

The Loon Call

Official Newsletter of Pipe and North Pipe Lakes Protection & Rehabilitation District

Advisory Committee on Water Quality Formed

A citizens advisory committee has been formed to help give direction and feedback to the board on efforts to monitor and preserve water quality. Members are needed on this new committee. If you are interested in participating please contact Dan Paulson at 715 419 1245 or email at daniel492@centurytel.net. The next meeting will be 2 PM May 7th at 2260 24th Street.

Clean Water Clean Boats Program Dick Hollar

For your amazement, the following is some state-wide statistics on the Clean Boats Clean Waters Program:

65,831 boats were inspected
142,104 people were talked to regarding CBCW
38,309+ hours were spent conducting inspections
 70% by paid inspectors
 30% by volunteers
91% of boaters were aware of the laws
95% said they inspected their boat and equipment for plants and removed any found
31% said the best way for them to get AIS info was through the person at the boat landing

SAVE THE DATES!!!

SPECIAL DISTRICT MEETING
MAY 28, 2011
CHRIST CHURCH – CTY ROADS T AND G
8:45 AM

Meet and greet neighbors – coffee and rolls available early

Approve the minutes of Annual Meeting

Financial Update

Approve Auditor's Report

Announcements

Boating Safety Class

Boat Parade

Picnic

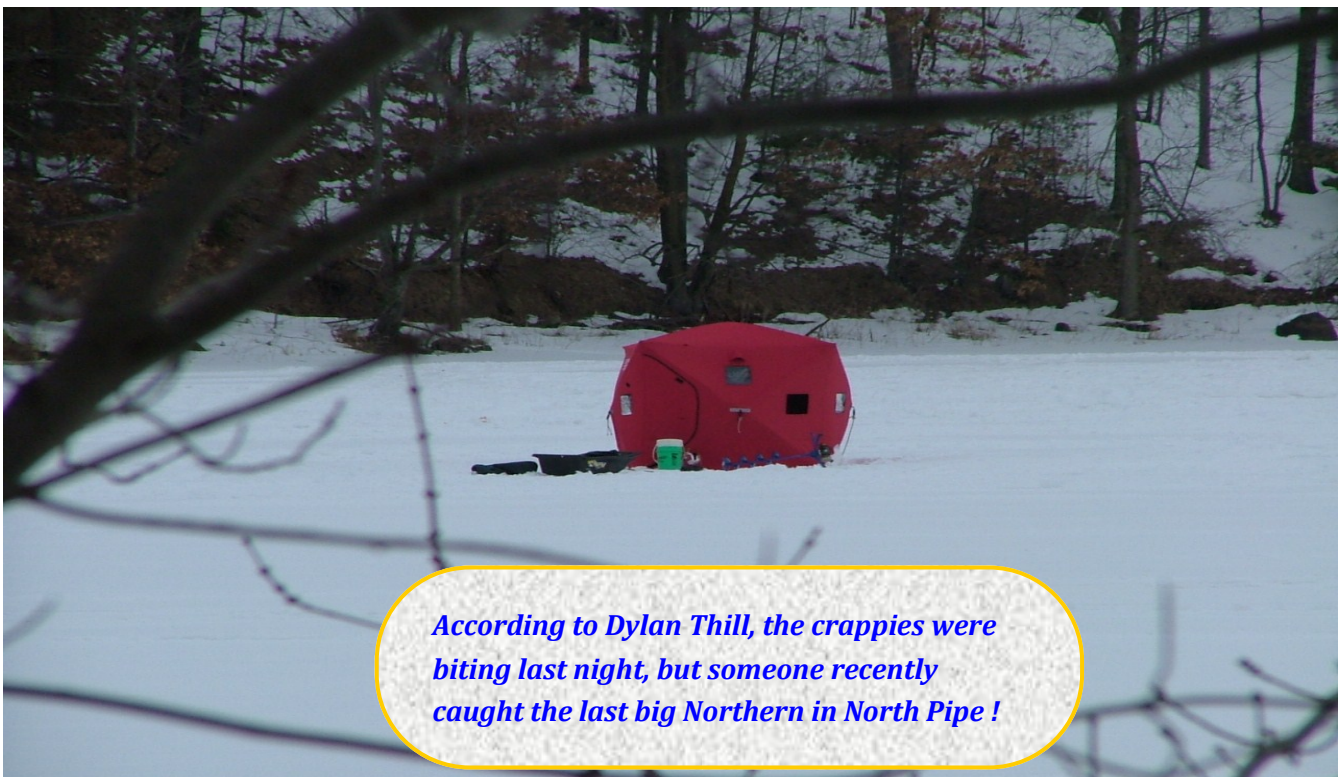
Nominations

Grant Project Updates

New Business

9:15 AM

Shoreland Management Workshop



According to Dylan Thill, the crappies were biting last night, but someone recently caught the last big Northern in North Pipe !

REALITY CHECK - THE TIME IS NOW

Joe Errigo

If a tree falls in the forest and no one hears the crash, is there still a sound? Leaving aside the philosophic issues, that question is a metaphor for public service. Elected officials and unseen volunteers at the local levels, even our own little lake district, do a lot of work to promote the common good. Still, most of the public just doesn't seem to be paying attention. Is there still a sound? Do people really care about the issues and the challenges facing us? Do they care about the plans put together by public agencies, commissions and councils? More importantly, do the people feel it's necessary to do something themselves to make the world a better place?

What can we do to help the public hear the sound and do what needs to be done? Here at Pipe Lakes, we could paraphrase John F. Kennedy's immortal words of 50 years ago, "Ask not what your Lake District can do for you, ask what you can do for your lake."

The Pipe Lake Commissioners have put together some ambitious and far-reaching plans to assure that the Pipe Lakes continue to be among the cleanest and healthiest in the state of Wisconsin. That means Pipe Lakes will continue to be one of the best values when it comes to owning lake property here. We can point with satisfaction to our comprehensive system of measurements, data recording and analysis of lake quality; large outer watershed projects like the proposed retention basin on the northeast corner of North Pipe Lake; social events like the boat parade and picnic where we can celebrate our successes; and the shoreland protection projects undertaken by individual homeowners.

According to environmental professionals, this last category, **homeowner initiatives on their own property, will have the greatest impact on the quality of our lakes in the future.** Why is it so difficult, then, to get homeowners involved in doing improvements that improve the value of their property AND help preserve and protect the quality of our lakes for everyone?

Your commissioners are constantly discussing, debating and re-thinking communication strategies that will spread the word about our work, but especially the opportunity for homeowners to do their own shoreland protection projects, **using the matching funds now available.** We want to create a groundswell of public interest in the program. We want your ideas on how we can better communicate the value of shoreland protection programs to the homeowner and get more people involved.

Maybe we need a reality check. The District can offer these matching funds now **only** because it secured a \$200,000 grant from the State of Wisconsin last year. That grant is likely, due to economic realities, to be the last piece of support from the state of Wisconsin for environmental protection for decades. Almost every state is in the same boat—they're all in financial trouble. Lake protection efforts will likely slip to the bottom of the priority lists.

Whatever your politics, whether you're delighted with or terrified by the drastic cutting of public expenditures on all levels, we must accept the **reality that this is probably our last chance to make this kind of investment in our lakes!** If we don't do the right thing now, we'll end up like so many other lakes throughout the state, putting our fingers in the dike, so to speak, long after the waters have come over the top.

Your lake district is committed to using these grant funds in a way that gets the biggest bang for the buck for all of us. The most important piece is what individual homeowners do with their own property. It's up to you. The time is now. Please sign up for the free property reviews offered through our grant to learn what you can do to enhance your property.

Editor's Note:

Unlike newspapers and online news services, the Loon Call usually doesn't have an editorial-opinion page. We made an exception in this issue. Contact us with your comments.

Year One: Protection Grant Results

August 2009 - August 2010

Grant Expenses	\$19,984
Grant Reimbursement from WI	\$14,988
Remaining Grant Balance	\$184,948

Shoreland Areas

property consultations	23
installation designs	10
installations started	3
installations completed	1

Lake Protection Education

mailings	2
meetings	2
workshops	0
reports to local government	0

Road Construction / Maintenance

culvert outlet protection 230th Ave	no action
culvert replacement 20th Street	designed

Stream Bank Stabilization

downstream 230th Ave	no action
outlet side of culvert 20th St	no action
up/downstream of logging road	no action
PI-GUL - privately funded	graded, mowed

In Lake Projects

tree falls	0
invasives contingency plan	no action
aquatic plant survey	no action

Phosphorus Retention Projects

northeast of North Pipe	design proposed
east central of Pipe Lake	monitoring PI-GUL

Enhance and Protect Wildlife **no action**

Farm Management Practices **no action**

Enhanced Monitoring **completed**

DNR ENDORSES CURRENT CULVERT LEVEL

The DNR notified the District that the current culvert level is correct on the south end of Pipe Lake. The culvert has been controversial since the resetting of the culvert in 1996 that lowered the overall level of the lake. The DNR reviewed its records and current positioning measurements and has determined that no further action is required because the culvert is set correctly. The culvert that was in place prior to the 1996 installation was set too high. See the DNR letter at: <http://www.pipelakes.org/Documents/Reports/Final%20Culvert%20Decision0001.pdf>

!! FREE ! PROPERTY CONSULTATION

If you did not take advantage last year of our DNR grant provided technical consultant to get ideas for improving your property through use of better run-off control and plantings to attract wildlife, **we invite you to sign up for this free service.** Our grant supports the cost of a private consultation with Cheryl Clemens from Harmony Environmental. After hearing about your concerns and ideas for your property, Cheryl will identify and document projects that will qualify for matching funds from our DNR grant. She will also provide you with information about native plants that are appropriate to your property. If you wish, you can have a professional project design completed by one of Cheryl's subcontractors for the cost of \$25.

SIGN UP NOW! Contact Joan Mears for appointment dates and times in May, June and July.

Phone: 715-822-3097

EMAIL: tvjw@tjmears.com

HERE IS YOUR CHANCE!

We know our property owners care about the water quality of Pipe and North Pipe Lakes. We also know that you want to be sure your tax dollars are used to make a real difference. **Here is your chance to leverage those tax dollars to benefit our lakes!**

The District is holding a
Shoreland Management Workshop
SATURDAY, MAY 28, 9:15 – 11:15 am.

If you attend the workshop you will help us reach our DNR matching grant goal to provide training and education about owner options for ensuring water quality and improving habitat for the butterflies, birds and animals that make our area so special. The DNR has offered us the chance to **earn a \$24 credit against our portion of the matching funds for each owner that attends the workshop.** If you attend, we save money that will help us reduce your tax rate in the future.

The workshop will include presentations on water diversion, goose-proofing your property, attracting desirable wildlife, rain gardens and more!

Many of you already plan to attend our traditional District Special Meeting that morning. It is always a great time to catch up with your neighbors after the long winter. To encourage you to come **early (8:30am)**, we will provide coffee, rolls, bagels and juice. We will hold our business meeting from 8:45am to 9:15am – then move into the workshop. Please call Joan Mears at 715-822-3097 to let us know you will be coming – we don't want to run out of food!

See you MAY 28 – 8:30AM!!

Commissioners

Chair	Carol Vantine	612-750-8785
Treasurer	Tom O'Hern	651-674-5531
Secretary	Joe Errigo	715-822-3564
Communications	Dan Paulson	715-822-3543
Volunteer Coordinator	Tom Mears	715-822-3097
County Representative	Herschel Brown	715-472-4095
Township Representative	Doug Rouzer	715-822-3288

Lake-Friendly

SHORELAND MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

Free to Pipe Lakes District residents

SATURDAY, MAY 28

9:15-11:15 AM

Register now!

CALL 715-822-3097

Learn about simple to more involved ways to improve water quality and wildlife habitat on your waterfront property.

Saturday, MAY 28, 9:15-11:15 AM

WORKSHOP WILL BE HELD AT:

Christ Church, 1994 20th St

(Junction of CTY T and G), Comstock

Plus, you'll learn ways to attract birds and butterflies to your property!

For registration or more information...

Call: Joan Mears 715-822-3097 or

Email: tvjw@tjmears.com