

Cochran Lake District Meeting  
Pike Lake Fire Hall  
February 1, 2014  
9 a.m.

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

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

### **Board Member Reports**

#### **Secretary's Report** – Sue Houkom

Motion to approve, Carl Schmelzer; second, Judy Schave; motion carried.

#### **Treasurer's Report** – Judy Schave

Motion to approve, Carl Schmelzer; second, Mary Kaminski; motion carried.

- A request was made to include a comparison of expenditures to budgeted amounts in the treasurer's report.
- The district expenditures are currently within budget.

### **Old Business**

#### **Follow up to question regarding Native American fish spearing regulations and lake sizes**

- According to the DNR, there are no restrictions on the size of lake that may be speared.
- Since the state did not stock walleye in Cochran, the DNR is not required and will not report that walleyes exist in the lake.
- The tribes must notify the DNR as to the day and time when a lake will be speared.
- We may be placed on the state walleye stocking list again in 2014, but once again will most likely be a Category 4 site due to our limited public access. This means we may not get any fish from the state again this year. A suggestion was made for discussion at the annual meeting – Should we request that the DNR not plant state-provided walleyes in the future? This would mean that the DNR would then not have to report that our lake contains walleyes.

### **New Business**

#### **Spring Newsletter** – The following were suggested as articles.

- Acceptance of donations from property owners to stock walleye
- Shocking survey

- Walleye planting
- Signage at the boat landings
- Forest road closings
- Water quality – Sig Kaminski
- Fishing Contest – Sig Kaminski
- Litter Pickup – Ray Schave
- Loons – Pat Schwai
- Parking restrictions at boat landing

**Potential increase in District lot assessment** – These reasons were cited for asking for the increase.

- Set up a contingency fund.
- If some remedy would be needed to address issues affecting the lake like the blue-green algae of last summer.
- To cover expenses in case of accident since the District does not carry insurance.
- The suggestion was made to set a monetary goal for the fund.
- Continue to stock walleyes until the lake produces a self-sustaining population.

**Heating Issues** – The Price County Human Services Department has programs in place to help residents who are having trouble heating their homes this winter. Anyone needing assistance should contact them at 715-339-2158.

## **Committee Reports**

**Fishery** – Frank Sevcik (absent)

- State regulations apply for the daily catch (5 per day) and size of walleyes (15 inches) in Cochran Lake.
- We can ask owners to impose voluntary limits of taking fewer and bigger fish to help grow the population.
- Cost for larger walleye for planting will probably be about the same as we paid last year for smaller fish. The walleyes were smaller last fall because of the late ice out and colder conditions.
- The suggestion was made to check the stomach contents of any northern caught to see if they're eating walleyes.
- Ice fishing was great when it was warmer in December but recently not so good.

**Water Quality** – Sig Kaminski

Sig will get the kit during first part of March and will do the test two weeks after ice goes out

**Kid's Fishing Contest** – Sig Kaminski

19 kids participated, which is pretty consistent from previous years.

**Adopt A Highway** – Ray Schave

- Spring cleanup will occur when the snow disappears.
- Ray will announce the cleanup through the Google Group as usual.

**Lake Plants** – Stan Kmiecik (absent)/Rick Schwai

There was nothing new to report.

**Boat Landing** – Brian Mandt (absent)

- A yard of gravel is needed to fill a deep rut on right side of the launch area.
- Sig Kaminski volunteered to transport it, since a company may be reluctant to come out with such a small amount.
- It will need to be hand shoveled from trailer to hole.
- Mark Luoma will inquire about the need for a permit.
- The pier will be water-sealed this spring.

The meeting adjourned at 9:32 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sue Houkom

## **Cochran Lake District Annual Meeting**

May 24, 2014

Pike Lake Fire Hall

Present: Mark Luoma, President; Judy Schave, Treasurer; Sue Houkom, Secretary. In addition, 29 people, representing a total of 19 property owners.

President Mark Luoma called the meeting to order at 8:02, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Secretary's Report** – Sue Houkom

February 1, 2014 Meeting Minutes . Motion to approve, Carl Schmelzer; second, Pat Schwai; motion carried.

### **Treasurer's Report** – Judy Schave

Current Financial Report Motion to approve, Randy Cook; second, Mary Kaminski; motion carried. Financial Audit – Carl Schmelzer reviewed the accounts and found all to be in order.

### **Town Representative Report** – Jim Hintz (unable to attend)

### **Price County Land Conservation Report** – Evan Lund (unable to attend)

### **Committee Chair Reports**

#### **Adopt-A-Highway Program** – Ray Schave

Thanks to all who participated in the spring cleanup: Sig & Mary Kaminski, Ray & Donna Korinek, Donna Mandt, George & Lettie Rasmussen, Ray & Judy Schave, Carl Schmelzer & Dottie Ford, Rick & Pat Schwai.

#### **Water Quality** – Sig Kaminski

Water sample sent for analysis on May 21, 2014. It was collected 2 weeks after ice out, as recommended. Ice out was late this year. The report will be back in about a month.

Water clear to about 12½ feet. This is approximately 1½ feet less than last year. One reason could be that high water levels are bringing debris into the lake.

Watch for floating or submerged logs when boating.

Blue-green algae still present, but seems to be less than last year. A committee was formed to learn more about it, to research whether or not there is danger to the lake and its residents from the algae, and to determine if anything can be done to get rid of it. Committee members are: Scott Craven, Mark Luoma, Donna Mandt, and Rick Schwai.

**Fisheries** – Frank Sevcik

No shocking will be done this year since this process is completed every other year, and Cochran was shocked in 2013.

Largemouth bass are legal to keep at the beginning of fishing season this year. However, in an effort to grow a healthy fish population, owners are asked to voluntarily catch and release until after the spawn. The numbers of bass are fewer according to the last few shocking reports, but those that are present are larger and healthier than a few years ago.

**Lake Plants** – Stan Kmiecik

With the late ice out, weed emergence will most likely be later this year. Report any unusual or exotic lake plants to Stan (715) 762-3623.

**Boat Landing** – Brian Mandt

In checking for a permit that would allow us to make boat landing repairs, Mark Luoma found that it was listed under the previous lake name, Cochram. He now has a PDF copy of the permit.

1 yard of 1½” stones was shoveled into the ruts alongside the boat launch ramp and at the end of it.

The boat landing will be pressure washed and sealed when weather permits.

Owners are reminded to keep the gate to the boat landing locked at all times.

**District Website** – Don Schmitz (not present)

Send all address, phone, or email changes to Don Schmitz (Email: [Dons@surgery.wisc.edu](mailto:Dons@surgery.wisc.edu))

**Additional Reports****Kids Fishing Contest** – Sig Kaminski

\$213 was collected at last year’s annual meeting to support the contest. With that and other donations, no budgeted funds were used. 19 children entered the contest this year, including more that were younger in age. Posters showing some of the entrants with their catches were on display.

**Loons** – Pat Schwai

The nesting platform is in place and the loons have shown some interest in it. Hopefully, the platform will eliminate some of the problems associated with nesting on the shore where changing water levels can cause a nest to fail.

**Lake History** – Donna Janes

Has contacted Loren Davis, who purchased the fireplace stones from the boat landing area, several times because he had promised to send historic photos of Cochran Lake, and to date has not. Mark Luoma will contact him again, since

Mr. Davis also said he would send a picture of the reassembled fireplace for our scrapbooks, which we have not received.

Terry Ides, who was a caretaker on Cochran Lake when it was privately owned, might be willing to share some of his adventures with current residents at a future meeting or social event.

### **Old Business** – none

### **New Business**

**Contingency Fund** -- Discussion centered around increasing the tax levy from the current \$12 to \$25 to cover unexpected expenses, such as removing invasive species, covering emergency expenses, or dealing with the blue-green algae outbreak; or planned expenses, such as walleye stocking. Reasoning included that it would be better to pay \$25/year than to be assessed a much higher amount to cover an immediate need. Also noted -- in 2013, the District spent more than it took in. Deb Cook made a motion to increase the tax levy to \$25 for 2014, and to revisit this higher levy at next year's annual meeting; second, Ray Schave; motion carried.

Sig Kaminski made a motion that we table setting up a special category in the budget entitled "Contingency Fund;" second, Ray Schave; motion carried.

### **2014-2015 Budget**

Two changes were made to the proposed budget. Remove the \$20 expenditure for Price County Waterways, which has not been used in several years. Add the increased tax levy revenue. Motion to approve budget as amended, Carl Schmelzer; second, Mary Ann Boschke; motion carried.

**Fish Stocking Permit Application and Number of Walleyes and Payment Method** – For our 110 acre lake, Skip Sommerfeldt of the DNR will approve stocking 550 walleye each year or 1100 every other year. It is slightly more expensive to stock each year, since we will have to pay the delivery charge of approximately \$170 for each shipment. However, yearly stocking may improve the fish population by cutting down on the bluegills. Deb Cook made a motion to stock 550 walleyes and to take their cost and that of the delivery out of the budget; second, Ray Schave; motion carried. Frank Sevcik will file the application.

**State Walleye Stocking** – Since Cochran Lake has limited public access, has never had fish stocked by the DNR, and is a Category 4 lake, there is little likelihood of receiving fish from the DNR. If the DNR does not stock the lake, it does not list it as containing walleyes. That means that we are not advertising the presence of walleyes in the lake to people outside the lot owners. Scott Cravin made a motion that we not ask the state DNR to supply walleyes for Cochran Lake; second, Mike Buckna; motion carried.

**2014 Kids' Fishing Contest** – Mike Buckna made a motion that the Kids' Fishing Contest be held again this summer; second, Deb Cook; motion carried. \$150 was collected at the meeting to support the contest.

**Approval of Posting No Parking Signs at Boat Landing** – For fire safety reasons, it is important that people not park their vehicles at the boat landing. Scott Craven made a motion that the District request the fire department to place No Parking signs at the boat landing; second, Rich Halfpap; motion carried.

**Election of Lake District President** – Deb Cook made a motion that Mark Luoma continue as president; second, Ray Schave. Mark agreed to a one-year extension of his current term. Motion carried.

**Covenants** – Concern was expressed that new owners might not be receiving a copy of the covenants when they purchase property on the lake. Covenants are listed on the District website ( [http://cochranlake.org/web\\_documents/Covenants%20&%20Restrictions.pdf](http://cochranlake.org/web_documents/Covenants%20&%20Restrictions.pdf) ). A copy can be sent to area realtors. Owners are encouraged to share information about the covenants with new neighbors.

**Burning Permits** – Burning permits may be obtained by calling 888.947.2876 or online at <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/forestfire/permits.html>.

Thanks to all who provided treats.

Meeting adjourned at 9:37 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Houkom , Secretary

**Cochran Lake District Meeting**  
**August 23, 2014**  
**Pike Lake Fire Hall**

**Present:** Mark Luoma, President; Judy Schave, Treasurer; Mary Kaminski for Sue Houkom, Secretary. In addition 9 people representing 7 lots.

President Mark Luoma called the meeting to order at 8:05, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Secretary's Report** - Sue Houkom Absent (Copies of the May 24<sup>th</sup> meeting notes were passed around and reviewed) Ray Schave made a motion to approve and second Frank Sevcik, motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report** – Judy Schave - The treasurer's report showed a bank balance of \$5,058.21 as of 8-23-2014. Judy indicated the yearly lake district assessment increase to \$25 per lot that was approved at the annual meeting was reported to the Town of Fifield treasurer, Sally Putnam. It will be paid to the lake district in February and August. The latest expenditures were for yearly water testing and the yearly website fees. Motion by Donna Mandt to approve and second by Sig Kaminski; motion carried.

**Algae Committee Report** – (Mark Luoma, Scott Craven, Donna Mandt, and Rick Schwai) Consensus report by Rick Schwai. Three lakes in Wisconsin, one in Waupaca County, Waukesha County, and ours have this unique type of blue green algae. The committee sent samples to DNR office in Rhinelander, which then sent them on to the Madison DNR Labs due to unique nature of the algae. The speculation is that the combination of drought; heat; excess rains; and long, cold winters delayed the growth of weeds and allowed the algae to use the lake's nutrients. During this time the lake's Phosphorus levels have not changed thus supporting the weather-related theory. This could be a cycle that has occurred before but we have no records or residents prior to 20 years who could provide information. The DNR will only allow a us to scoop it out if possible. We will adopt a wait-and-see strategy. In the early 1990's the DNR tried a solution based on Alum. It would be very costly, over \$150,000, and only provided temporary relief. The algae has no effect on the fishery. This year the low temperatures and limited sun seem to have reduced the algae's presence. Price County Zoning Department was contacted regarding septic tank pumping and cleaning regulations. As of 2016 all county residences with septic tanks must have their septic system cleaned every three years and this will be recorded. It was recommended by the DNR that additional lake Phosphorus testing be investigated. Sig Kaminski will check with Jim Kreitlow on what other tests can be taken and possibly another water test will be utilized in the future. It was also recommended that a special mailing be sent to Lake District members about the algae problem. The Board approved the additional mailing. See the committee's report on the website for further information.

**Welcome to the Lake Informational Sheet** – Rick Schwai. A report is being prepared



as a Welcome paper, showing our History, Lake District, Speed Limits, Private Boat Launch, and using phosphorus-free products in our seepage lake. This information will be put on our website. Once it is prepared and approved it was suggested the officers give it to our new lake lot owners.

### **Committee Reports**

**Fishery - Frank Sevcik** No report of any walleyes being caught. Permit filed in June for stocking this year in October. Last year's stocking was on 10/21/13.

**Water Quality – Sig Kaminski** About the same as last year. The banded eagle that we called Hercules that was found dead in the lake back in May was picked up by the DNR. It was banded on June 9, 1985 – 29 years ago. The DNR was really happy to get the tag. No information has yet been sent to us on the cause of death nor the cause for a second bald eagle that was found dead in the lake in early June.

**Kids Fishing Contest – Sig Kaminski** We have until the end of October to get the fishing contest information in. Fishing contest information sheet is on the website. Sig reported he has the money collected at the annual meeting (Approx. \$150) but to date has not received any additional donations.

**Adopt a highway – Ray Schave** - He will send out a notification for the fall cleanup.

**Lake Plants – Stan Kmicik/Rick Schwai** – Stan was absent. Lots of weeds around the shore, and some new ones. The deep weeds in the middle are not as high as normal. It was suggested this was possibly due to early ice formation, snow cover, cold and late ice out.

**Boat Landing – Brian Mandt** – The No Parking signs are up; one on the gate and one by the landing. The waterproofing of the deck needs to be completed. Sig Kaminski said hopefully this year (if it can get dried out) or in spring.

**Adjournment** Meeting adjourned at 9:20 by Mark Luoma, President

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Kaminski for Sue Houkom, Secretary

**Cochran Lake District Meeting  
Pike Lake Fire Hall  
December 6, 2014**

**Present: Mark Luoma, President; Judy Schave, Treasurer; Sue Houkom, Secretary. In addition, 10 people representing 9 lots.**

**President Mark Luoma called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.**

**Board Member Reports**

*Secretary's Report* -- Sue Houkom: Motion to approve the August 23, 2014 minutes, Frank Sevcik; second, Donna Mandt; motion carried.

*Treasurer's Report* -- Judy Schave: Total bank balance as of December 6, 2014 was \$4,132.28. This reflects expenditures for the newsletter and the walleye planting including the fingerlings, delivery, and import permit fee. Motion to approve, Donna Mandt; second, Mary Kaminski; motion carried.

The bulk of the Lake District assessment will be received in February, the remainder in August. Property holders are assessed the \$25 fee for each lot they own.

**Old Business**

*Walleye Planting* -- Frank Sevcik: 550 healthy 6-9" walleye fingerlings were successfully planted in the lake on October 17<sup>th</sup>. It was suggested that we consider the planting for earlier in the month next year to increase the chance of good weather.

*Welcome-to-the-Lake Informational Sheet* -- Rick Schwai: The document has been created and now resides on the district website.  
([http://cochranlake.org/web\\_documents/cochran\\_lake\\_welcome\\_v1r3.pdf](http://cochranlake.org/web_documents/cochran_lake_welcome_v1r3.pdf))

**New Business**

*Loon Watch* -- Pat Schwai, absent (presented by Rick Schwai): Two loons made the lake their home this year. They had one chick. They all migrated; the male in early September and the female and grown chick later in the fall. The two loon platforms have been secured for the winter, one tied to a dock and the other dragged up on shore.

## Committee Reports

*Algae Committee* -- Rick Schwai: Findings were reported at the August meeting and sent out to each property owner by mail. Price County Zoning Department has moved up the date of compliance for tri-annual pumping or inspecting septic systems from 2016 to May of 2015.

*Fishery* -- Frank Sevcik: Fish size and populations of a variety of species, including bass, are showing improvement.

*Water Quality* -- Sig Kaminski: While water quality remains high, Jim Kreitlow of the DNR recommends that we add two tests from our sample taken each spring to see if the blue-green algae is affecting it; a deep water test and an additional phosphorus content test.

*Kid's Fishing Contest* -- Sig Kaminski: Since there were only six children who participated this year, most of them older, and the funds remained about the same, Sig was able to purchase higher quality prizes; an ice fishing rod and reel, soft cover fishing tote, with line, and other fishing supplies. Next quarter's agenda: Possible 1-day fishing contest open to all lake residents and guests, with prizes for largest catch of each species.

*Adopt-A-Highway* -- Ray Schave: Thanks to the following people for cleaning the district's assigned roadsides this fall; George and Letty Rasmussen, Ray and Diane Korinek, Sig and Mary Kaminski, Carl Schmelzer and Doti Ford, Rick and Pat Schwai, Donna Mandt, and Ray and Judy Schave.

*Boat Landing* -- Brian Mandt: The wet weather and water depth prevented water proofing of the boat landing dock this year. The structure is made from treated lumber so waiting until next spring or summer should not harm it. Other options are power washing or sanding it.

*Bat Monitoring* -- Donna Mandt: Bat monitoring occurred during the night in June and late August. Not many were recorded in June, but presence increased in late August, with most sightings on the northwest side of the lake.

**Adjournment: Motion to adjourn at 10:04 a.m., Sig Kaminski; second, Ray Schave; motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Houkom, Secretary