

MINUTES SPECIAL MEETING
PINE LAKE PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT
September 4, 2010

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Kloehn. Commissioner's Gehl, Pfeiffer, Sprenger and Tarcin were present.

Chairman Kloehn read an email dated August 19, 2010 from Tim Hoyman of Onterra, LLC to the District regarding the uprooted and fragmented plants building up in the east shore. Copies were provided to all that attended the meeting and is attached to these minutes. Specifically, Hoyman determined that fragmentation from harvesting is definitely not the issue here. The plants causing the problems are bushy pondweed, which do not occur to any great degree in the harvested areas. Discussion followed.

Chairman Kloehn noted that this problem has occurred in the past, notably 2005 although not as bad and that it had been worse in earlier years. Two harvesting contractors were contacted. However, neither would be able to bring their equipment in close enough to pick up the weeds. According to the DNR the weeds will be gone in 2 to 3 weeks. Those on shore will turn to silt and not re-seed because conditions are not favorable. It is permissible to remove these washed up plants by hand. Chairman Kloehn read from the DNR regulations that it is not permissible to remove rooted plants from more than a 30-foot wide path from the shore into the lake. Kevin Gauthier of the DNR is the person to contact regarding these issues. Disposal of plants will have to be arranged privately.

Chairman Kloehn brought up the problem of Eurasian milfoil, which is considered an invasive species and must be dealt with before other problems on the lake. Chemical treatment is an option but cannot be implemented until our Lake Management Plan is approved. A meeting is planned sometime in October with Onterra.

It was recommended by a resident that the District prepare in the future to pick up either mechanically or by hand the floating weeds, whether harvesting or not. It was noted that both sides of the lake have experienced washed up weeds. Harvesting was limited to 20 acres and 10 truckloads of weeds were collected and disposed of. A 15-foot channel down the west side and 2 channels in the north bay were cut. Commissioner Gehl reiterated that the harvesting was not the cause of this year's problem. The uprooting of bushy pondweed occurred naturally and was the result of weather and lake conditions. The concern at this time is how to deal with the washed up weeds. Chairman Kloehn said the Commissioners do not have an answer and requested suggestions on how to deal with this if it happens again next year. It was suggested to look into converting a piece of logging equipment into picking up the washed up weeds as was done in the 60's. Commissioner Pfeiffer believes that the DNR would not allow this now. Dredging was also discussed.

Commissioner Gehl reported that he called the Forest County Zoning Office and that 1700 letters requiring septic tank inspection were sent out. 10% have not responded and are subject to a \$200 fine. Eventually working septic systems and the elimination of phosphorous in fertilizer will help clean up the lake.

There being no further business, Chairman Kloehn adjourned the meeting.

Attachment:

Pine Lake, Forest County Bushy Pondweed Issues
A letter from: Tim Hoyman Onterra LLC
Thursday, August 19, 2010

This morning I met with Dennis Schumacher, Al Vine, and Jerry Wolf at Dennis' residence on Pine Lake. There has been a great deal of concern caused by uprooted and fragmented plants building up on the southern half of the lake's east shore. Dennis has been getting many calls relating to this concern and many of those calls blame plant fragmentation from the recent harvesting activities on the west side of the lake. **Fragmentation from harvesting is definitely not the issue here.** The plants causing the problems on the east side of the lake are bushy pondweed (*Najas flexilis*), which do not occur to any great degree in the harvested areas.

The first picture attached to this email is one of the many floating mats located a bit north of mid-center of the lake. The remaining two photos are of the east side of the lake where bushy pondweed mats have floated against the shoreline. The substrate on that side of the lake is pretty much sand, but it is shallow at less than 3' over much of the area. The dock adjacent to the pontoon boat in the last two photos is 36' long, so you can see that the plants likely go out to about 60' or more. In this case, I believe it would be nearly impossible to remove the plant mass by hand. Other areas of the east shore have much less or none at all.

I have also included a map indicating where the plant was found during last year's point-intercept survey. Yellow indicates a rake fullness of 1, orange = 2, and red = 3. As you can see the plant occurs in much of the lake, especially on the west side.

In my conversation with Kyle this morning, he believed that the current harvesting permit held by the district would cover picking up the floating plants. My one worry is that Kyle mentioned that the cutterheads cannot be used while picking up the mats – this may make it impossible as I believe the plants will need to be picked up in sections. Kyle, would you please confirm the specifics here?

I also spoke with Cliff Schmidt this morning. Cliff will not be taking on new work for this summer, but he would be happy to provide an estimate for harvesting next year if the district decides to follow that path. Other contractors exist, but I do not have contact information for them. **Cliff also mentioned that removing plants in this situation, whether floating in open water or against the shore may be difficult.**

If anyone has any questions, please let me know,

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