

Cochran Lake District Meeting
March 2, 2013

Present: Mark Luoma, President, Pat Krenz, Secretary

Location: Pike Lake Fire Hall

Meeting was called to order at 9:06 a.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Member Reports:

December 1, 2012, minutes- motion to approve by Carl Schmelzer, second by Ray Schave, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report -- \$4,496.62 in savings account and \$1,870.51 in checking account. – Motion to approve Carl Schmelzer, second by Pat Schwai, motion carried.

Update on Federal Logging Projects in Cochran Lake Area

- 1) This is the last year for the Tackle Lake Timber Sale, which should be completed by March 3rd or 4th.
- 2) Sweet Pickles Timber Sale should start next summer from Cy's Dr. to Shady Knoll Road. Will be select cut on both sides of Springstead Road.

Boat Landing Gate – Snowplow damaged the gate this winter. The damaged part will be replaced and the gate will be moved beyond the Erickson driveway before annual board meeting.

Jason Folstad, fish Biologist with DNR – Shocking will be around Memorial Day this year. Blue/Green Algae -- very warm weather will cause it to rise to the lake's surface, also disturbing the bottom of the lake will cause it to rise to surface. There are chemicals that will kill the algae but will also kill the fish. Jason recommended showering after swimming in the algae. Blue/green algae will make dogs sick if they drink it.

Jeff Scheirer, Price County Biologist with the DNR is in charge of our lake. He has final say in approving permits to stock fish in our lake.

Committee Chair Reports

Frank Sevcik – Fishery. Absent

Sig Kaminski – Water Quality – holding steady with past years.

Sig Kaminski – Kids Fishing Contest. Purchased some materials for use in this year's contest.

Ray Schave – spring clean up will start after the snow melt and before new growth.

Stan Kmiecik -- Lake Plants –Will do yearly plant survey mid July with assistance from DNR personnel

Brian Mandt- Boat Landing - absent

Motion to adjourn by Carl Schmelzer, and second by Ray Schave.

Cochran Lake District Annual Meeting
May 25, 2013

Present: Mark Luoma, President; Judy Schave, Treasurer; Pat Krenz, Secretary

Location: Pike Lake Fire Hall

Meeting was called to order at 8 a.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Secretary's Report – Pat Krenz

March 2, 2013 minutes -- motion to approve Carl Schmelzer, 2nd Everin Houkom, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Judy Schave

March 2, 2013- Bank balance 4/22/13 \$6,369.28. Motion to approve Carl Schmelzer, 2nd Jeff Bauer, motion carried.

Motion to approve the 2013-14 budget by Sue Houkom, 2nd Mary Kaminski, motion carried.

Town Representative Report – Jim Hintz

Town of Fifield budget is in line. Funds available for emergencies. New Maps will be available showing all ATV trails, including new ones. They are available at local places of business and will be posted on line.

The emergency operation plan has been updated. Radio frequencies are coordinated at local levels. There is a new lift station in Fifield, mostly paid for by grants.

Committee Chair Reports

Frank Sevcik – Fishery. Shocking will be around June 3rd or earlier. Two weeks after the ice goes out. Will file for approval with DNR to stock lake in October with 300 6-8" walleyes in the fall. Cost will be approximately \$500. Motion to approve by Ray Schave, 2nd by Gil Janes. Motion carried.

Sig Kaminski – Water Quality – Quality test taken May 20th. Results should be available by the next meeting. Phosphate levels are very good. Water temperature was 60 degrees at a depth of 10 feet. Some blue green algae is present.

Sig Kaminski – Kids Fishing Contest. Purchased some age appropriate books that were on sale. Everyone is encouraged to help support the contest either through monetary or prize donations.

Ray Schave – Adopt-A-Highway. Spring clean up done. Next clean up will be in the fall. An email will be sent to the group informing them of the date.

Stan Kmeciek --Lake Plants –Will do weed survey in late July. DNR personnel will assist.

Brian Mandt- Boat Landing – absent. The gate was damaged by the town snowplow but has been repaired. The gate will be moved closer to the lake just beyond Erickson’s driveway.

Fire Chief, Terry Mantor’s Report -- All burning requires permit which is available online. Apply once for the entire year. Fire hazards are updated every day at 11 a.m. Debris burning can take place from 6 p.m. until midnight if a covered container is used.

New secretary , Sue Houkom was nominated by Everin Houkom. Motion to approve, Carl Schmelzer, 2nd Everin Houkom. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn – Carl Schmelzer, 2nd by Everin Houkom.

Cochran Lake District Meeting
August 17, 2013
Pike Lake Fire Hall

Present: Mark Luoma, President; Judy Schave, Treasurer; Sue Houkom, Secretary
In addition, 8 people, representing a total of 9 property owners.

Meeting called to order 9 a.m. by President Mark Luoma, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Secretary's Report – Sue Houkom

May 25, 2013 minutes – motion to approve Carl Schmelzer, 2nd Don Schmitz, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Judy Schave

August 17, 2013 bank balance -- \$6,088.92. Motion to approve Ray Schave; 2nd Carl Schmelzer, motion carried.

Old Business

Boat Landing Fireplace -- Payment has been received. The new owners have poured a pad in MN and will be here Labor Day weekend to begin chiseling out the stones. The fireplace will be gone by snowfall.

Walleye Planting Application Revision – Based on the recommendation of the DNR and approval of the property owners, the Lake District submitted an application to plant our portion (300) 6-8" walleyes in the lake in October 2013. To make this a viable planting, the DNR recently approved increasing the District's portion of the number of walleyes to 700. At a cost of \$1,250, this will exceed the \$1,000 allotted in the budget yet still fall within the \$300 overage allowance the owners voted last spring. Ray Schave motioned to approve planting and paying for 700 walleye fingerlings; 2nd by Sig Kaminski, motion carried. Mark Luoma will send a letter to the property owners explaining the situation.

New Business – None

Committee Chair Reports

Fisheries -- Frank Sevcik (absent) DNR shocked the lake on June 3, 2013. Their report, which was distributed to those present, observed that there were a large number of small bluegills, which led to the recommendation that we stock more walleyes as predator control. The report also indicated that quite a few of the bigger (18"-20") large mouth bass swam into deeper water and so were not affected by the shocking and not counted. Based on their report, the District will put up signage at the boat landing and public access area saying that state regulations restrict taking walleyes smaller than 15". The property owners would

like people who are fishing the lake to voluntarily restrict taking walleyes over 18". Mark Luoma will include this as a point of emphasis in his letter to the owners mentioned above.

There is a spreadsheet of shocking reports on the District website (cochranlake.org) so fish populations can be tracked over time.

Water Quality – Sig Kaminiski The water quality test report was passed around to those present. Lake pH levels went down significantly, but conclusions cannot be drawn on one year's values. Water temperatures climbed steadily until mid-July when they reached 80⁰ and have now dropped. The temps never got higher than last year's, which topped out at 88⁰. Visibility in the lake is 14 feet. Blue-green algae is floating in large clumps and covers the bottom of the lake. There has been little wind to break it up. It is unsightly, but not dangerous. It may take as long as 4-5 years of cooler water temps to get rid of it.

Fishing Contest – Sig Kaminski About 25 children have participated so far this year. Sig is contacting people for pictures. He has spent \$159.68 prizes for kids and still has \$58 left to get more.

Adopt a Highway – Ray Schave Ray will ask for volunteers for the fall cleanup through the Google group.

Lake Plants -- Stan Kmeciek (absent) Jason Folstad and Skip Sommerfeldt of the DNR will assist our volunteers with a plant survey August 27, which will also offer a time to ask questions about the blue-green algae. Report at next meeting.

Boat Landing – Brian Mandt (absent) The gate has been moved and painted. Owners are reminded to always close the gate and to not park inside of it.

Google Group – Owners must specifically ask to be included in the Cochran Lake Google group. Send requests and any changes in email addresses to Don Schmitz (Dons@surgey.wisc.edu).

Motion to adjourn, Carl Schmelzer; 2nd by Ray Schave, motion carried.

Cochran Lake District Meeting
December 7, 2013
Pike Lake Fire Hall

Present: Mark Luoma, President; Judy Schave, Treasurer; Sue Houkom, Secretary

In addition, 6 people, representing a total of 7 property owners

The meeting was called to order by President Mark Luoma at 9 a.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Secretary's Report – Sue Houkom

Minutes from the August 17, 2013 meeting

Amendment to Old Business, Walleye Planting Application Revision: Mark Luoma sent an *email, not letter* to property owners.

Motion to approve as amended, Ray Schave; second, Sig Kaminski; motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Judy Schave

December 7, 2013 bank balance -- \$4,967.51

Motion to approve, Frank Sevcik; second, Mary Kaminski; motion carried.

Old Business

Boat Landing Fireplace – The new owner disassembled and removed the boat landing fireplace on October 28th, in one day. He will send a picture when it is reassembled at its new home in MN.

Boat Landing Signage

Carry-in Landing – After further review, the Lake District decided not to place a walleye size limit sign at the carry-in landing. That would advertise the presence of walleyes to non-property owners, which might put more pressure on the fish population than is healthy as we attempt to restock the lake.

Boat Landing – We will put a sign for owners at the boat landing and announce at annual meeting the legal size and limit for walleyes, which are the same as the state limits.

Sig Kaminski asked Terry Mantor, the fire chief, to place a Fire Lane -- No Parking sign at the boat landing, which he will do next spring.

Walleye Planting – The district planted 700, 6-8“ walleyes in the lake on Oct. 17th. The cost totaled \$936, less than \$1,250 originally approved. We did pay some money for delivery because the volunteer who brought the fish had to rent a trailer and drive from western Minnesota.

The DNR did not stock the 500 walleyes that the local DNR fish biologist, Skip Sommerfeldt, had requested. Cochran Lake was classified as a Category 4 lake because of our limited public access and never having stocked walleyes in the past. The state supplied all Category 1, 2, and 3 lakes, and several Category 4 lakes, but ran out of fingerlings before getting to Cochran Lake. Skip Sommerfeldt encouraged us to apply for permission to plant walleyes again next year; although, we probably will not receive state provided walleyes because we will most likely remain a Category 4 lake.

New Business

Walleye Planting Recommendations for 2014 – One reason for planting walleyes in the lake is to reduce the number of bluegills, which will then increase the size of the remaining bluegills. The DNR recommended that walleyes be planted in Cochran Lake after shocking the lake last spring. Their report again indicated the presence of a large number of undersize bluegills. While northern pike feed on bluegills, they and the bass are not controlling the population. As noted above, the state did not stock Cochran with walleyes in 2013; therefore, instead of 1,200 fingerlings (approximately 10 per acre), the lake received only the 700 purchased by the Lake District.

Recommendation to present and vote on at the annual meeting: In 2014, stock the lake with 1,200 walleyes. Accept donations from property owners and budget the remaining amount from Lake District funds. Motion to recommend, Sig Kaminski; second, Ray Schave; motion carried.

In the past, regulations governed the size of lakes from which walleyes could be speared by Native Americans, and Cochran Lake is too small. Mark Luoma will check to see if these regulations have changed and will report his findings at the annual meeting.

National Forest Road Closings and Logging Projects

Forest Road 146B – When logging is completed this winter, it will be bermed, which means it will be closed to motor vehicle traffic.

146A will be bermed and closed; 146E will be bermed and closed.

Forest Road 544 (Figi Rd.) – Logging will be taking place in the next year.

Forest Road 141 (Miles Lake Rd) – Logging will be taking place in the next two years at a couple of sites.

Forest Road 156 – Red pines will be thinned on both sides of Springstead Road past the first clear cut. The road will be bermed just to the east of 156D.

Cochran Lake District Lot Assessment – Currently, the assessment is \$12/lot. The Lake District must contact the Town of Fifield Treasurer by Nov. 15th each year with the updated amount. The owners will be asked to set the assessment at the annual meeting in May. The Lake District Treasurer will notify the Town of Fifield Treasurer of the amount per lot at that time.

Recommendation to present and vote on at the annual meeting: Raise the assessment to \$20/lot in 2014. Motion to recommend, Mary Kaminski; second Ray Schave; motion carried.

Tax Exempt Status – Mark Luoma applied for and received a tax-exempt certificate on behalf of the District so we do not have to pay sales tax when making purchases.

Committee Reports

Fishery – Frank Sevcik

Shocking the lake will be completed next in 2015, since it was done this summer and should occur every 2 years. As noted above, the DNR recommended stocking walleyes in the lake to control the bluegill population.

Water Quality – Sig Kaminski

The floating clumps of blue-green algae disappeared toward the end of summer because of higher winds and cooler water temps. Algae still remain on the bottom. At the last reading, water clarity measured 14.5 feet and the water temperature was 45⁰. The water temperatures averaged about 5 degrees cooler than last year, and the lake levels were higher than previous years. However, fishing was slower. Clarification from last meeting's minutes: Blue-green algae is not dangerous *to the lake*, but people and pets should not ingest it. Water quality reports for Cochran Lake can be found on the DNR website at <http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/waterquality/Station.aspx?id=513098>.

Kid's Fishing Contest – Sig Kaminski

15 children entered this year with a total cost of \$305. Property owners donated \$228 at the annual meeting. All children participating received prizes.

Adopt A Highway – Ray Schave

Cleanup was completed in September; we will do it again in the spring. Ray will ask for volunteers through the website and Google Groups.

Lake Plants – Stan Kmiecik/Rick Schwai

Skip Sommerfeldt of the DNR and several lot owners inventoried the lake plants on August 27. No invasive species were found.

Boat Landing – Brian Mandt (absent)

The pier needs to have Thompson Water Seal applied next spring. Sig Kaminski will line up a crew to complete the project. The rope set up to discourage the geese from walking up the ramp to eat grass at the landing seems be working.

Meeting adjourned at 9:58

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Houkom, Secretary