



Cochran Lake Management District

(Established since 1998)

(Proposed) Mission Statement: The stewardship of Cochran Lake and its islands will be proactive by its 52 members to promote water clarity, work towards a natural self-sustaining fishery, and encourage the establishment of native birds and plants. *The stewardship of Cochran Lake District will abide by its Cochran Lake District's By-Laws to facilitate Cochran Lake District Meetings and to focus on any polluting issue(s).*

(Proposed) Harmony Mission Statement: Cochran Lake owners will preserve the natural tranquility of their surroundings so that all owners can enjoy the wind, the stars, the wildlife, and the natural flow of the waves on the lake.

Cochran Lake Meetings—Please park by the entrance to the garbage/recycling entrance. Do not park next to the entrance to Fire House Meeting Room so that these spaces can be reserved for volunteer firemen—if a fire call is activated your car may be blocked from leaving until the fire call has been terminated.

2003-2004:	1 st Quarterly Meeting:	Held on July 5, 2003—9:00 AM
2003-2004:	2 nd Quarterly Meeting:	Held on October 25 th —9:00 AM
2003-2004:	3 rd Quarterly Meeting	March 13 th —9:00 AM (Fire Hall Reserved)
2004-2005	Annual Meeting:	May 29 th —1:00 PM** (Fire Hall Reserved)
		** (Do you want a social at noon or a social/BYU lunch at noon?)

On-Going Alerts/Concerns:

- Abiding by our By-Laws of Cochran Lake District Board (2001)****
- Dry Fire Hydrant—to access water for a structure fire--especially in ice conditions
- Water Clarity***
- Make sure your boat/trailer and **Pier Service's boats** do not transport exotic species***
- Maintaining a Lake-Side Buffer Strip to Absorb Runoff and Support Wildlife**
- No-Wake Speed Limit of a maximum of 10 mph**/****
- Use Electric or Four Cycle motors whenever possible**!
- No Fireworks—including. bottle rockets!
- Phosphates*—no fertilizers & use phosphate-free soaps
- Fishery***
- Loon/Eagle—maintaining this fragile existence
- Reduce Light Pollution—turn off all outside lights when you retire for the night!
- Reduce Noise Pollution—please remember that noise will travel over water very easily—especially when a dog is barking for hours
- Support Local Politicians who buck \$ in favor of land/water conservation
- 2003 Cochran Lake's Property Tax Total = \$9,629,721—for 9 million, we need to establish our priorities for Fifield town and Price County
- 2003 WAL Convention—April 15 thru 17—agenda and registration form at <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexlakes/conventions/>
- If interested, notify Karen as the district will offset some of the hotel and conference costs—Hotel-up to \$100 and conference days @\$55 per day for up to 4 people.
- Donate cans/fish—Northwood's Wildlife—Minocqua
- Federal Tax Exempt Status--\$150.00 to apply—but needed for application for grant money to do water testing, management (newsletters), or plant identification/mapping—needed for reduced costs for mailing via US Mail

On-Going Alerts/Concerns (cont.)

E-mail addresses—notify Mary Hartung of additions/changes of your e-mail that was not published in our 2003 directory at maryagsp@hotmail.com

Directory changes--notify Mary Hartung of additions/changes of your e-mail that was not published in our 2003 directory at maryagsp@hotmail.com

Agenda—March 13th—see above—any other issues or concerns—contact Karen!

Agenda—May's Annual Meeting—Dist. Liability Insurance—do we need it for \$850 yr.?

Revision/Adoption of Mission Statements—needed for grant applications

* Melaleuca's Diamond Brite has no phosphates as opposed to all of the store-brand dishwashing detergents! ---contact Karen Boyle to order—roughly \$8.00 for a month's supply.

**See WAL's report "The Best Lake Practices" in this newsletter
(Thank you WAL for permission to duplicate this.)

*** See Cochran Lake's Committee's Reports/ Minutes in this newsletter

****If you need a copy of our by-laws contact Mary or Karen.

Exotic Alert--Pier Service's boats: In October, 2003 at least three Cochran lot owners contracted a pier service of taking out their piers; this service used a pontoon boat with a boom to lift and drag the pier onto the shore. **This pontoon was from Butternut—without a 4 cycle engine--**was observed moving piers in lower Springstead Lake, Cochran Lake, and Pike Lake Chain—all within a 4 hour period of one day! No one observed any precautions of washing down this boat or of **draining water from its motor** before it was launched into another lake! **This is a total violation of WISCONSIN LAW that dictates that all owners of boats/trailers must be proactive in the prevention of transporting exotics. To be proactive,** the DNR has given Stan the following precautions:

***remove all plant/fish from the boat & trailer,**

***drain water from equipment—boat, boat motor, trailer, trailer wheels, live wells,**

***clean and dry anything that comes into contact with the lake water,
including equipment, clothing, dogs, etc.**

***never release plants, fish, or animals into a body of water unless they
came out of that body of water. (See Grant, www.ProtectYourWaters.net)**

Stan has been working in identifying our indigenous lake plants with the DNR. **So far, Stan and the DNR have not detected any exotic plants in Cochran Lake!**

However, other nearby lakes and streams are not as fortunate! There are lakes is St. Germaine that are trying to get grants to deal with the \$million cost of trying to contain the Water Milfoil—**once Water Milfoil is introduced no amount of money will eradicate it!** It is simply an on-going cost to try to stunt its growth **before the Milfoil chokes the lake's ecosystem!** Stan has handouts and color index cards about how to recognize these invasive water milfoils from the DNR.

Stan has identified and encased dry specimens of Cochran's plants. Possibly a DNR grant could assist Stan and other volunteers to use a grid of Cochran lake to map these plants and track their growth. **Hats off to Stan for his work in identification and specimen gathering of Cochran's Lake plants!**

At our March meeting, we need to decide if we should pursue grants for water testing, plant identification, or management tasks like newsletters; and, if we are to apply for grants, we need to prioritize our requests as their maybe a ceiling of only one grant per district per year. But, to apply for these grants, we need to have a tax-exempt status. To apply for a tax-exempt status, Cochran Lake must submit Federal Form #8718 and #SS-4, a copy of our bank statements, our by-laws, our mission statement, and \$150 application fee. A tax-exempt status would allow us to apply for grants, mail at a reduced rate, and make district purchases w/o paying any tax.

Any input/concerns about which grants to pursue or whether to seek a tax-exempt status, contact any of your officers or committee chairs.

Dry Fire Hydrant

At our last October meeting, Manny Stein told us that Town \$ were available for a Dry Fire Hydrant on Cochran Lake. A Dry Fire Hydrant would allow firefighters to access water during ice conditions to put out structure fires. Manny strongly encouraged us to find a lot owner willing to talk to him about having a Dry Fire Hydrant on their property. During ice conditions, Pike Lake Firefighters have equipment to haul onto the ice and pump water; but this is not time-efficient. Manny is strongly recommending a Dry Fire Hydrant.

Lot Roads—Firefighters Access

Pike Lake Firefighters are starting to label driveways as to whether their equipment can reach your home via your road. The ideal road would be wide enough for their trucks and have a turn-around at your home. A red sticker on your fire number will signify that your road may not accommodate a fire truck—especially during the winter with a snow piles narrowing your road.

Manny, or any Pike Lake Firefighter, can assist you with evaluating your road. (Tom Loewe “Suma”, Loewe Excavating, is a Pike Lake Firefighter as well as contracting with us to plow our snow. He can, also, advise you on whether your road can accommodate fire trucks. You can call Suma at (715) 762-2642.)

The following are minutes recorded by Carlene from our last October meeting:

ATTENDEES: Board Members – Karen Boyle, Carlene Bauer, Mary Kaminski, County Rep. Butch Lobermeir, Fire Chief Manny Stein, Town Chairman Doug Noetzel, 13 Land Owners and Fidelity Insurance Rep. Wendy Bjork

Wendy Bjork – Fidelity Insurance

Wendy gave an overview of two different policies the Lake District will continue to review

Adopt a Highway

Greg reported the following:

- 6 Families helped with the fall clean-up
- Greg recommended only a spring clean-up

Fishery

Frank reported the following

- Productivity is down
- Stan Kaminski caught a Walleye 2 weeks ago
- Bass population has come down
- Bluegills are getting smaller
- Northern are getting bigger
- Crappies are getting stunted
- Will shock the lake again next year
- Frank will check on stocking walleyes

Plants

Stan reported the following

- No exotics were found
- Book is being put together
- Lake map will show where the plants
- Plants are very healthy
- Looking for help with a grid map
- Fish cribs might not be needed because of the weeds
- DNR has lake protection grant money available

- When fishing and weeds are on the line it was recommended not to throw the weeds back since they can grow again
- Reminder that boats need to be cleaned before it goes into a lake
 - Signage will be posted at the landing

Public Relations

Mary Kaminski will give a informational package to new land owners that will include the directory, covenants, etc.

Water Quality

George prepared a written report since he was out of town

- Water clarity at 10 feet
- Not as clear as other years probably due to lack of snow
- Lake level is low due to lack of snow from last winter, and the lack of rain this summer and fall

Old Business

- Fireworks were found floating in the water – bottle rockets are worse
- Melaleuca products can be ordered through Karen
- WAL meeting Lake District will pay up to 4 people to attend conference. Conference fee and \$100.00 for hotel or meals will be available.
- Cochran sign at the corner of Cy's and Springstead will not be replaced at this time. Will be addressed at the Annual meeting

(Thanks Carlene for the above minutes—Also, note that Carelene submits these minutes usually within a week to Don to update our district website at

<http://wave.prohosting.com/cochran1>

Thanks Don for updating and maintaining this website!

For our Ice-Fishermen/Fisherwomen:

Franklin is recommending the following:

- Take out Bluegills and Sunfish
- Take Bass out that are 11-14 inches
- DNR recommends to take out all Northern

Cochran's Adopt a Highway

The following members did the **2003 Fall Clean Up** of our adopted roads:

Ray & Diane Korinek,	Frank & Nancy Sevcik,
Francis & Karen Boyle,	Ray & Judy Schave,
George Rasmussen, and	Greg Yorton.

Website

Remember, Donald Schmitz has secured a no-charge website for the district,

<http://wave.prohosting.com/cochran1> -- make sure the "1" is the last digit.

Board Members:

Karen Boyle, President, boyleka@mail.milwaukee.k12.wi.us
Carlene Bauer, Secretary, gbbauers1@juno.com
Mary Kaminski, Treasurer, skaminski@nconnect.net
Butch Lobermeier, County Rep, lcd@co.price.wi.us
Neal Zierba, Town Rep

Committee Chairs:

Frank Sevcik, Fishery, nsevcik@pctnet.net
George Rasmussen, Water Quality, rasmu@pctnet.net
Stan Kmiecik, Lake Plants
Greg Yorton, Multi-Committee & Adopt a Highway
Mary Hartung & Mary Kaminski, Public Relations, skaminski@nconnect.net
Mary Hartung, Directory, Maryagsp@hotmail.com
Donald Schmitz, Web Site, donS@tx.surgery.wisc.edu

WAL's February, 2004 newsletter is now on line.

Go to <http://www.wisconsinlakes.org> and click on **e-lake letter**.

CC to:

Manny Stein, Fire Chief
Doug Noetzel, Town Chairman
Jack Wierzba, Town Supervisor
Leo & Susan Kalmerton, Coordinator of Pike Lake Meeting Hall
Bill Sullivan, Park Falls Chequamegon-Nicolet Forest Sup.
Linda Tiry, Sales Rep. For Melaleuca, tiry@iglide.net

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(Proposed) Harmony Mission Statement: Cochran Lake owners will preserve the natural tranquility of their surroundings so that all owners can enjoy the wind, the stars, the wildlife, and the natural flow of the waves on the lake.

Cochran Lake Meeting: Pike Lake Fire Hall.

2004-2005:	1 st Quarterly Meeting:	Held on July 3, 2003—9:00 AM
2004-2005: Reserved)	2 nd Quarterly Meeting:	October 9 th —9:00 AM (Fire Hall
2004-2005:	3 rd Quarterly Meeting	to be scheduled—last yr was in March
2005-2006	Annual Meeting:	to be scheduled—last yr. was May 29 th (Must be between May 22 and Sept 8 per WI Act 27

On-Going Alerts/Concerns:

Fishery/Phosphorous

Skip Summerfeld, DNR's Fishery Manager, will be at our October 9th meeting to share his expertise about Cochran Lake's fishery—especially the trends of fishery and Cochran Lake's habitat as evidence through annual spring lake shockings. (Frank Sevcik—thank you for arranging this.)

If you cannot attend—e-mail or contact Karen Boyle or Frank Sevcik with your questions for Skip. It seems that year after year, members have voiced a concern for the district to ask DNR to stock walleyes; and, if DNR cannot finance this stocking, then the district would propose this as a budget item at its annual meeting. Frank has reported that Cochran Lake's history is that it has been classified as a first class Bass lake. However, "old timers" have told us that besides bass, Cochran Lake was known for its perch. These "old timers" would relate stories how they would be able to see the perch and the bass several feet ahead of their lure before they struck it—due to the water clarity and the absence of weeds.

Our water clarity seems to be holding constant—thanks to our members who are maintaining their 35 ft. no-cut buffer zone adjacent to the lake, restoring a shoreline by replacing grass with plants like ferns and trees, observing the maximum 10 mph speed limit w/o causing a shoreline or pier wake, using electric or four-cycle engines, and the refusal to use any phosphorous product—especially dishwashing detergent sold in food stores!

Remember, besides non-phosphorous dish washing detergent sold at green stores, Karen Boyle and Letty Rasmussen will sell you a non-phosphorous automatic dish washing detergent, Diamond Brite, for \$7.00. If interested, you can buy Diamond Brite at our meetings or call them for other arrangements. Remember all store brands of automatic dish washing detergents have phosphorous; and, even a small amount of

phosphorous in the lake will reduce water clarity and cause algae blooms. Phosphorous is, also, in lawn and plant fertilizers. But, stores do have non-phosphorous fertilizers—but they are **not** clearly labeled. So, you need to deal with a knowledgeable dealer—or better yet avoid all fertilizers until Price County joins Dane County in banning all phosphorous fertilizers!

Thanks to George Rasmussen, we have a yearly water clarity and phosphorus data testing from 1998—when our district was approved by the Price County Supervisors. George has repeatedly reminded us that neither the ground nor our septic systems can block or remove any phosphate product. Cochran Lake is a seepage lake; therefore whatever we put in the water table will go into Cochran Lake and stay.

According to the 2004 WAL Convention notes (Cochran Lake handout, Annual Meeting 2004, p.5), it takes roughly 8 - 30 years for ground water contamination to reach the water table. With sandy soil like Cochran Lake, it could be as little as 8 years before any contamination would reach the water table.

However, remember, any state-wide ban on phosphorous has exempt agriculture and dish washing detergents. (But, Dane County in WI now has a ban on using any phosphorous lawn fertilizer.) It would be an interesting research as to define what are the surrounding boundaries effecting Cochran Lake's water table. And, then the question would be to Price County Supervisors why is agriculture exempt when there are alternatives to using phosphate fertilizers or phosphate cleaning agents? In fact, according to speakers at the WAL Convention, if a soil test would be done, none of Wisconsin farm lands or lawns would need any phosphate additive.

Hail Storm—April 16, 2004

Have you checked your roof yet for damage?

On April 16th, baseball size hail damaged several roofs and cars on Cochran Lake. To date, there are at least five homes that needed to be re-roofed and several cars were damaged so extensively that insurance companies wrote them off as a total loss.

Eurasian Watermilfoil found again in Lake Minocqua

Laura Herman, DNR water quality specialist, has discovered the milfoil while boating on Minocqua Lake. Laura said, "We are still definitely a mild case, but we don't want it to get any worse." She estimated that the plants cover less than five acres. (The Lakeland Times, Vol. 113, Issue 40, July 30, 2004, p. 1) According to this article, Eurasian water milfoil was originally discovered in Lake Minocqua in 2000. But, the cost of trying to "control" Eurasian Watermilfoil is at least \$six figures—if a matching grant is awarded. For example, St Germain up here and Lake Delevan in the southern part of WI are using matching grants for mechanical harvesting and/or chemical treatments to control Eurasian water milfoil—they provide \$six figures and the grant provides \$six figures. Part of this expensive cost, according to the above article is because of the mechanical harvesting equipment and the expertise to identify Eurasian Watermilfoil; Eurasian Watermilfoil has a leaf with a condensed 12- 21 leaflet pairs as opposed to the native species of watermilfoil that has less than 8 leaflet widely spread. The other choice of control is a chemical application—but this cost surpasses the harvesting cost! And, the only optimism is to "control" Eurasian Watermilfoil because once it is established in a lake—it will be there forever! (The above article has an excellent picture comparing the native watermilfoil to the invasive Eurasian Watermilfoil—possibly the DNR could reproduce this. Karen will, also, check if Lakeland Times will allow us to e-mail this photo to you with the caution of needed memory to view it.)

However, the **scariest implication** of this report was that the **discovery of Eurasian Watermilfoil was by chance! Laura was on Minocqua Lake doing a survey of their loons!**

On Cochran Lake, Stan Kaminski with the help of Laura Herman in the Summer of 2003 has set-up a base line data of our native plants—so far Cochran Lake does not have any Eurasian Watermilfoil!

But, for how much longer??? What about pier removal service—do they adhere to "Clean Boats/Clean Waters even though this is a WI Statute to do so?

Communicating and following "**Clean Boats/Clean Waters**"'s guidelines for **boats** and for our **pets** has to be a **priority!** Otherwise, boating in other lakes or allowing our dogs to swim in other lakes could transmit **Eurasian Watermilfoil** to Cochran Lake!

In view that Cochran Lake has a walk-in public boat landing, we need to work with the DNR to educate our neighbors about these issues; one way would possibly having a grant for the cost of producing our newsletters and sharing them with our neighbors; hopefully, this grant would develop an educational and communication channel with our neighbors to prevent the spread of Eurasian Watermilfoil and address ground water pollution like **Phosphates!**

Grant Applications—We need your input!—The following are possible grant applications:

Newsletter/Communications—expand to our neighbors—especially within our water table impact
Water Quality Testing—\$ for the Spring and Fall Testing of \$175 twice a year or expand testing
Native Plants Mapping—including cycles of past and present inhabitation
History of Cochran Lake and the Cochran Lake Management District
Other proposals?

Cochran's Adopt a Highway

Thank you for your on-going pick-up of our roads. Because of your efforts, we will **not** do a Fall Clean-up. But, in the Spring we will need your help!

Cochran Lake's Website <http://sky.prohosting.com/cochran2>

Keep informed— minutes are posted within two weeks of our meetings!

Board Members:
Karen Boyle, President, boyleka@centurytel.net
Mary Hartung, Secretary, Maryagsp@hotmail.com
Mary Kaminski, Treasurer, skaminski@nconnect.net
Butch Lobermeier, County Rep, lcd@co.price.wi.us
Neal Zierba, Town Rep

Committee Chairs:
Frank Sevcik, Fishery, nsevcik@pctcnet.net
George Rasmussen, Water Quality, rasmu@centurytel.net
Stan Kmiecik, Lake Plants
Greg Yorton, Multi-Committee & Adopt a Highway
Mary Hartung & Mary Kaminski, Public Relations, skaminski@nconnect.net
Mary Hartung, Directory, maryagsp@hotmail.com
Donald Schmitz, Web Site, dons@surgery.wisc.edu

Quarterly Meeting—Saturday— October 9th at 9:00 AM
(Pike Lake Fire Station's Meeting Room)

Agenda—Please bring this copy to our meeting:

Karen Boyle, President

Facilitator--District By-Laws/Proposals