

PIPE LAKES PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT  
Commission Meeting  
August 11 , 2020  
Remote meeting by Zoom

Attending:

By Zoom conference call

Jan Breyer, Cindy Manwarren, Tim Larson, Jim McCarthy, Gene Schultz

Absent: Tracy Le Banc (County representative), Joe Zaspel

Meeting:

The meeting was convened by Zoom video conference call at 9:30 am. The minutes of the prior meeting (April 4, 2020) were reviewed approved.

Treasurer Report:

The Treasurer's Report was approved as submitted. A copy of the report, dated July 30, 2020 is attached to these minutes. There was a balance of \$68,782.68 in the general account and \$25,383.02 in the Rapid Response Savings Account.

Polk County Update:

Tracy Le Blanc was unable to attend. She has indicated that she is unable to continue as the county representative to the Commission. There was discussion about possible person who could take on this role.

Township Update: Joe Zaspel was unable to attend.

July 4 Boat Parade

Jan Breyer reported that we enjoyed the most successful boat parade in years. 11 boats participated. It was a gorgeous day. There were trophies for each participant.

Water Quality Study Updates:

Pipe and North Pipe Geochemistry Study

On the clarity issue in North Pipe and Pipe – Prof Joe Magnor attended the meeting by Zoom. The Commission had an extensive discussion with Professor Joe Magnor who is directing the Geochemistry study on both Lakes.

The increasing rainfall, without drought, in the last 10 years in particular,

and over the last 30 years throughout the upper Midwest, together with last year's storm damage has uprooted and exposed acres of raw dirt (detachment). This has been exacerbated by heavy rainfall this summer. Accordingly, Professor Magnor was not surprised at the decreased clarity in the Lakes.

He is also beginning to believe that the myriad small streams that enter North Pipe & Pipe are contributing more water to both lakes than he had initially thought. This would aggravate the runoff.

Update on Additional Chemistry Study on Algae Blooms– Tim Larson said that Jeremy Williamson has not reported progress on this project. The laboratories have been shut down during Covid.

The Commission asked that the DNR be requested to extend the period of the study in light of the Covid problems in 2020.

#### North Pipe Internal Load Study

The study of internal loading on North Pipe does not suggest that the phosphorous in North Pipe is caused by significant internal loading. The Report of Prof James is posted on the District webpage.

#### 2020 Lake Monitoring

Monitoring has been going forward with volunteers.

#### Issues at North Beach and Johnstown Town Meeting

Jan Breyer reported that he attended the Town Meeting and requested that the Town restore the portable toilet and the dumpster that it had provided at the boat landing in prior years. The Town Board voted not to do so. The stated reason was potential liability. While not explained in any written opinion of counsel, it sounded like the Town Board thought the Town may be liable if anyone contracted Covid and that person established that he or she contracted Covid at the boat landing portable toilet or dumpster.

.Jan Breyer reported that he reached out to Katlin Anderson at Polk County to determine if there was a county policy and what other lakes were doing, Her response is summarized below:

Big Round. – landing is owned by DNR – not sure what the State is doing

Big Blake Lake – has portable toilets with hand sanitizer at each of the two landings. They are serviced each week when they are cleaned and the hand sanitizers are refilled.

Bone Lake – has a portable toilet at the South Landing

Balsam Lake - has portable toilets at its four landings which are serviced by a provider and

Amery Lakes - have toilets. In all, 5 lakes responded.

Katlin also pointed out that the Polk County Health Department Beach Water Testing Program will test samples supplied by lake associations. Dick Hollar and Jan Breyer have been collecting samples and delivering them to the County. The County has not reported any dangerous swimming conditions at the beach.

The problems faced by the landing monitors with garbage left by landing and beach users was discussed. Both the monitors and nearby lake residents are disturbed by the lack of support for garbage disposal at the site.

#### Annual Picnic

There was a discussion whether to continue with plans for the Annual Picnic given the Covid Pandemic. It was noted that the Rutabaga Festival in Cumberland was cancelled as was the Polk County Fair. The Commission voted to cancel the 2020 annual picnic.

#### Annual meeting

It was agreed that the Annual Meeting would be held by Zoom. All lake residents will be notified of the Annual Meeting by Zoom. It will be held at the usual time – Saturday morning of Labor Day weekend. The mechanics of election of officers was discussed. In the event there is a contested election, the annual meeting can be adjourned and continued to take an in-person vote in a socially distanced, outdoor location.

#### Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jim McCarthy, Secretary