- Owners who agree to have trees placed at their shoreline pay the cost and then are reimbursed within 1-5 weeks

Jack Wierzba reported:

- Fifield received enough money from TRIP to pave 1 mile of Springstead and the town will pay for the rest
- Springstead is scheduled to be paved next year, 2007
- The paving of 144 was pushed back to next year
- The question was raised as to why 144 was first on the list of three Forest roads and is last to get paved
- We may be able to complain to the Planning Commission as to this rearranging of priorities
- It will be cheaper for the Township to pave Springstead if it is done at the same time as 144

Jim Robb reported:

- There is one person who has tried to reduce the number of people on the County Board from 21 to 13
- This effort failed, but he is still trying
- Reducing the number of people on the Board would not save money and it would increase the number of people each Board member would represent

Rick Schwai reported:

- There was an inspection of trees around the public landing and he wanted to know if there was a harvest planned
- Butch Lobermeier said that there were no plans that he was aware of and that if some harvesting was done, it would probably be minimal. He will check into it and keep us informed.

Don Schmitz reported:

- A reminder that our website has been moved to a new provider because the old one did not support PDF files. The new site is http://in.geocities.com/cochran_lake_district/
- Our lake name is definitely Cochran not Cochram. The process has begun to make a permanent change in tax records.
- The Lake District Board proposed an annual operational tax of \$12.00/year/Lot, to fund current district operations and commitments.
- The advantage is a small annual tax will be easier on property owners than an occasional \$50.00-\$150.00 contribution
- It will be on your tax bill and will be per lot and not per owner

A motion was made by Nancy Sevcik and 2nd by Mary Ann Boschke to impose a \$12.00/year operational tax. 37 Approved. 1 Opposed. Motion Passed.

Board Election:

- An election was made for a new Board member
- Nominations were taken from the floor.

Nominations were opened to current residents, no nominations were made, then opened to all district members and Donna Mandt volunteered, and was 2nd by Pat Schwai to nominate Donna Mandt to the Board. 38 Approved. 0 Opposed. Motion Passed.

Next meeting

July 29, 2006, Pike Lake Fire Station, at 9:00 am.

Motion was made by Carl Schmelzer to adjourn, 2nd by Sue Houkom. Meeting adjourned at 11:14 a.m.

COCHRAN LAKE DISTRICT MEETING
July 28, 2006

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

LOCATION: Pike Lake Fire Station

DATE/TIME: 7/28/06 – 9:06 a.m.

ADMINISTRATION:

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

FOLLOWUP FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- Forest Service may cut on the north end of the Lake but not for 2-3 years. Don has contacted the Forest Service and they have added us to a mailing list that will inform the district of projects they will be considering in our area in the future so we may have a heads up. The Forest Service said they are evaluating the conditions of the forest in the northern section of Cochran Lake but nothing is final and it could take several years before they would start anything. Don asked if we could have the leftover brush and branches from trees cut to put into our lake possibly for brush drops and was told the work is subcontracted out and would need to speak with the contractor on the project. The Forest Service must sell any tree that is cut in the forest if it contains sellable wood.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Donna Mandt reported:

- New Balance of \$3,224.52

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Fishery

Frank Sevcik reported:

- Frank said it was recommended that when fishing keep Bass under 14” and over 18”
- We are beginning to have a large population of green sunfish. They can get to 6” and could dramatically affect bass population.
- Frank attended the WAL meeting and reported on a study of a lake where one half had dead wood in it and the other half had no dead wood. The half that had dead wood had an abundance of fish; the other half had practically none. Conclusion, leave all the dead wood in the lake and adding would be beneficial to the lake.

- The DNR said that if you have dead trees along the shoreline, you can cut them without a permit and let them fall into the lake. They should, however, be anchored either leaving them still partially attached to the trunk, with cinderblocks or with anchors you can purchase from Butch Lobermeier at \$6.00 each.
- Fish cribs are not going to be allowed and are not encouraged. Studies have found that when fish cribs are placed in lakes, the fish all stay around the cribs instead of being dispersed throughout the lake.
- If we put Walleye into the lake, they would have to be 10"-12" or they would be eaten by bigger fish. The DNR has refused permits in the past for stocking Walleye.
- The DNR might approve spotted Muskies, about 10 for our lake size. They would cost approximately \$65 to \$100 each and we would have to have catch & release on them. The DNR indicated that we could get a permit for this. This would help control the small bluegill population that seems to be getting stunted.
- According to the DNR, we would be able to put the Muskies in after we got the permit but would have to purchase them from a certified fishery.
- Don recommended that we get the permit first then address the cost of purchase.
- Carl Schmelzer asked if we could perhaps do "matching" funds to purchase the muskies whereby a resident donated funds and the Lake District matched the funds.

Water Quality

George Rasmussen absent, Don Schmitz reported for George:

- Lake temperature is 79 degrees.
- Water clarity is 9 feet.
- At the annual meeting we voted to test once a year. It was recommended that the testing be done in the spring when oxygen is depleted due to ice cover and chemical changes occur that release phosphorus. It is also recommended that we could switch to "Package B" which test for nutrients that affect plant growth by the UWEX-Lakes Program. The cost would drop to \$65.00.

Adopt a Highway

Greg Yorton absent:

Boat Landing

Donna Mandt Reported:

- Realtor selling Lot 36 had changed the combination on the lock
- The combination was changed back and realtor notified that it was not a private gate belonging to the owner of Lot 36.

Directories

Mary Hartung reported:

- New addition to Google group.
- Make sure to notify us of any changes to your address or e-mail.

Lake Plants

Stan Kmiecik reported:

- Stan attended WAL meeting and reported that Curly Leaf Pond Leaf is the number 1 problem and number 2 is Milfoil in Wisconsin.
- We are at low risk for invasive plants like Curly Leaf Pond Leaf because of the limited access to our lake (no public boat launch). If some of these invasive plants gets into your lake, it can completely cover the water within 2 years and will most likely kill all fish.
- Zebra mussels are a problem, but are not this far north yet.
- We need to contact the boat and pier removal services in the area and check to see what their procedures are for leaving/entering a lake at to cleaning boats and equipment.
- We need to check with the DNR and see what they do to their own boats when hopping from lake to lake to do shocking etc.
- Once again, residents should carefully check their boats when leaving a lake. Make sure there is no lake life attached to the boat, motor or trailer. Power washes your boat and trailer before putting it back in our lake. It is recommended that you wait 6 to 7 days before putting your boat back into our lake after having it in another lake.

Website

Don Schmitz reported:

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

Fundraising

Mary Kaminski reported:

- Our cost for the hats was \$585 and we have made \$520 to date.
- She was expecting that it could take two years to sell all the hats and has several people that want hats that have not purchased them yet.

Miscellaneous

Butch Lobermeier reported

- Other lakes in the area are starting to utilize the “tree drop” along shores to provide breeding area for fish.
- Don received a letter from Price County Waterways and wanted to know more about it. Butch said it was started about 5 years ago to help with comprehensive planning and protection of waterways. This association

tries to educate, help water associations, address invasive species and help with grants and dams, etc.

- Butch also said to be on the lookout for Wild Parsnip. It grows in the inlands and can be 6' tall. It can take 5-7 years to get rid of it as the seeds can last that long. It is spread by "wheeled" vehicles (cars, trucks, etc.).

Don Schmitz reported:

- The county has been notified of the \$12 per parcel tax that was voted in at the annual meeting.
- The tax will be per parcel so if you own more than one lot, you will pay \$12/per parcel. If you own 1 ½ parcels, you will be charged \$18.

Motion was made by Carl Schmelzer and 2nd by Ski Kaminski to adjourn. Motion passed. Meeting adjourns 11:03 a.m.

Next meeting

October 28, 9:00 a.m. Fire Station

COCHRAN LAKE DISTRICT MEETING
October 28, 2006

ATTENDEES: Board Members – Don Schmitz, Mary Hartung, Donna Mandt,
Butch Lobermeier Price County Land Conservationist
Town of Fifield – Jack Wierzba

LOCATION: Pike Lake Fire Station

DATE/TIME: 10/28/06 – 9:03 a.m.

OLD BUSINESS:

ADMINISTRATION:

- Motion made by Mary Kaminiski and 2nd by Carl Schmelzer to approve minutes from the July meeting. Motion passed.

FOLLOWUP FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- Our DNR representative, Skip Somerville, has denied introducing Muskies into the lake. Don will be inviting Skip to come to a Lake District meeting to see if we can't work out a plan for our lake.
- The Geographic Name council agrees that the Lake name should be "Cochran" and that the "Cochram" was probably a typo. They will be talking with their legal council but expect no problem to have the error corrected officially.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Donna Mandt reported:

- \$304.15 expenditures
- \$617.35 received
- New Balance of \$3,283.87

REPORT FROM TOWNSHIP:

Jack Wierzba reported:

- The Township is working on the budget and the meeting will be November 16 at 6:00 p.m. at the Fifield Township hall.
- Paving FR144 is now scheduled for spring 2008. If the funds are not available, the Township will go to Representative Obey and ask for funds from him. The Township is planning to pave Springstead Rd. to Thomspson Lake Rd. when FR144 is done because of cost savings.
- The Township is cutting along the road in preparation for the paving of FR144. Don asked if we could have some of the brush/limbs for our lake and Jack there is no problem with the Township and to get the okay from the Forestry.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Fishery

Frank Sevcik reported:

- Nothing new at this time.

Water Quality

George Rasmussen:

- We are now doing the water test once a year in the spring
- The lake is very clear, about 13.5 feet and the temperature is 41 degrees and we are close to freezing.

Adopt a Highway

Greg Yorton absent:

Boat Landing

Donna Mandt Reported:

- The boat landing will remain open until spring

Directories

Mary Hartung reported:

- There will be a new directory printed and available for the annual meeting in May.
- Make sure to notify us of any changes to your address or e-mail.

Lake Plants

Stan Kmiecik reported:

- Stan has tried to contact the two pier removal companies about their “best practices”. He requested their policies in writing and has not received it.
- The Board will send a letter to ask for their procedures indicating that we are compiling a “list” of Lake District “approved” companies and see if we can’t get something in writing.
- We may have more plants due to the low level of the lake that affects the amount of light that penetrates.

Website

Don Schmitz reported: no change

Fundraising

Donna Mandt reported:

- We are now \$25 in the black on the hats.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Butch Lobermeier reported:

- Butch will be leaving our area to work further north and we will get a new representative.
- Butch praised our Lake District for its vigilance and told us to keep up the good work. He said he will be sorry to leave our group.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Don Schmitz reported:

- The WAL convention is April 26-28. Anyone interested should contact Don.
- It was agreed that since about 16 people do not provide us with or have e-mail, we would mail post cards to those people and ask if they want to receive copies of the minutes by mail. Mary Hartung will take care of mailing the post cards.
- Frank lost his status as First Responder and was concerned that we didn't have anyone on the lake. Butch said he would try to find an extra communicator at another Fire Station or give Frank. We do have Jesse and Tom Loewe on Figi Rd. and Jesse is an EMT and Tom is a Firefighter. Don will call Fire Chief to find out if something can be done.

Motion was made by Carl Schmelzer and 2nd by Ski Kaminski to adjourn. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned 9:57 a.m.

Next meeting

March 3, 9:00 a.m. Fire Station