

MINUTES QUARTERLY MEETING
PINE LAKE PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT
May 31, 2008

The meeting called to order by Chairman Jenkins. Commissioners Pfeiffer, Ketterer and Ziesmann were present.

Chairman Jenkins indicated that the District will retain Krueger to perform e-coli testing during the summer months. 3 locations on the Lake will be tested every two weeks for the months of June, July and August. Cost is capped at \$640.

Chairman Jenkins indicated he had spoken with Ed Walder, a professional weedcutter. Mr. Walder quoted a cost of \$125 per hour to perform cut the weeds. Mr. Walder indicated he could cut approximately 1 acre per hour. Chairman Jenkins said that Brad Roost had indicated we would need to cut approximately 30 acres to clear navigation lanes.

Commissioner Ketterer indicated the insurance on the District's weedcutter had been paid. She also indicated that the District could not get a partial year's policy, but that we could cancel the policy and get a partial refund if desired.

Commissioner Ketterer indicated that she had spoken with the DNR and they informed her they would issue a cutting permit this year without an approved Lake Management Plan. The DNR said that the permit application must specify where how much the District intends to cut. Chairman Jenkins told the DNR the District would be submitting a cutting permit application. The DNR indicated that the District could pick up floating weeds, and they were not sure whether a permit would be required.

Chairman Jenkins indicated that Kevin Gauthier from the DNR had called him on April 15th and said that all plant samples the District had submitted to the DNR were confirmed to be hybrid milfoil.

Commissioner Ketterer indicated that the DNR told her that they were not convinced that hybrid milfoil is an invasive.

Chairman Jenkins indicated he has spoken with Mike Volgestein in the DNR fisheries regarding stocking. The District was supposed to receive 88,000 fingerling walleyes but did not due to the virus outbreak. The District is now scheduled to receive 58,450 fingerlings (about 1 to 1 ½ inches long). Chairman Jenkins noted that the survival rate for such fingerlings is about 1 percent.

The District met with the DNR on May 14th in Reinlander. Brad Roost was not informed of the meeting time and was therefore unable to attend. Commissioner Ketterer and Tom Votis attended the meeting on behalf of the District. Commissioner Ketterer gave the following report regarding the meeting with DNR:

- Kevin Gauthier, Lindsey Watch, and Tim Asplund attended on behalf of the DNR.
- The District raised concerns regarding the lack of communication with the DNR.
- The District's Lake Management Plan (LMP) was reviewed by a state review committee in December, 2007.
- The DNR requested that additional information be included in the LMP. When informed that the District had already submitted much of the information DNR is requesting, the DNR responded that they wanted the information in the LMP.
- The DNR is not convinced that there is a weed problem in Pine Lake. They are not convinced that hybrid milfoil is an invasive.
- It was noted that other lakes in the area may have less than 10 acres of milfoil, while Pine Lake has over 300 acres.
- The DNR questioned what would replace poisoned plants if the District conducted a large-scale chemical treatment.
- DNR suggested looking at other alternatives such as weevils. Chairman Jenkins noted that weevils have not been proven to be effective and questioned whether it would make sense to spend money on this alternative.
- DNR requested a map showing the location and density of weeds. Again, it was noted that this information had already been provided to DNR.
- DNR also requested dissolved oxygen profiles and a complete fishery history.
- DNR inquired whether the LMP reflects public input. Commissioner Ketterer indicated the District had conducted a public survey in 2005, which was provided to DNR, and that weed management options were addressed in the survey. DNR suggested that the District perform another survey and Commissioner Ketterer indicated that the District did not see a need to conduct a new survey. It was noted that 224 out of 400 surveys were returned to the District.
- DNR indicated that Pine Lake is a very large, complicated lake that will likely require multiple actions.
- DNR questioned whether the District is interested in nuisance control or a comprehensive plan to restore the condition of the lake. If the District chooses a comprehensive restoration plan, the DNR indicated it could take 2 to 3 years to approve a plan. In addition, DNR indicated such a plan would require substantial voluntary efforts such as a clean boats program, and involvement from riparian owners. DNR indicated grant funding may be available for a restoration plan. Any short-term actions would focus on clearing navigation lanes.
- Commissioner Ketterer questioned whether efforts to involve the public in voluntary actions would be successful.

Jerry Wolf indicated his concern regarding water quality in the Lake. Others expressed concern about the weeds and problems with boating.

Mr. Wolf questioned whether the District's consultant should bear some responsibility for preparing an approvable plan. Chairman Jenkins indicated that Wisconsin Lakes & Ponds had prepared 19 lake management plans and 17 had been approved by DNR. The two that were not approved were both in the DNR Northeast district. Chairman Jenkins also noted that the District had not made the final payment to Wisconsin Lakes & Ponds .

Commissioner Ketterer indicated her belief that weeds could be managed with occasional spot treatment.

Chairman Jenkins noted that weevils and chemical treatment were both tried in Lake Metonga and that neither worked.

It was noted that the boat ramp at the Forest Service campground needs work and that it is not deep enough for some boats. Chairman Jenkins indicated that the DNR agreed the boat landing needed to be dredged but that the Forest Service would need to make the application.

There was a discussion on potential volunteer efforts such as a Clean Boats/Clean Waters committee, an education committee, or getting volunteers to sit at the boat ramp to monitor boats. It was noted there is a county-wide lake association (FCAL – Forest County Association of Lakes) that meets every Friday at 10 am.

Other voluntary efforts were also discussed. Commissioner Ketterer indicated she would investigate what it would cost to send a copy or “Lake Tides” to District members. A Board mailing was also discussed as was the potential for some District activities such as a meeting/raffle at the boat house. It was suggested that the District post a sign board by the boat house. The Town recently bought such a sign board for about \$400.

Commissioner Ketterer indicated that in order to receive grant funds from the DNR, the District would need to demonstrate more volunteerism. She also indicated this DNR is unlikely to allow the District to conduct wide-spread chemical treatment. Chairman Jenkins said that the DNR told him it would not be feasible to treat 500 acres. Chairman Jenkins noted that the District would only want to treat certain areas and do a little bit each year.

There was a discussion regarding the number of commissioners on the District Board. Current bylaws specify there should be 5 commissioners. It was suggested that the bylaws be amended to increase the number of commissioners.

Chairman Jenkins indicated that the DNR would only allow walleye or musky to be stocked in the Lake. It was suggested that the District poll its members on whether muskies should be stocked.

Chairman Jenkins indicated he would apply for a harvesting permit. The District would not conduct widespread cutting but would open up navigation lanes.

Commissioner Ketterer noted that the DNR will not allow private individuals to chemically treat weeds after January 1, 2009.

It was noted that the DNR provides training for its Clean Waters/Clean Boats program. It was also noted that checking boats is voluntary although Vilas or Oneida County may

have passed an ordinance regarding clean boats. Commissioner Pfeiffer suggested posting signs at the boat house and boat landings regarding the clean boats program.

The District's annual meeting was scheduled for Saturday, July 5, 2008 at 9:00 am. Coffee & donuts will be provided.

There being no further business, Commissioner Pfeiffer made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Ziesmann seconded the motion. The motion carried, meeting was adjourned.