

Cochran Lake District Quarterly Meeting 3/27/2019

Conference Call Minutes

Attendees: Rich Halfpap, Mike Buckna, Don Schmitz, Maggie Jungwirth

Bylaws – Short discussion as to how important is it that we match our procedures to the Bylaws. There are some discrepancies likely due to state statues that do not recognize the nature of our District (small likely the smallest district in the state). Rich Halfpap will be attending a UWSP/DNR conference in Stevens Point in April and will investigate further.

Gate Lock Disappearance – Discussed the positives and negatives of moving the gate to the lakefront vs leaving it in place but have the lock be captive. General consensus was to leave the gate in place, change to a captive lock system and see how it works out going forward. That would be least cost to the District.

Annual Newsletter – Sent to all via email, US mail for those without internet – Any feedback or comments? No one in attendance was aware of any negative feedback about our decision to send via email and save the cost of printing and postage.

Annual Meeting Preparations –

Invites to County and Town Representation – Rich will send a written invitation to the County Supervisor as well as the Fifield Supervisor after the April election.

Reserve the fire hall – Rich to confirm that Leo Kalmerton has been contacted.

Refreshments and snack arrangements – Don Schmitz to contact Mary Kaminski. Ann Halfpap will also supply baked goods. All are welcome to bring their favorites.

Committee Chair Reports:

Water Quality Committee – Mike Buckna sent a letter of resignation as committee chairman citing his physical limitations and suggested that a permanent lake resident take over. He encourages us to continue to monitor the lake as Rick Schwai is doing now. He also would like to see follow-through on lake plant growth mapping, both Stan Kmiecik and Mark Luoma have gone to training sessions on that topic.

Mike (we) discussed that we have no fish kill even though the oxygen levels are down. Why is that? Must be springs in the lake. Typically Cochran Lake is listed as a seepage lake not a seepage and springs lake. Those of us who swim in the lake have felt the cold water of a spring.

Rich asked – Now that we have elected not to do a barley straw treatment do we need to have a formal committee any longer? For discussion at the annual meeting.

Secretary's Report – Rich reported there are two new members on the lake making three since the annual meetings. Rich will send individual letters to the owner addresses in the county records, welcoming the new members as well as inviting them to the annual meeting.

New Business – None

Old Business – Fish planting going forward? Mike Buckna has an email from a discussion with Jeff Scheirer, a DNR Fishery Biologist in Park Falls. The discussion was regarding the potential of stocking more walleyes and identification of those walleyes year over year. In order to crimp a tag on a fish you need a Scientific Collectors' Permit. But you are allowed to partially trim fins if we want to document the year of stocking in that manner. That would be a lot of manual labor on the stocking date. Or the DNR suggested we ask the fish hatchery what they would charge to do it.

But we are ahead of ourselves in that regard as we need to have the data from the upcoming fish shocking that is supposed to happen between now and the next meeting. So more on that during the annual meeting.

Respectfully Submitted

Rich Halfpap

Secretary Cochran Lake District

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 Buckna 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 Management District

2nd Quarterly Meeting Minutes

October 11, 2019, 7pm

Meeting held at Warren Johnson's house

Attendees: Warren Johnson, Mel Pulver, Mary Kaminski, Sig Kaminski, Mark Luoma, Frank Sevchick, Scott Craven, Maggie Jungwirth, Rick Schwai, Rich Halfpap by phone
The meeting was called to order at 7pm

Old business - none.

New business -

1. Warren received renewal notice for Wisconsin Lakes Association at a cost of \$100/year. The group approved renewal. The organization runs the Lake conference and provides resources for lake management. CLMD budget was discussed, because the membership should come out of our funds. A budget will be created by the committee to be approved at the annual meeting.
2. Rich Halfpap raised the question of restocking walleyes to control bluegills. Discussion of fish populations followed. Rich volunteered to be a project manager to find costs and contact Jeff Sheerer(?) at DNR for advice/permissions and bring findings to the next quarterly meeting.
3. Weed survey summary - Rich Halfpap and Mark Luoma reported their findings. They surveyed 62% of the 310 way points. Stan assisted and made the weed rake that was used. The predominant plants surveyed were Large-Leaf and Illinois Pondweed. The only milfoil found was non-invasive. Large amounts of Musk Grass at the bottom was found which smells. There are two 17' deep areas a distance apart, both of which contain weeds. The results will form a base documentation for our aquatic plant species in the lake, which we will continue to monitor in the future.

Agenda Item #1 - Proper operating protocol for the lake district.

Scott Craven contacted Eric Olson at the UWSP / Wisconsin Lakes Association who oversees all lake districts in the state to clarify what the proper operating procedures are for lake management districts. It was learned that there needs to be a committee of five, to include three committee members from the district and the two county reps. Scott spoke to two commissioners, Jim Hintz (Town of Fifield) and Evan Lund (Price County), who have not attended recent meetings, but wish to remain as commissioners in case they are needed. They are also willing to vote for commission assignments if needed.

The term president, treasurer and secretary are not relevant, as any of the three district members can fill any role at any given time. They can be interchangeable tasks as part of a three person team.

The commission member elections need to be held by secret ballot, which we will follow next annual meeting. What are the consequences if we are in non-compliance if we aren't holding the four meetings a year? A complaint could be lodged. Unsure, but likely hard to enforce. The safest thing is to proceed by the regulations.

There was a discussion of rotation of roles in the past and quarter durations. Maggie, Warren and Mel will set dates for the next meetings. Dates will be posted on the Google Group, and sent to Even and Jim, with a call for agenda items. Followed by a posting of the date and agenda. Meetings will be run by conference call in.

Agenda Item #2 - The maintenance of the boat landing road.

The road needs gravel fill to fix potholes. Estimate was received from Terry Polecek in Park Falls for around \$1,200 for fill and spreading. Another estimate for gravel was \$275 a load, and Patty Corey would be willing to do the spreading. Discussion of how or when the expense can be approved, and if this was an emergency fund consideration. It was suggested that two-three bids should be gathered, perhaps from Jeff Martinovich (?) and the Ryders new gravel company. It was decided that we could act now, approving the lowest bid if under \$500. Further discussion of who should pay for it was decided that it should be paid for now by the lake district if under \$500, and at the meeting in June we can decide if the cost should be split between the district and the neighbors on the landing at the meeting in June.

**Update: Gravel was delivered and was spread by Patty Corbin on Oct. 18 for no charge.* Purchase cost will be posted when available.*

Agenda item #3 - Non-lake district business. ISP options on Cys Drive.

Maggie Jungwirth reported that CenturyLink was only able to provide 1.5mbps at their house. They were at capacity. Spectrum and the Park Falls provider were out of the service area. They went with hughes.net satellite internet, for a cost of around \$90/month for the 30gb plan. After 30gbs it is throttled down to 1.5, so it is billed as unlimited. CenturyLink would have been unlimited data for \$45/month.

Cochran Lake Management District

3rd Quarterly Meeting Agenda

December 11, 2019, 7pm

Conference call

Attendees: Warren Johnson, Maggie Jungwirth, Rick Schwai, Rich Halfpap

The meeting was called to order at 7pm

Old business - Minutes of last meeting approved.

Agenda Item #1 - Review of boat landing costs.

Patti Corey spread the gravel in October and it looked good. Mel and Warren split the cost of her services. Warren Johnson reported that the gravel cost \$275/load, slightly over the \$250 we thought it would cost. Warren paid Terry __ (?) \$550, \$50 over what the board was authorized to spend at the previous meeting.

We will bring the item to the annual meeting for a vote on how the \$550 cost should be divided.

Agenda Item #2 - Walleye stocking research & discussion with DNR.

Rich Halfpap had two discussions with Jeffery Shier of the Park Falls DNR about stocking walleye in our lake. Rich shared our recent shocking report with Shier, who said he would allow walleyes to be stocked because they would serve our goal of reducing blue gills. Shier got two people from the Forest Service to approve this stocking.

We are to the point that the next step would be to fill out the stocking application, if the CLMD wants to pursue. Application involves having specific info from suppliers and DNR paperwork. This will be **voted on at the annual meeting.**

Costs

Walleye must come from hatcheries that supply fish from Wisconsin waters. The DNR has a list of acceptable vendors. The DNR would allow 5 per acre over a two year span. Rich talked to two walleye suppliers. The first vendor around Antigo gave an estimate of \$2.10/per fish for 7-9" fish. The second vendor in Frederick gave him an estimate of around \$850 per 1,000 fish. These are both estimates, actual cost may change.

Maggie will research the minutes for previous stocking data for reference. Fishermen on the lake will be contacted for their opinions before the annual meeting, or they can contact Rich Halfpap.

Agenda Item #3 - Discussion of annual budget. Review of current/ongoing costs.

We will prepare a budget to bring to **vote at the annual meeting**.

Two ongoing costs are:

- 1) Website hosting - \$100
- 2) WI Lakes Assoc. - \$100

Proposal was made for funding for a resident to attend the Lakes Assoc. annual conference weekend in 2021, and report back findings.

Proposal for walleye stocking, if approved at annual meeting.

Maggie will post a call for budget items on the Google Group.

New business -

1. Reliable communication method with residents.

Someone said of the two posts to the Google Group announcing the meeting, he got 1 and his wife got 1. The Google Group emails - and direct email to the addresses registered to the group - seem to have missing deliveries. Maggie's bulk mailing with Mail Chimp last year missed deliveries as well, showing about half emails were delivered. Bulk mail programs track deliveries and opens. We need to find a delivery method that is reliable and effective, and maintain current email addresses of residents. Rick Schwai volunteered to do some research on finding some other reply/read delivery programs.

2. Discussion of board positions.

Rich reviewed the by-laws last year, and concluded that if only one person is running for a position, a secret ballot is not required. It was agreed to at the last annual meeting that the president position to be one year to get us back in synch. We will need to fill the third board position that lasts for three years. Election of the third board member will be **voted on at the annual meeting**.

3. Water Quality Committee need.

Most members of the water quality committee, organized last year, are not able to be involved any longer. It was formed mainly to address the algae problem. It has been decided to end the barley straw program, after algae levels improved. Is there a need to continue this committee, or continue on with the previous structure of volunteer positions as before. Rick proposed going back to the previous structure. The current volunteer positions are:

- Citizen Lake Monitoring Network (CLMN) coordinator who collects data on chlorophyll levels, secchi readings, phosphorous levels, lake levels and weather.

- Weed survey volunteers to continue the work done last summer by Rich Halfpap and Mark Luoma. Their survey of about half the points determined that there was no Eurasian Milfoil in the lake.
- Fishery person to monitor fish populations or issues.

Volunteers will be requested for the positions.

The decision on whether or not to dissolve the committee will be **voted on at the annual meeting.**

There was further discussion on the challenges of the weed survey (300 survey points) and the pros and cons of continuing the formal DNR method started last summer, and what data is worth collecting.

4. Maggie will solicit articles soon for the next annual newsletter.

The next quarterly meeting is tentatively set for Feb. 29th, 2020.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.