

APPROVED BY THE MEMBERSHIP MAY 25, 2013

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP
PIPE LAKES PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT
SEPTEMBER 1, 2012
CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH**

ATTENDING:

Carol Vantine, Tom O'Hern, Brooke Thill, Dan Paulson, Curt Deering, Joe Zaspel, Herschel Brown

ABSENT:

Joe Zaspel, Brooke Thill

MEETING:

Call to order at 9:07 a.m.

Ms. Vantine explained each property has no more than two votes per property and if two owners for that property are voting then they must both be present.

Ms. Vantine introduced the commissioners.

Additional members introduced:

Mark Anderson	Jim Girsch
John Hartman	Greg Felucci
Tricia Sagasore	Eric VanWarren
Chris Seto	Dena Champlin
Mike Holton	

New maps will be printed with the most up to date property information available and distributed.

Call for help

Communications:

A huge thanks you to Ms. Lynch for keeping the list current over time.

Please forward new emails addresses to Ms. Lynch for electronic correspondence.

A team will be formed to develop rapid response plan.

Open Questions & Comments

Mr. Wahl hoped there would be a discussion regarding North Pipe Lake watercraft usage.

Ms. Billig asked if the candidates were going to speak.

Resident asked if there is something going to happen to keep the web site more current.

Approval of 2012 Special Meeting Minutes

Unanimously approved.

Presentation of Slate for Election

Ms. Bryer of the nominating committee indicated they're developing a pipeline of candidates. Each candidate in this election presented a brief statement regarding themselves and their interest in running for a commissioner's position, they are:

Mr. Dan Paulson

Ms. Stephanie Boysen

Mr. Greg Warner

Mr. Errigo thanked Ms. Bryer and team for a great job finding new candidates and for generating interest.

Secret ballot conducted

Financial review – Mr. O'Hern

Mr. O'Hern reviewed current financial status:

Paid off loan for retention basin.

The District was reimbursed \$99,000 from DNR.

Big Dig was \$139,000, as expected.

The current budget was unanimously approved.

County Update – Mr. Brown

2012 annual report on the condition of Polk County is available on the County web site or the link from pipelakes.org:

Equalized property value dropped 16% in the past year, 12.9% over last 2 years.

90 businesses closed permanently.

Lost between 1500 & 2000 jobs within county.

County reduced headcount by 13 jobs thru attrition.

County funds are still at acceptable level but getting tougher to make ends meet.

Property taxes frozen pending Madison decision.

Several residents referenced zoning changes.

Town of Johnstown

Mr. Zaspel not in attendance.

Link to township is on the website.

Looking for input on ordinances.

Next meeting on November 11.

Fish stocking – Mr. Braun

2009, 2933 walleye 5-7" fingerlings were stocked.

Not enough data yet to determine if stocking with larger fingerlings is working.

DNR is recommending culling out large mouth bass under 14".

Permitted to take 5 large mouth bass daily, of any size.

There are 1000's of 3-4" large mouth frye.

Native Americans have opportunity to spear basis fish survey.

The lake has water clarity is down to 24-1/2'.

Pinky asked if the fish cribs are working?

DNR indicated they are not working as well as hoped, as they tend to be predator attractors, i.e. large mouth bass are residing around them.

Boat Parade – Ms. Fugitt

8 entries this year made up a very competitive field.

Annual picnic – Ms. Thill

125 people attended another great annual picnic.

Several new games were added this year.

The weather was perfect and all had fun.

Results from the election:

65 ballots.

3 write-ins.

Ms. Boysen and Mr. Warner were elected to the open positions.

Lake & Stream Monitoring 2012 – Mr. Paulson

With low rain fall only two samples taken so far this year.

They are being taken as per DNR requested practice.

Taking 6 stream samples that includes 1 additional stream in the SW corner of Pipe Lake.

Pinky asked if the water is considered drinkable, answer was no.

AIS Report

Expanded coverage this year

Budget increased slightly to cover expanded coverage

Should investigate hand held sprays for invasive species

Inspections:

222 hours.

506 boats inspected.

510 people talked with, only 90% were aware of the laws vs. 95% last year.

Art will begin handing out AIS informational flyers at the landing.

Mr. Mears inquired should we use stickers as some other locations are?

Mr. Errigo encouraged commissioners to consider charging for inspections.

Mr. Gersch indicated we can't currently charge and would have to go thru the legislature.

Mr. Berg inspected the landing area with no invasive species found.

Mr. Vantine reported the presence of a submarine on the lake.

Resident asked what could we do when people use unofficial landing – answer is it's up to property owner.

Mr. Paulson reported on the Retention Basin project:

The big Dig used very big trucks.

23 loads of stumps.

Has revised slides available.

Spring runoff had caused some erosion in a few areas.

The early freeze and early thaw and then the quick snow melt after the 20

“ snowfall contributed significantly to the erosion.

Additional rip rap added at discharge and Erickson provided additional soil compaction at their cost.

Grant, 5-Year Plan and "Future Lake Management" - Ms. Vantine
Reviewed District 5-Year Plan.

Indicated assessment sign-up times available next year with overall grant ending in 2014.

Reviewed "Future Lake Management".

Thanked Mr. Bresina, Mr. Hollar, Mr. Paulson and others for all they did in bringing this grant to fruition.

Recommends keeping current tax levy to keep at current service levels vs. going back to \$9,000 level prior to grant,

Proposed 2013 Budget – Mr. O'Hern

Same \$12,000 levies.

\$6,000 carryover.

Built in funds to build Rapid Response Plan.

Expand clean boats program.

Increased sampling.

Submit new grant request.

Fish Stick installation, \$3500:

Mr. Mears donated trees.

Installation will be tied to land.

Bone Lake paid \$7000 for one fish stick.

Rapid Response Plan – Ms. Vantine:

The Rapid Response Plan is for containment if AIS is confirmed.

Allows for quick DNR permit approval for treatment.

Contract with providers.

Perhaps 75% reimbursement from DNR, but takes time for approval.

Costs can run up to \$5,000/acre for initial treatment.

Recommends budgeting \$2,500 to get started.

Question asked could the levy be placed on the township, answer no – it's levied on the watershed district.

Mr. Jenson asked could the tax levy be changed? He thought the board could adjust the levy, but not for 2012.

Resident asked are we just slowing AIS down or is there a cure? Answer; there is no cure and no permanent eradication.

Mr. O'Hern referenced Mr. Berg's diving inspections that have not uncovered any AIS.

The proposed 2013 budget was unanimously approved.

New Business

Owner proposal "Quite Zone":

Mr. Wilson recommended surveying other lakes to see what options are used.
A survey of North Pipe owners was suggested at the next Township meeting.
General discussion followed.

Property security:

The Popenhagen property was broken in to.
County sheriff was called and DNA samples were taken.
Perpetrators were in and out in 10 minutes and there was no security system.
Three other instances of theft were shared.
Neighborliness suggested as best prevention.

Pinky requested names, addresses and back-up phone numbers. Ms. Vantine responded that the District can't publish the information.

A grateful thank you by the residents was given to Ms. Vantine for her years of service on the board and long time support of the District activities.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:38.

Respectfully,

Curt Deering
Secretary