

Minutes: Cochran Lake Management District: Quarterly winter meeting
February 21, 2018

Meeting held by conference call

Attendees: Scott Craven, Mike Buckna, Ray and Judy Schave, Rick Schwai, Maggie Jungwirth,
Don Schmitz

CLMD president Scott Craven called the meeting to order at 7pm

A request from the water quality committee to Don Schmitz for access to the email addresses of CLMD members led to a discussion of the committee's communication plan. There were initial reservations about making the personal email addresses available based on security, need, and serving the best interests of our members. More use of the google-group tool was dismissed because that format was said to be more awkward to use, did not offer easy viewing and reply functions, and did not reach the majority of our members. Maggie Jungwirth spoke in favor of an alternative email tool known as Mailchimp that she was very familiar with. Maggie will be handling the communications efforts of the water quality committee. She pointed out many advantages of Mailchimp including ease of viewing and reply when needed, and ease of unsubscribing if a member chose to do so. Rick Schwai reported on his internet research on Mailchimp. He commented that it appeared to be a secure tool that would function as advertised. Additional discussion led to consensus that routine Mailchimp communications to CLMD members was a good idea and that we should provide the needed email addresses. There will be further discussion of this topic at the annual meeting.

The annual meeting of the CLMD was set for Saturday, May 26, 2018, from 8am-10am at the Pike Lake Fire House. Sig Kaminsky will secure use of the facility. Scott Craven will prepare an agenda to be included in the CLMD Spring Newsletter scheduled for mid-April. Although Evan Lund (Price Co) and Jim Hintz (Fifield), have not been able to attend for several years, they remain official CLMD Board members. Jack Weirzba (Fifield Board) did attend last year and will be invited again.

The Newsletter is always in need of content! PLEASE send agenda items, announcements, and articles of interest to Scott Craven by the end of March: scraven@wisc.edu or 6132 Sun Valley Parkway, Oregon WI 53575.

Fishing has been good. A very large pike was caught and released, and some walleyes have been caught and released or seen on underwater cameras. The walleye program will be discussed at the annual meeting. Scott Craven will work with Susan Rineke, US Forest Service to schedule a shocking survey for Cochran Lake for 2018 or 2019. He will also work with Price County DNR Fish Manager, Jeff Scheirer, to develop a bass and/or walleye population model for Cochran Lake.

Recent measurements of dissolved oxygen levels in the lake (taken by water committee members) raised concerns about low levels of oxygen and a possible water kill of fish. Readings

taken were replicated by the DNR Fish Manager and he sent a report to our committee. He was also concerned about low oxygen below 6 feet and was surprised. He urged continued sampling and vigilance for dead fish as the ice melts. More discussion will be needed. We have little or no baseline data to compare the current reading too. Furthermore, there is nothing we can do even if a die-off occurs.

Ray Schave and Warren Johnson will continue to watch over the boat launch, gate, and general area.

We need to identify and elect a Board President at the Annual Meeting. Candidate(s) need to be identified and approached prior to the meeting.

Cochran Lake District Annual Meeting 5/26/2018

8:00 AM @ Pike Lake Fire Station

Attendees: Rich and Ann Halfpap, Ray and Judy Schave, Scott and Candee Craven, Sig and Mary Kaminski, Mark and Ginny Luoma, Chuck Arndt, Mike and Pat Buckna, Frank and Nancy Sevcik, Dan Moldenhauer, Dave and Sharon Smith, Donna Mandt, Alan and Maggie Jungwirth, Jack Wierzba, Warren Johnson and Sandy Dickinson, Ray and Diane Korinek, Mary Anne Boschke, Terri Murrin, Mark Hoppe, Stan and Sharon Kmiecik, John Nierode, Randall Cook, Mark and Myra LeGrand, Randy Nelson, Rick and Pat Schwai, Don Schmitz

Announcement of new members – Last year and a half – Alan and Maggie Jungwirth

Secretary's Report - Rich Halfpap – Correction to 2017 attendees, added Scott and Candee Craven. Frank Sevcik moved to accept minutes, Ray Schave seconded. Group Approved. Owners list based on county records basis was updated in April and is on google groups.

Treasurer's Report - Warren Johnson – approximately \$6000 in treasury less cost of barley straw incidentals.

Town and County Representative Report: Jack Wierzba, a Town Board Member was present. Jennifer Jontry is the new town clerk. Cy's drive is on a 5 year plan (at least 5 years) for pavement. There was a discussion that this fall or next year was stated in a town board meeting. This conflicts with the 5 year plan. Scott suggested that 2-3 people in the District spearhead the effort and follow this in a more formal manner. Rick, Frank and Warren volunteered.

Committee Chair Reports:

Adopt-A-Highway - Ray Schave – 8.5 miles done less one segment which will be done this weekend. Thank you to the participants: Warren Johnson and Sandy Dickinson, Sig and Mary Kaminski, Mark and Myra LeGrand, Rick and Pat Schwai, Ray and Judy Schave.

Fisheries with walleye update – Frank Sevcik – SMB catch and release until mid June (DNR rules). No money for shocking as we have no public launch. Scott – The Forest Service owns the equipment not the DNR. Forest Service does not have a technician to run the equipment. But next spring there may be shocking. Frank – We will not be allowed to stock more walleyes, the DNR considers this to be a bass lake.

Walleye catch seemed to be down this year based on the replies from property owners.

There is a walleye slot/size regulation on the lake, check DNR regulations each year.

Lake Plants - Stan Kmiecik – Not aware of any invasives. Scott went through the local lake listings and found that area lakes do have not invasives. So lake owners transferring boats from local lakes to Cochran are not likely to create an issue. But if transferring, always thoroughly clean boats and motors prior to launching.

District Website – Don Schmitz – Any changes to email addresses must be given to Don.

Fishing Contest 2017– Sig Kaminski – 56 people last year. Date set July 4, 2018. \$10 per person. No live bait. You don't have to fish to participate. 7 AM to 10 AM register fish at 10:30 at Sig's (lot 1). If you are attending please contact Sig and Mary at least a week early so he and Mary have enough time to prepare. If you intend to bring a dish please inform Mary and preferably do so via Google Groups so that it is broadcast to all and hopefully eliminate overload of any items.

Lunch starts at 11:00. Burgers, Brats, Hot Dogs, soda and water by Sig and Mary. Alcoholic beverages – bring your own.

Water Quality Committee – Mike Buckna – Members announced: Warren Johnson Ray Schave, Stan Kiemcik, Mark Luoma, Rick Schwai – Last June Citizens Lake Monitoring group trained members on measuring key lake data. Barley straw, 100 bags were in place last year.

Going forward we want to have in place a weekly lake journal to track water quality. More data is always preferred.

This June, two members are going to DNR lake quality training. We want to document all plant species and location. Water level to be documented. Is it feasible to measure lake outflow on the south end of the lake? That will be investigated.

Water sampling increased and data is posted/shared on the DNR website. Other participating lakes also post data on this website allowing comparison.

Rick Schwai – 100 Bags installed in 2017 and 151 Bags 2018 – Numerous water measurements and samples were taken, some timed with the passing of satellites.

Data can be compared to other area lakes in the NW region.

Secchi disc readings of 10.4 feet (water clarity) are better than average compared to other lakes. Chlorophyll – our readings better. Phosphorous – levels low enough resulting in no bloom. Cochran is a Mesotrophic lake, meaning a balanced with weed and fishery. Secchi readings down a little this year but still in line with previous years. The lake residential population does not appear to be a factor.

Dissolved O₂ – 9 ppm August, Nov 11 ppm, DNR says that is normal for shallow lake with higher winds in November. Feb 5 th dissolved O₂ readings concerned the DNR so additional reading were taken in March. March readings were even lower, indicating a

possible winter kill. Yet the fish are surviving as there is no winter kill. The DNR does not understand what is happening so additional readings will be taken next year.

Maggie Jungwirth – Water Quality communications. Leaves something to be desired. WQ newsletter, Emails 45 addresses, 18 people opened. Are email addresses correct? Address for the letter is: cochranlaknewsletter@gmail.com

Secretary Rich Halfpap will send emails to owners as we have them listed, to verify the email addresses. No replies will likely have to be contacted by US Mail requesting their email addresses.

Old Business: Welcoming committee – Ray Schave – no new members to welcome

New Business:

Frank – Discussion, on adding tiger muskies to eat the small northern pike. Only 5 would be allowed by DNR. Concern was expressed by several about introducing another new specie to the lake. Frank made the motion but no second. More information may be forthcoming from Frank.

New Business Continued – Budget and annual assessment. Scott stated that review with Warren Johnson Treasurer would indicate that the usual \$25 assessment would still be appropriate and allow for \$1000 maximum for the Water Quality Committee. Mary Kaminski moved to accept. Ray Schave seconded. Group approved.

Water Quality Committee budget maximum motion up to \$1000 by Mark Luoma, seconded by Mike Buckna. Group approved.

Elections – Tom Murrin President. Frank Sevcik moved, Mike Seconded. Vote – Group approved.

Maggie Jungwirth– volunteered to do the newsletter. Mike Buckna proposed to imbed the Water Quality letter within the main newsletter.

Motion to adjourn by Warren Johnson
approved.

Seconded by Ray Schave, Group

Respectfully submitted,

Rich Halfpap

Secretary Cochran Lake Management District

Follow up meeting with Lake District officers, no new topics.

Cochran Lake District Annual Meeting 9/26/2018

7 PM conference call

Attendees: Rich Halfpap, Maggie Jungwirth, Scott Craven, Don and Lori Schmitz, Mark Luoma, Mike and Pat Buckna, Ray and Judy Schave, Sig and Mary Kaminski, Warren Johnson, Rick Schwai.

President Resignation - Tom Murrin has resigned effective September 20th due to increased business at his company. So we are going to have to review the District By-Laws to see how to proceed. The by-laws are not in the Secretary's files so Rich will have to come up to the lake to get them from Terry Murrin. Review and comment by the December quarterly meeting.

New Business – Two locks are missing from the gate at the private launch. Rich had sent an email asking for the return of one but now its two. Very suspicious. Discussion followed on how best handle? Move the gate? Secure the lock with welds and non-removal parts?

It was decided that we would purchase a new lock, at District cost, and wait on the installation until the spring of 2019. In the meantime all are asked to close the gate if they see it open. (Without the lock). We may pursue a "No Parking" sign for the gate as it is a fire department access.

A team of District members will visit the neighbors near the boat launch to discuss the situation.

Secretary's Report - Rich Halfpap – During the annual meeting there was a discussion that our ability to communicate to District members needs improvement. Secretary Rich Halfpap sent emails to owners as we have them listed, to verify the email addresses. This was, for the most part, sent to people who did not attend the annual meeting and/or did not reconfirm on the list that Maggie Jungwirth sent around at the meeting.

We have several "no replies" to that email and we have an equal number of no email address on file. Some of the ownership are entities, not named people. Rich will contact them by US Mail requesting their email addresses.

There was much discussion about how best to get information of interest and information of importance to the District Members.

Mike Buckna moved, Ray Schave seconded and there were no dissenting votes on the statement below in bold.

The members at the meeting agreed that all email addresses that we have will be posted on Google groups and if that is not acceptable to the property owner, there is a method for the property owner to unsubscribe.

Treasurer's Report - Warren Johnson – The amount in treasury will not be listed in these minutes. If you need the value, contact Warren. Our treasury is adequate going forward. Warren has accounted for the cost of barley straw and related incidentals. Also the fees and expenses for Mike Buckna and Mark Luoma to attend the 2018 Wisconsin Lakes Partnership Convention in Stevens Point have been paid.

Committee Chair Reports:

Adopt-A-Highway - Ray Schave – Ray reported that all areas have people assigned. Some areas are complete and some are not. It may be best to hold off until the Town mowing of the road edges is complete as it is easier to see litter. That mowing is in process now.

Water Quality Committee – Mike Buckna - Water clarity looks good. Maggie had volunteered to do a newsletter regarding our water quality efforts. That will be sent out on or about the end of October. The water quality readings will likely be imbedded in the letter.

Rick Schwai – A Secchi disc reading is taken every 8 days to match the satellite passing over the area. Temperature readings are also taken at that time.

Phosphorous Readings – 4 complete

Chlorophyll Readings – 3 complete

Dissolved Oxygen Readings – 1 complete

General discussion about increases of pickerel weed and skunk weed. The location of those weeds has changed also.

The water quality committee will meet to discuss the use of barley straw in 2019, do it again or skip it for a year and see what happens?

Motion to adjourn by: Mike Buckna,
Group approved.

Seconded by: Ray Schave,

Respectfully submitted,

Rich Halfpap

Secretary Cochran Lake Management District

Cochran Lake District Annual Meeting 12/20/2018

7 PM conference call

Attendees: Rich Halfpap, Don Schmitz, Warren Johnson, Mike Buckna

Appoint a new President - Rich reported that he obtained the files for Presidents and reviewed the By-Laws of our District. The by-laws state "... the remaining members of the Board shall appoint a successor to fill the vacancy until the next election of Board members.

No one on this call would accept an appointment. So Rich recommended that we forgo the office of President until the annual meeting and we will vote on that position at that time.

Rich suggested that the term of office for the next President be one year only, Memorial Day 2019 to Memorial Day 2020. Then vote again for a three year term President on Memorial weekend 2020. That way we will be in sync with the way it used to be, one elected open office per annual meeting.

IE: Treasurer was 2018, Secretary 2019 and President 2020 with a one year President to jump the gap from 2019 to 2020.

Also at the next annual meeting we will vote for a Secretary as that position will be up at that time.

Gate Lock Disappearance – No one on the call was aware of any returned locks. Discussion was how to best make a "captive" system. A weldment is likely needed but how best to do it? There is a capable welder on Hwy 47 near Woodruff. We will have to review again in the spring.

Committee Chair Reports:

Water Quality Committee – Mike Buckna – A general discussion came to the conclusion we would not do the barley straw treatment this year and see what happens.

Mike has the green metal posts in his garage and they can remain there until needed again.

New Business – None

Secretary's Report - Rich Halfpap – Still working on obtaining a few email addresses that are blank on the Secretary's list.

We have a new member in the District, new owner Ann Davies of Beloit, on lot 14, the former Houkom property. **Ann - Welcome to Cochran Lake!**

Treasurer's Report - Warren Johnson – We have the same amount in the Treasury as we had in the last meeting. Dollar amounts no longer reported for security reasons. If you need to know the value call Warren.

Motion to adjourn by: Warren, Seconded by: Mike Group approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Rich Halfpap

Secretary Cochran Lake Management District