

Cochran Lake Management District

Quarterly Meeting Minutes

February 2, 2022

Conference call

Attendees: Rick Dittberner, Maggie Jungwirth, Warren Johnson, Jon Tornberg, Rick Schwai, Don Schmidt, Ann Davies, Phil O'Rourke

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm

Old business - Minutes of last meeting approved.

Board Reports -

Maggie J. reported that the WI Lakes convention is in April, 2022. The board agreed that CLMD will pay for attendance for anyone who wishes to attend.

Shoreline plant recommendations from Lake Tides were provided in the agenda.

Warren J. reported our balance is \$8,755.49 as of 2/22. No expenditures since last meeting.

Agenda Item #1 - Aquatic plant report - Rick Schwai

Rick S. and Sig K. compiled research into the cause of the large increase in the amount of aquatic plants in 2021. They consulted with several DNR experts. A combination of factors are responsible.

- Fewer days of Ice Over
- Less snow coverage in 2020-2021
- Warmer temperatures in 2020 and 2021
- Lower lake level (4" lower in 2021)

The increase was not caused by an increase in phosphorous. We have three options to try to reduce them.

- Removal by manual means like a rake, cutter, or by hand - no permitting required
- Removal by mechanical means like a harvester machine - DNR permitting required
- Removal by chemicals - DNR permitting required

Our lake has a shallow thermocline in which rotting debris is easily circulated. One helpful measure we can all do is to remove any weeds we pull up fishing, or see floating on the surface. Take them out and bring them to shore.

More details in the attached report. The 2021 partial plant survey will be posted on the website.

New Business -

Phil O'Rourke gave an update on the walleye suppliers. He said two fisheries will be getting back to him in March regarding availability - Tribal Hatchery in Lac du Flambeau and the Hilgees(?) hatchery in Antigo. He expects one of them will be able to furnish walleye and perch this year.

Rick Schwai announced that he will be retiring his Citizen Lake Monitoring duties. He had gathered data for five years. The Lake District thanks Ricks for his years of effort. Jon Tornberg and Alan Jungwirth volunteered to continue the data collection.

Motion to adjourn by Rick S., seconded by Maggie J. Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.

Submitted by Maggie Jungwirth, 2/3/22

Cochran Lake Management District

Annual Meeting Minutes

May 28, 2022, Pike Lake Fire Station

20 Attendees: Chuck Arndt, Jeff/Carlene Bauer, Rick/Doreen Dittberner, Jim/Nadine Filer, Alan/Maggie Jungwirth, Sig/Mary Kaminski, Phil O'Rourke, Ann Sloane, Rick/Pat Schwai, Frank Sevcik, Don/Jon Tornberg, Brian/Donna Mandt

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, Donna M. seconded.

Board Reports

Maggie Jungwirth -

- Three new neighbors since last annual meeting, records are up to date.
- CLMD emails open rates remain low. Any suggestions on how to improve district member engagement are welcome.

Warren Johnson -

- 2021/22 Report; expenses \$219.32, income \$1,612.86, assets \$10,369.40. Warren says we are doing well financially.
- 2022/23 Proposed budget; \$470 for expenses. No projects were suggested for the upcoming year. If members have suggestions, they can always bring them to a quarterly meeting.

Town of Fifield Rep. Ann Sloane -

Ann is our new town supervisor, temporarily replacing Bonnie Salm. Ann will be running for the position at the next election. The volunteer fire departments from Fifield and Pike Lake are merging. Rick S. asked Ann to clarify why the increased tax rate for our ward. Ann said there is an increased number of volunteers serving our area, including our neighbor Jon Tornberg who is a fully trained EMS. Warren said area EMS groups are training together. Rick S. said it will still take the same amount of time for fire fighters to respond to a fire at his house, we are being charged more for the same service. It was suggested that we clarify with the town board, we asked Ann to request that it be on the agenda at the next town meeting. Maggie J. said she didn't want the town to replace all the mailbox poles on Cy's Drive with metal poles. We asked Ann to find out if they are optional or required.

No Price County representative present.

Committee Chair Reports

Water Quality - Rick Schwai

Rick S. discussed how last year's weather impacted the lake. The lake has not changed much in 20 years, chemical changes are minimal, clarity varies depending on weather factors. The lake dropped 4.2" inches last year, which was unusual. Levels have come up again. Rick S. and Sig K. contacted experts and found out the increase in aquatic plants in the lake last year were due to fewer days of ice cover, thin snow cover, warmer temps, and lower lake level, none of which are in our control. Lake owners can manually remove/rake plants from the lake in a 30' wide corridor from our shoreline. The use of chemicals or weed harvesting boats is not permitted for owners, it can only be done as a lake quality restoration plan approved by the DNR. The use of lake weed chemicals was discussed. People are encouraged to gather any weeds floating on the surface into your boat and take back to shore to compost.

Adopt-a-Road - Mark LeGrand

Maggie J. read a report submitted by Mark L. He said the Spring cleanup was completed and thanked the volunteers; Sig/Mary Kaminski, Alan/Maggie Jungwirth, Jon Tornberg, Rick/Doreen Dittberner, Ann Davies, Warren Johnson & Sandy Dickenson, Mark/Myra LeGrand. He said the amount of litter was more than double than in previous years. Mark L. will be moving and requested a new volunteer to take over the co-ordination. Carlene Bauer volunteered. We thank Mark for his years organizing the clean-up.

Fisheries - Frank Sevcik

Frank reports seeing large male bass and large bluegills. Sig K. says crappies have been smaller. Filer's reported catching crappies from their pier. Not many perch have been caught. Small mouth bass are catch and release only between May 7 and June 17. Frank S. said that the lake district can regulate the daily bag limit of five large mouth bass/day, and the DNR will create a new limit sign for the boat launch. Frank and Sig considered changing the limit to three, Rick D. questioned why we would make that decision, and if there are fewer bass in the lake, Sig K. says the numbers are down. No change agreed upon.

Website - No update from Don Schmitz.

Loon Ranger - Pat Schwai

Pat reported that there have been two summers in 26 years that have produced loon chicks. She thinks the male that had been coming to our lake for years was usurped last summer. So far there have not been signs of nesting with the two loons. Pat said current research has found male loons weigh less than they did 10 years ago. Loon behavior was discussed. She reminded us of loon etiquette, and the importance of not using any lead based lures. Warren asked if we should keep or get rid of the loon platform we built? It was decided to remove and dismantle it.

New Business -

- Assessments - Warren J. proposed keeping the lake lot assessments at \$25/yr. Motion passed.
- Budget - Warren J. submitted the proposed budget. Frank S. made the motion, Donna M. seconded. Motion passed.
- Fish stocking - Phil O'Rourke. Phil reported not having any response to numerous calls to the fisheries. He will continue to try to get the agreed upon fish for stocking.
- New board member - Maggie J. three year term is up. Warren J. asked for any nominations. Hearing none, Maggie volunteered to serve another year, in hopes of finding a replacement next year. No replacement, Maggie J. re-elected. Mary K. questioned why we don't have titles of president, secretary and treasurer any more. Maggie explained it came from advice from the UW Lake Assn., which we are part of, when we had only two board members.

Other business -

Rick S. said that mosquito spraying an individual property in the woods would be ineffective, and that the poisons in mosquitoes are carried up the food chain. He discouraged people from hiring mosquito spraying contractors.

Motion to adjourn was made by Pat S., Doreen D. seconded. Meeting adjourned at 9:15am.

Submitted 6/2/22 by Maggie Jungwirth, CLMD Board Member

Cochran Lake Management District

Quarterly Meeting Minutes

August 11, 2022

Conference call

Attendees: John Beaudry, Jeff Bauer, Rick Dittberner, Maggie Jungwirth, Warren Johnson, Rick Schwai

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm

Old business - Minutes of last meeting approved.

Board Reports -

Warren J. reported our balance is \$10,347.26 as of 7/22. Expenditure last quarter was \$21 for new checks. Web hosting expense will be on next quarters budget.

Agenda Item #1 - Marking of underwater hazards - Rick Schwai

Someone placed floating markers over two of the old bridge pilings. There is a concern about the lake management district's liability if it is perceived as an attempt to mark all hazards on the lake. In the past, a former resident/lawyer said that the district would be liable for damages if sued. It was discussed if we are liable if it is placed by a resident instead of by the lake district.

It was decided to check with the DNR and the Wisconsin Association of Lakes, which we are a member of. Maggie J. will contact them and report at next meeting.

New Business - None

Motion to adjourn by Warren J., seconded by Maggie J. Meeting adjourned at 7:20pm.

Submitted by Maggie Jungwirth, 8/12/22

Cochran Lake Management District

Quarterly Meeting Minutes

November 10, 2022

Conference call

Attendees: Rick Dittberner, Maggie/Alan Jungwirth, Warren Johnson, Rick Schwai, Don Schmidt

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm

Old business - Minutes of last meeting approved.

Board Reports -

Warren J. reported our balance is \$10,132.97 as of 10/31/22. Income included \$52.50 tax settlement from Town of Fifield, expenditures included \$21.00 for CLMD checks, \$100.00 for WI Lakes Assoc. dues.

Maggie J. requested member's directory updates with the agenda email. Several updates were sent in. Both Don Schmidt's online directory and the CLMD records directory were updated.

Agenda Item #1 - Adopt-a-Road report - Carlene B.

Carlene Bauer sent in a report and wished to thank the following people that participated in this year's annual clean up: Jon/Don Tornberg, Rick/Doreen Dittberner, Alan/Maggie Jungwirth, Rick/Pat Schwai, Carlene Bauer.

Agenda Item #2 - Response from WI Lakes re. lake markers - Maggie J.

Maggie read the email from Mike Engleson, Exec. Dir. of WI Lakes Assoc. He wrote -

"In general, lake districts have a considerable amount of liability protection...except in limited cases, the max that a district could be held liable for is 50,000. However, hazard markers need to be permitted and take that form designated by the state. (link sent to DNR marker rules) Because the state has a particular method for marking hazards, it could be that to mark them in any other way would be considered an act of negligence by a court, which could then open individuals involved in the placement to personal liability. That may be an overly cautious reading on my part, but it seems possible to me."

Rick S. commented that if we have any marker buoy, it has to be a DNR regulated danger buoy, which requires a permit from the DNR. Rick D. commented that if we mark one hazard they all need to be marked, but we haven't needed any markers in 20 years.

Agenda Item #3 - Recommendation for additional liability insurance - Rick S.

Rick S. found liabilities for lake districts have four liable areas: exposure to workman's comp, accident due to lake district activities or events, third party contracting, civil rights liability. Individual people can be sued. The lake district can be sued if these

event are taking place during lake business or activities - in those cases, district members can sue the lake district officers. If there is a suit exceeding \$50,000 (general limit with exceptions up to \$250,000 in the case of an auto accident, no limit for civil rights lawsuit), costs can be passed on to district members.

There are some immunities.

- The lake district and its officers have immunity based on discretionary acts, and can't be sued because someone doesn't like a decision.

- WI legislature passed a law that creates immunity from liability when a recreational activity is involved. That would cover all activities on the lake. If someone were to hit anything on our lake, the district has no liability for it, because they are doing a recreational activity on the lake.

If we don't mark any hazards with milk jugs, no problem, we aren't liable. If we do put up a buoy, they need to be legal and permitted, if not we can be held liable. The district can't be sued if someone is injured using our private boat landing. People can not be held liable if anyone is injured diving off their piers, due to the diving law. That would include anyone diving off the public boat landing. Liquor liability states that if liquor is served at a district function, that could be a possible liability. Third party contractors need to be insured.

The decision to purchase additional liability insurance should be based on if the cost of the insurance is justifiable for protection of their assets. If someone sued the district for \$50,000, and the district has \$10,000, that cost would be passed on to district members on their next tax bill. Also, the cost of litigation and lawyers fees, which may be substantial may be passed along. Any judgment against the lake district is added to the next tax levy.

He researched liability insurance for governing bodies, which CLMD is. He talked to Sue Mueller, Town of Fifield, and was given a contact for estimates. One estimate was for \$2,000/year, but that may be the high end of the cost range. Rick S. suggests it is worthwhile to get more estimates, and put the proposed purchase up for a vote at the Annual Meeting. Rick D. asked if Rick S. had talked to other lake districts, he had not.

Rick S. says he would be willing to pay a little more a year to protect himself against a big tax bill, should the district need to raise the current tax levy to cover insurance. He summarized by saying we should remove the markers because of the recreational immunity from the lake and get more insurance estimates so we can let the members decide on additional coverage.

Warren J. asked Rick S. if he wanted to head a committee to continue this. Rick D. suggested talking to other lake management districts and finding out what they do. Rick S. will head the committee. If anyone is interested in working with him on this, contact him at rick.schwai@gmail.com, or 715-301-0634.

Agenda Item #4 - No new business.

Motion to adjourn by Maggie J., seconded by Warren J. Adjourned at 7:36pm.

Submitted by Maggie Jungwirth, 11/13/22