

Cochran Lake Management District
Annual Meeting Minutes
May 25, 2024, Pike Lake Fire Station

25 Attendees - Jeff/Carlene Bauer, Dennis/Dave Cooper, Scott/Candee Craven, Rick Dittberner, Tammy/Jason Hastings, Mark Hoppe, Warren Johnson, Alan/Maggie Jungwirth, Sig/Mary Kaminski, Jay/Jessica Knoke, Phil O'Rourke, Jon Radloff and son Luke, Rick/Pat Schwai, Ann Sloane, Wendy/Kurt Vinge.

The meeting was called to order at 8:02 am

Old business - The minutes of last years annual meeting were approved. Pat S. made the motion, Warren J. seconded.

New District Members - Jon and Amy Radloff and Kurt and Wendy Vinge joined us. Welcome to the new neighbors!

Board Reports -

Rick Dittberner explained that Maggie Jungwirth is filling in for Kathryn Frost who stepped down from the board.

Warren Johnson-

- Financial report from 5/23 - 5/24;
 - Expenditures -
 - Budgeted \$2,209.00, spent \$2,092.05
 - Income -
 - \$2,260.06 total
 - Net gained-
 - \$116.95
 - Assets- \$11,832.67
- Proposed budget for 2024-25
 - Budget-
 - \$2,329.00
 - Expenditures -
 - \$2,329.00

See detailed budget attached.

Price County Rep. Jason Hastings -

Jason is a newly elected Price County Supervisor. There is the possibility of new companies coming in to the county to provide internet/phone service. A company called Bugtussel and another called BEAD (Broadband Equity and Deployment Program) may rent space on ATT and Verizon towers. Jason provided info to call in to the county meeting that will be discussing the proposals. Jason said that he is

available for questions and encouraged contacting him with county issues at his email address, jason.hastings@co.price.wi.us. We appreciate his attendance at our meeting.

Pat S. pointed out that there is an inconsistency between county tax bill and payment instructions, Jason suggested she email the county and he will follow up on that.

Tammy Hastings is the admin of the "Price County Events" Facebook page. She posts county meeting info on that page and live streams county meetings there. Tammy explained more people are participating in county meetings because of this, for example the Moosejaw campground trailer site expansion decision was tabled because of input at the meeting. Tammy mentioned that the many AirBnBs and VRBOs coming on to the market may have contributed to the housing shortage. We asked if our CLMD covenants that prevent short term rentals was enough to prevent them. Tammy encouraged asking an attorney and looking for loopholes. Sig K. said that this issue came up a few years ago and that the short-term rental was prevented.

Jason said that there will be elections for county clerk and treasurer this year.

Town of Fifield Rep. Ann Sloane -

Ann S. is one of our Fifield supervisors. She explained the towns commitment to our road paving and we thanked the town for the Cy's Drive paving last year. It is a huge improvement and very appreciated. Markers were placed on the curve where drivers are going off the pavement to prevent erosion and keep the edge supported. Some property markers were removed when the ditches were created, the town is working on replacing them.

Ann will be organizing several events at the fire station, two will be on medical assistance - a Stop the Bleed training and a CCP course. CCP is similar to CPR, to train what to do until EMTs arrive. The two medical trainings will probably be combined. She will also co-organize another county resources event like the one held last year. We appreciate her attendance at our meeting.

Warren thanked Ann for her board meeting vote in preserving separate fire stations, which kept our Pike Lake Fire Station resources here. The station has purchased a new mini-pumper that can navigate narrow long driveways that the full size truck can not. They also purchased a rural rescue vehicle that can go on to the trails in the woods, which is an improvement from the Kubota that they were using for woods rescues. Fire and rescue capabilities and radio transmissions issues were discussed by Warren and Ann. Reminder, if you call 911, state immediately that you are in Price County to expedite faster.

Committee Chair Reports

Loon Watch Ranger - Pat S.

Loon watch is connected to Sig Olson Environmental Inst. which collects the information she provides. Information on arrival and departure dates, nesting, chicks, predation and wellness are important for research. Please share any of these observations with Pat by emailing her at pschwai@gmail.com. The loon population is

declining, only 25% of hatches produce two chicks. On our lake, we have had three hatches in 20 years, and three hatches in four years is normal. Water patterns, black flies, lead baits and predation contribute to this. Some things we can do to help the loons is -

- Maintain the water clarity on our lake by preventing runoff from your lakeshore
- No aggressive boating, as in quick starts and high speeds in your boats that churn up the bottom and degrade water clarity. That also contributes to weed growth.
- Please do not use any lead baits
- Respect their privacy and try to maintain 100ft. distance
- Be careful around the islands, where they nest
- Avoid losing large pieces of monofilament in the lake

Pat described some loon behaviors you can expect to see. We all agree the wail of the loons is treasured, and we want to do all we can to protect them. Pat would like to retire from the Ranger position after 20 years. If you are interested in taking over, contact Pat.

Adopt-a-Road - Carlene Bauer

Carlene said that there were a few people that weren't able to get the clean-up announcement on the Google Group, she resolved those issues. Jay and Jessica Knoke did two sections. Thank you to clean up volunteers to Jay/Jessica Knoke, Rick/Pat Schwai, Alan/Maggie Jungwirth, Dan/Darcy Riley, Wendy/Kurt Vinge and Carlene. She will need volunteers for fall cleanup, so please contact Carleen to help if you don't see the announcement from our Google Group.

Fisheries - Frank S. was not able to attend. He has been the fisheries chair for 23 years and will step down from the committee. Sig K. volunteered to replace Frank. Sig pointed out many of the logs and obstacles to avoid on the lake. None of the hazards are marked on the lake due to liability. Sig caught a 46 1/2" musky last summer.

Water Quality - Alan J.

Alan J. discussed lake data collected by the Citizen's Lake Monitoring Network members, Alan J. and Jon T. The lake froze on Nov. 25th, opened up on March 14th, refroze again a week later on March 21st, and reopened April 6th. The lake was frozen for 110 days, which was one of the shortest periods in 29 years. It was frozen for 162 days the previous winter, average freeze times are 145 days.

Fifteen measurements were taken last year, including water clarity (secchi disk), temp, water level, phosphorous and chlorophyll levels. The outlet pond was full early last summer but dried up. It has just started to fill the pond, but the creek is not flowing. The highest lake temp recorded was 80 degrees on July 28th. The water temps two days ago was 66 at the surface, similar to last years at this time, but the temp at the bottom of the lake was 64 degrees, 12 degrees warmer than last year at this time. The bottom didn't reach that temp until early July last year. The lake overall was clearer last year than the previous year. Secchi disc readings so far are similar to last year. Trophic State Index (TSI) scores indicate the lake is still a mesotrophic category lake. Oxygen was not measured.

Website/Google Group - Don S.

Maggie J. said that Don S. reminds residents that they need to be included on the Google Group list to receive the group list serve emails. Check with Don at schmitz.don@gmail.com if you are not getting the Google Group emails.

Maggie J. explained the difference between the two Cochran Lake accounts, that have have similar addresses.

- The board sends meeting announcements, agendas and minutes from cochran.lake.district@gmail.com. You can contact the board at that address.
- The Google Group is for everyone to use, it is our lake discussion group, or listserv. If you are on the list (check with Don), when you send an email to that address, it goes to everyone. Everyone is encouraged to use the discussion group, the more active the better. It is our lake's conversation group. That email address is cochran-lake-district@googlegroups.com.

Old Business -

Fish stocking update - Phil O'Rourke

Phil O. contacted the DNR who said that the fishery in MN that has the strain of walleye we need has been buying them up and selling them back to people. He has not been able to get return calls or fish from Lac du Flambeau tribal hatchery, Hilgers in Antigo, and another that is closed. He asked for any other hatchery suggestions, he has been trying to find a supplier for perch and walleye for three years. Ann S. suggested calling a contact at Butternut or Schnur lake associations because they stocked fish a few years back. The DNR recommended stocking staggered years. Tammy H. suggested contacting John Carlson at Ross's Sport Shop in Phillips. He has a lot of knowledge and contacts in fisheries.

New Business -

a) Removal of submerged pier.

Do we agree to proceed to contact owner and request removal of that pier? If we are not able to contact owner, we will consider next steps. Motion made by Warren J., seconded by Rick D. **Motion carries.** Camper/trailer on the property are in violation of our CLMD covenants, we will give owner a copy of the covenants. Evan Lund, Price County Supervisor can help with removals if necessary.

b) Discussion of private boat landing.

It was determined that no maintenance was needed to landing. Dock will be straightened up.

c) Approval of 2025 budget.

Proposed budget was reviewed. No changes requested. Motion made by Rick S., seconded by Jason H. **Motion carries.**

d) Election of new officer -

Maggie Jungwirth was nominated to fill the remaining two years of Kathryn Frost's term, ending in 2026. Motion made by Rick D., seconded by Warren J. **Motion carries.**

Warren J. made a motion to adjourn, Rick D. seconded. Meeting adjourned at 10:28AM.

Submitted 6/6/24 by Maggie Jungwirth.