

2019 Cochran Lake District Newsletter

Secretary's Report

by Rich Halfpap

It's been an interesting year that's for sure. Not the usual secretary report.

The District has been running without a President since late September. I looked for the Bylaws to see how this situation was addressed in writing. Turns out there was no copy in the secretary's files. So after fumbling around for a while I was able to get my hands on a copy.

It's interesting reading as long as you have a cup of black coffee handy otherwise you may doze off in the process. I learned a few things that I either forgot or did not know to begin with. How can you forget something you never knew in the first place?

For instance:

1. No matter how many lots you own, you only have one vote.
2. Joint owners, you only have one vote so you better agree on it. Husbands and wives - What are the chances of that?
3. All voting has to be done at the annual meeting or any special meetings called by the board. If there are multiple people running for office it has to be done on a secret ballot. I don't recall that we have ever had that situation. Ours have all been single person candidates, unanimous votes, imagine that.
4. Any changes to the Bylaws: "These Bylaws may be approved and/or amended by a vote of two-thirds of the members of the district present and voting at a meeting duly call for such purpose." So if such a meeting is called and only 3 people show, and two vote one way and one votes the other, the two govern and that becomes gospel. Wow!
5. Quarterly meetings need only be for the officers. There is no requirement to have others in the meeting or on the call. So technically only Warren and I need be in the meeting. But with all the activities and committees I think it's appropriate to invite all District members to the meeting.
6. The input I got from the Tri Lakes district to our south, is that these Bylaws are a trickle down from State laws that govern municipal waste and water districts. Tri Lakes for instance has one director living on each lake, which doesn't fit our situation

SAVE THE DATE

Cochran Lake Management District Annual Meeting Saturday, May 25

8AM - Pike Lake Fire Station

If you would like to bring finger food for the meeting, please let Mary Kaminski know. She will bring coffee, cream, sugar and cups.

at all. Our Bylaws call for a Board of Directors, "...of no more than 5 persons", having a three year term. Then it goes on to define Officers as a president, secretary and treasurer with a term of one year. "Officers are to be elected by the Board of Directors." "Officers may but are not required to be, members of the board." We do have two board members from county/town government so I would interpret that to be how we get our five board members. But our officers are elected by the District members not the Board. So this trickle down of state statutes fits our situation like a square peg in a round hole.

The biggie was what to do to replace an officer. The Bylaws prohibit one person to hold two or more offices. Here's the wording "Vacancies. In the event of a vacancy on the Board due to death or resignation, the remaining members of the Board shall appoint a successor to fill the vacancy until the next election of the Board members." That would mean that our Treasurer Warren Johnson and I should be appointing someone. I brought that up on the last quarterly call and no one stepped forward. Lots of luck.

So I have been holding the required quarterly meetings on conference calls and will continue to do so. I will also lead the 2019 annual meeting.

During the annual meeting we will be voting on the position of Secretary as my 3 year term expires after the next annual meeting.

The 600 pound gorilla in the room is the office of President and having someone run for that position.

I will be proposing that the term for the next President be for only one year. My reasoning is that we have gotten away from one position open for each annual meeting. Mark Luoma graciously picked up an extra year (4), awaiting Scott Craven's schedule to clear the following year. Having a one year term would put us back in sync but it also means we would have a Presidential vote two years in a row. My thought is a 2019 vote for a one year term President and then another vote for President in 2020 and that would be a 3 year term. So that is up for discussion during our annual meeting.

The other hot topic is what to do about the gate to our private boat launch. If you have been on the quarterly calls or read the minutes of those meetings you know that we have had two locks stolen. The first stolen one was promptly replaced. Shortly thereafter the second one was stolen. Hard to believe. So come to the annual meeting prepared to discuss what to do about that. During the quarterly calls we were discussing that it may be possible to weld a captive lock to the gate such that it will unlatch but not be removable from the gate itself.

Another discussion was to move the gate all the way to the lakefront. The fire department would be able to drive right up to the lakefront to expedite water replenishment. That would act to keep large vehicles off the ice. Moving the gate is not an easy task. As you know that gate system is solidly grounded and would require a "big dig" to move it and reinstall. All these are expenses to the District.

If you were at that last annual meeting you know that Maggie Jungwirth correctly pointed out that our communication situation is marginal at best. I am still trying to get a complete set of email addresses for all owners who have internet service. There are 6 owners not on the email list as of 2/21. So I sent them a letter in the US mail asking that if they have internet service please share your address with us. We want all the communications to as many people as possible via internet and save the postage. I have asked those people to reply to my email address. We'll see what we get.

Anyone up to discussing restocking Walleyes? It appears that the walleye population is not sustaining in our lake. We'll know more after a shocking. Perhaps we are feeding the northern pike. At the last annual meeting we were told that the area State fish manager thought it was a mistake in the first place and would not allow it again. Are we willing to accept that as final? I for one, am not. Come prepared to discuss it at the annual meeting.

The annual meeting will once again be at the firehouse, on the Saturday before Memorial Day. That date is May 25th at 8 AM.

See you then,
Rich

Town of Pike Lake Proposal Update

by Create Town of Pike Lake Committee

Postponement of Petition

For the past 6 months we have been engaged in an effort to create a new Town of Pike Lake. During this time we have met and talked with many of you, conducted 2 informational meetings, and listened to your concerns and suggestions. Although we firmly believe our proposal is the right choice, we also decided to pursue a Contingency Plan of working within the existing Town Government. As a result, Frank Sevcik and Warren Johnson put their names on the ballot for Town Chairman and Town Supervisor, respectively.

We realize some of you were passionate for the new town, some questioned whether it was a sound decision financially, some worried about the impact on the Fifield citizens left behind, and some were happy with our current state and saw no reason to make a change. Some (including our committee) thought it was unfair not to include property owners who voted elsewhere, but unfortunately we had to follow the State Statutes. We know that some of you will be upset with this postponement, but rest assured we will continue the fight to correct our concerns with the current situation regarding the Pike Lake area.

We are not done asking for your support. During the last 6 months we have studied the current governing policies of the town as well as immediate road issues concerning the Squaw Creek Culvert and Twin Lakes Road. We have had unofficial meetings with the Forest Service and the Tribe. We firmly believe that significantly more cost effective solutions can be quickly implemented. We also believe new town operating procedures are required to guarantee a better return on our tax dollars. In order to effect these changes, we need a completely new Town Board. Therefore, we are asking you to get out and vote on **April 2nd**. In addition to Frank and Warren, we believe Bonnie Salm would also make an excellent Town Supervisor and help implement the changes necessary to fairly govern the entire Town.

Lastly, we would like to thank all of you who put time and effort, either pro or con, in discussing and debating this issue. We believe the Town of Fifield will be the winner in the end.

Create Town of Pike Lake Committee
Warren Johnson, Jessica Loewe, Rick Schwai,
Frank Sevcik

Annual Newsletter Emailed

by Maggie Jungwirth

Hopefully you are reading this newsletter on your screen. We have sent this year's annual newsletter by email instead of US mail for several reasons. Moving forward, we want to communicate with our district through email, and it also saves the postage and printing costs. It will be posted on the Google Group as well, which should get forwarded to your inbox, unless you opted out of that function.

For neighbors who don't get this email, we will continue to try to maintain everybody's current email address. Please help us by making sure we have your current email address. Ask your neighbors when you see them if they got the annual newsletter, and if not, share yours.

Adopt a Road

by Ray Schave

When the snow finally melts, and we have some resemblance of spring, I will make a request for Cochran Lake District volunteers to help clean up our 8.5 miles of local roads that we sponsor through the Adopt A Road program.

Thanks to the following members who participated in last year's spring and fall clean-up.

Dan & Jane Moldenhauer
Mark & Myra Le Grand
Scott & Candee Craven
Mike & Pat Buckna
Warren Johnson & Sandy Dickinson
Rick & Pat Schwai
Sig & Mary Kaminski
Ray & Judy Schave

If anyone would like to participate, please contact Ray Schave. I have plastic bags and vests for those who would like them. In between times, to keep our roads clean and attractive, if you see some litter please stop and pick it up.

2018 Loon Saga

by Pat Schwai



Mark Luoma Photo

Photo by Mark Luoma

Let me open by saying that without Mark Luoma's keen observations, this report would be sorely lacking. Fortunately for us, Mark also beautifully captures images of our Common Loons and shares them through the Cochran Lake Google Group. Thank you, Mark!

If you think the life of a loon is one of tranquility, you would be mistaken.

Their lives are challenged by disease (lead poisoning from fishing tackle), predation (from above and below the water's surface) and nest loss (from rain and wave action). We all know they don't need the added burden of human interference (boat wakes, close encounters.)

After an extremely late ice-out, the experts feared the nesting cycle would be negatively affected. Expecting there would be no time for a second nest, fewer chicks were anticipated.

"Our" (more on that later) loons arrived on May 3, one day before full ice out. Seeing and hearing them is a joy we cannot take for granted. When Mark spotted the nest on June 1, our hope for a chick soared. But five days later, after being harassed by an immature Bald Eagle, both loons were observed swimming and bill-dipping with a third loon. This is not what one would expect from a strong pair bond. Happily, our loon pair did settle in to tending the nest.

As you may recall, June was a very rainy month. As the lake level rose, the threat of losing the nest was very real. On June 14, Mark noted that the loons had reinforced the nest with grasses and fallen leaves from the lake bottom, a behavior new to both of us.

As the hatch date approached, Scott Craven observed a Bald Eagle making a direct dive toward the nesting loon. The loon screamed a warning before slipping to safety in the water. The eagle proceeded to land near the nest. Call it coincidence or providence, but a doe and fawn, seeking a drink, emerging from the trees, scared off the eagle.

Three days later, on June 28, we had a chick! Mark promptly captured the baby nestled on the parent's back. Success!

Through mid-August, the two parents devoted themselves to raising their chick while the Bald Eagle continued to harass them. The chick thrived, morphing from a fluffy "ping-pong ball" into a sleek juvenile.

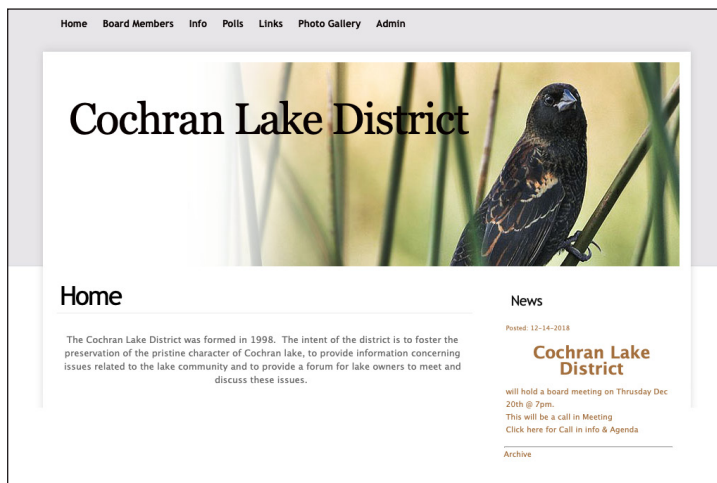
The adult male departed on August 20th. The juvenile practiced his wing exercises in preparation for leaving with its mom on September 24.

Seeing Mark's photo of their departure was bittersweet.

Mark and I both agreed that what we presume is the female loon has returned to Cochran Lake multiple years, hence "our" loon. Mark had photos of her bands which I sent to Dr. Walter Piper, a renowned Common Loon researcher who spends his summer in Wisconsin. One leg bore a reddish-toned band. Was it originally red or orange or pinkish before it faded over time? Dr. Piper was unable to provide a definitive answer. It would have been interesting to learn when and where "our" loon hatched (i.e. natal lake). Assuming "our" loon returns, Mark and I will work to get answers.

Website Report

by Don Schmitz



The Lake District maintains two separate email lists:

1. The Directory is a list of lake owners names, address, phone & email address. This information is available in a printable version via the website under the info tab. The information is only updated when owners inform me that something has changed.
2. Google Group is a list of lake owners email address that have requested they be added to this group this does not happen automatically. This distribution list is used to notify owners of meetings and issues that pertain to Cochran Lake and should be only used for lake activities. You must be a member of this group to send and receive email, only members are allowed to interact with the Google Group (security).

Owners would normally be in both groups but some have requested to be omitted from one or both. If you have modifications to the directory or would like to be added to the Google Group you will need to email me at dons@surgey.wisc.edu.

2018-2019 Fishing Report

by Sig Kaminski

Well, last year was an up and down year. Fishing was good some days, then not so great the next. But the water did a great job of cleaning itself up, along with the help of the water quality team members.

The biggest Bass I heard of was 21.5", Northern 40" + on the ice, open water was 36". Walleye, open water was 28.5", Crappie, open water was 15". The Northern on the ice, walleye, crappie and bass were all put back into the lake. The Northern, 36" was caught by my grandson age 10. He had a free mount coming that was won at the Fire Department event in September, 2016. We will have pictures of it at the fishing tournament this summer.

Ice fishing this year started out slow, then picked up for a short time. The cold shut it down for a number of weeks. 01/29/19, ice 22 inches deep. Temp. -6 .

2019 Fishing Contest

This year's fishing contest will be on **July 6th, Saturday**. Fishing from 7am to 10am. Check in from 10:30am to 11:00am. Lunch starts at 11am. Fish prizes handed out around 11:15am.

Note; one new change in the first place winners. You can only win one fish category. But you do have the right to pick what prize you want if you catch the biggest fish in more than one category. The 2nd place winner of the category you did not choose will then win that prize. Release all fish. No live bait.

Please call Mary or Sig at 715-762-1823. Or 715-661-3816. The cost is still \$10 per person. Everyone gets a door prize, if you fish, or not. This is a fun get together for the lake owners and any guests they have. Soda, water, hot dogs, brats, and hamburgers all at the cost of \$10. Bring your own beer, if you want to. Please let us know, thru the Google group what you are bringing to pass, so all can see what is being brought.

The entry form is at the end of the newsletter.

Welcome to Cochran Lake

By Mark Luoma



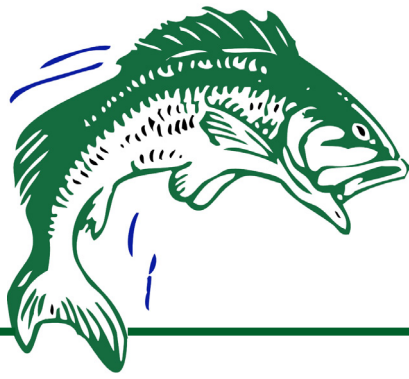
Welcome to all of our new lake neighbors. We are all fortunate to own property on such a quiet, pristine, clear body of water. Cochran Lake is truly a one-of-a-kind treasure in the Northwoods and a special place for nature lovers and photographers. We have some of the most beautiful sunrises and sunsets that can be experienced, especially on calm mornings and evenings.

In addition, we are so lucky to be surrounded by the Chequamegon/Nicolet National Forest and to be able to enjoy viewing the wildlife that live their lives around our homes. Some of the creatures that can be seen and photographed are bears, deer, badgers, bobcats, coyotes, wolves, snowshoe hares, cottontails, porcupines, red squirrels, grey squirrels, flying squirrels, loons, bald eagles, ospreys, ducks, trumpeter swans, geese, blue herons, ruffed grouse, woodcocks, and numerous varieties of small birds that can be seen visiting feeders and searching for meals in our yards. Last summer a loon chick hatched and provided many of us with countless hours of viewing entertainment. This isn't always the case as weather and predators have prevented this from happening most years. Should we be lucky to have another successful loon hatch this coming summer, please respect the loon parents and young one(s). Keep your distance, but by all means, take your camera with you and zoom in to get pictures.

For those of you who enjoy fishing, we who have owned property and/or lived on the lake for many years have attempted to maintain the high quality of our lake's water by allowing the natural vegetation to grow along our shorelines as well as improving our fish populations. While we have had some rather lean times when the fish populations have struggled, we have made progress in enhancing the opportunities to catch decent sized fish in the last number of years. Much of our success has resulted from lake owners and their guests practicing catch and release or limiting the number of fish that have been harvested. Because Cochran Lake is small, approximately 110 acres, it is quite easy to seriously damage the fish populations by over harvesting. Catching fish is a lot of fun, especially for the young ones. Not catching fish isn't.

I hope that you enjoy your time on Cochran Lake.





Cochran Lake Fishing Contest

Fishing **July 6th** Rain or Shine ~ 7am to 10:00 am.

Register fish from 10:30am to 11am

Lunch starting at 11:00

Prizes at 11am for biggest fish of each species

At Sig & Mary Kaminski's Lot #1 715-762-1823

Please keep track of all fish boated.

Name: _____

Type of fish: Release all fish, no live bait.

	Size	Time	Bait
Walleye	_____	_____	_____
Northern	_____	_____	_____
Panfish	_____	_____	_____
Bass	_____	_____	_____

2019 Cochran Lake District Newsletter

Water Quality Report

by Rick Schwai

In 2018 we continued two main programs. We participated in the Barley Straw Program and the Citizen Lake Monitoring Network (CLMN) program. The following is a summary of these two programs.

Barley Straw Program

The 2018 Barley Straw Program was the second year that we installed bails of barley straw to combat the algae problem. In 2018 we increased the number of bags from 100 to 150. The installation of the bags was delayed by about 2 weeks due to the late ice out but was still completed within 30 days of ice out. With the delayed installation and the extended warm weather in September, we left the bags in the lake for approximately 2 extra weeks but still completed removal by October 1st. Preliminary observations were very favorable. The amount of algae was significantly reduced from previous years. Despite the very hot summer, the overall water quality was considered to be very good.

We have decided not to install barley straw in 2019. We want to observe the impact of withholding the installation to see if the algae problem has been resolved or will we need future applications.

CLMN Program

In 2018 we participated in the Citizen Lake Monitoring Program for the second straight year. This program combines Secchi and Temperature Readings gathered by us with Phosphorus and Chlorophyll analysis performed by the State Labs in Madison, WI.

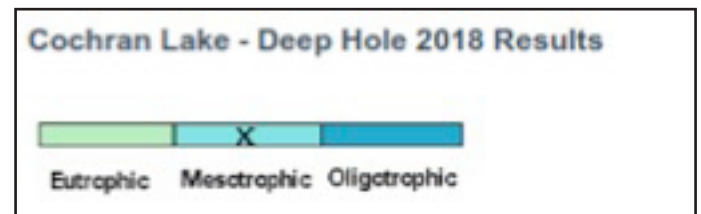
Compared to 2017, the summer of 2018 was an extremely hot summer. The lake water temperature readings reflected the air temperatures. The highest recorded water temperature in 2018 was 81.5 degrees compared to a 2017 high of 78.8 degrees. The lake water also stayed warmer over a longer period of time with 2018 readings of 71.9 at the end of August versus 69.0 for the same date in 2017.

The Secchi readings tend to vary inversely to water temperature. Therefore, the warmer the water the smaller the Secchi readings. In 2018 the lowest Secchi reading was 7.75 feet while in 2017 the lowest Secchi

reading was 9.75 feet. Therefore, you may have noticed that the water was less clear but warmer in 2018.

The Phosphorus Readings in 2018 were approximately 2.5% lower than in 2017 while the Chlorophyll readings were approximately 10% higher. However, the actual values of both measurements continued to be in the standards for our type of lake.

The official results were as follows:



Cochran Lake - Deep Hole was sampled 23 different days during the 2018 season. Parameters sampled included:

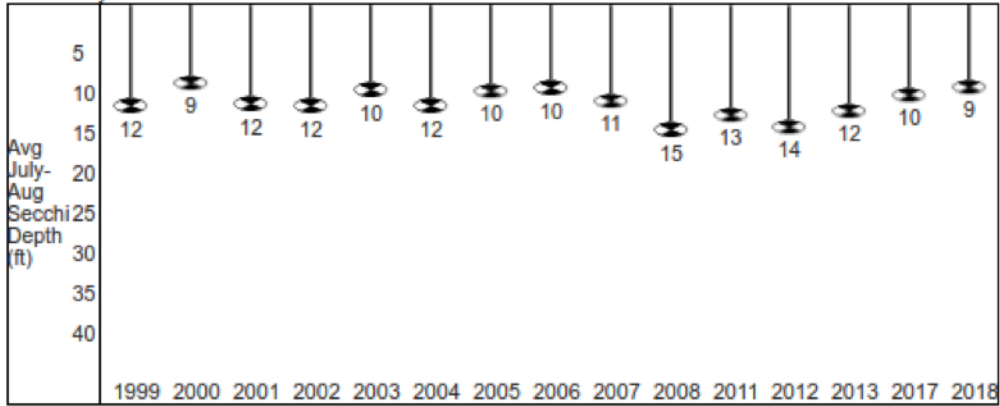
- water clarity
- temperature
- dissolved oxygen
- total phosphorus
- chlorophyll

The average summer (July-Aug) secchi disk reading for Cochran Lake - Deep Hole (Price County, WBIC: 2264000) was 9.46 feet. The average for the Nornt summer chlorophyll readings average less than 9 ug/l, this lake may have been impacted by another factor, such as suspended marl. An example of this is Clark Lake in Door County.

Chemistry data was collected on Cochran Lake - Deep Hole. The average summer Chlorophyll was 4 µg/l (compared to a Northwest Georegion summer average of 16.1 µg/l). The summer Total Phosphorus average was 10.4 µg/l. Lakes that have more than 20 µg/l and impoundments that have more than 30 µg/l of total phosphorus may experience noticeable algae blooms.

The overall Trophic State Index (based on chlorophyll) for Cochran Lake - Deep Hole was 45. The TSI suggests that Cochran Lake - Deep Hole was mesotrophic. Mesotrophic lakes are characterized by moderately clear water, but have an increasing chance of low dissolved oxygen in deep water during the summer

Cochran Lake
Price County
Waterbody Number: 2264000

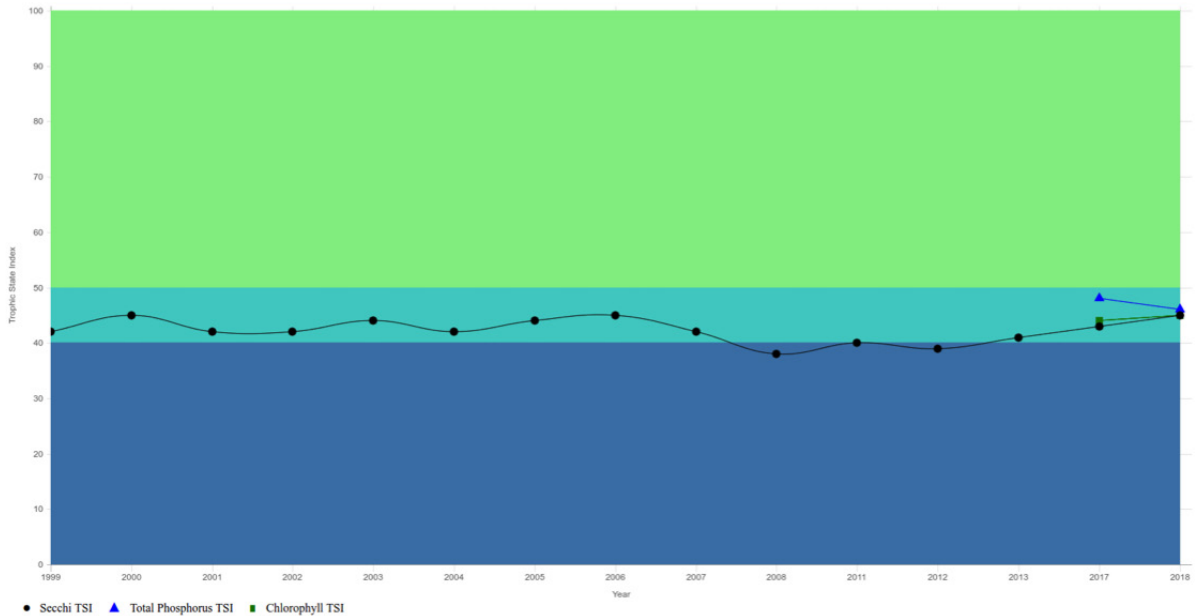


Past secchi averages in feet (July and August only).

Year	Secchi Mean	Secchi Min	Secchi Max	Secchi Count
1999	11.7	9.5	13	5
2000	9	7.5	12.5	4
2001	11.67	11	12	3
2002	11.75	11.5	12	2
2003	9.83	9	10.5	3
2004	11.75	11	12.5	2
2005	10	9	11	2
2006	9.5	8	11.5	3
2007	11.25	10	12.5	2
2008	14.75	14.5	15	2
2011	13	11	15	2
2012	14.33	14	15	3
2013	12.33	10	14	3
2017	10.41	7.5	13	8
2018	9.46	7.75	11.25	6

Report Generated: 02/25/2019

Trophic State Index Graph: Cochran Lake - Deep Hole - Price County



The CLMN program will continue in 2019.