

Pipe Lakes Protection and Rehabilitation District
Commission Meeting
Remote meeting by Zoom

Attending:

(By Zoom Conference Call)

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

Absent: Tracy La Blanc (County representative), Joe Zaspel

Public Attendees: Dan Hollar, Dick Hollar, Tom McIntee, Pete Koehm, Michael Linden, Ron Vantine, Carol Vantine, Doug Stephens, Scott St. Marie, Jennifer Stunberg, Larry Brezina, Beth Fox, Chris Wilson, Marc Schulte, Jill Luikhart, Jeff Luikhart, John Guerink, Mark Shelendich.

Meeting:

The meeting was convened by Zoom video conference call at 9 am. The minutes of the prior meeting (Sept. 22, 2020) were reviewed and approved.

Data Project:

Dick Hollar gave some background on the years of work to and assemble and preserve the historical data generated by the PLPRD and consultants and volunteers and to make that information readily accessible to future Pipe Lakes interested parties.

Dick's son, Dan Hollar, gave a presentation through Screenshare to all Zoom meeting participants to demonstrate the data depository that can be accessed through the PLPRD website. Dan walked everyone through each section of the data depository. Dan explained how additional data can be added real time. Here is the depository as it now operates on the District's website:

"Welcome to the Pipe and North Pipe Lakes Data Repository"

All data available for you to view. On the left select a site and characteristic you would like to view. Depending on the characteristic you pick you may also need to select the location where that characteristic was measured at. Some characteristics can be measured at multiple locations.

You can optionally select a date range or leave the dates blank to view all the data. You can also just enter a from date or to date only in order to specify your range. If you enter both a from and to date, ensure that the from date is before the to date.

Once you "Submit" your data request, the data will appear here in table form. You may select the table of data and paste it into a spreadsheet of your choice to further analyze the data. The data is free for you to view or use.

The data is collected by fellow citizens of the lake community and some of this data is reported to the Wisconsin DNR and can be assessed on the Surface Water Integrated Monitoring System (SWIMS) FOR Pipe lake and North Pipe Lake.

If you are provided with a login for this site you will be able to enter the data or even possibly maintain the data. Contact the site administrators for more information.

The board expressed its thanks and gratitude for the immense volunteer effort Dan and Dick lavished on this project. Dan invested over 120 hours of his time to create the site and fill it with usable data. It will be a key tool for everyone interested in protecting and rehabilitating Pipe and North Pipe Lakes.

Treasurer's Report:

The most current financials were presented. There were \$10,031.80 in expenses leaving an ending balance of \$68,951.55. There is also \$25,398.85 in the Rapid Response Reserve Fund.

Polk County Update:

Tracy Le Blanc has stepped down as county representative to the District.

Township Update:

Joe Zaspel was unable to attend.

Water Quality Study Updates:

Tim Larson and Prof. Joe Magnor discussed planning for additional study of the lakes during the extension period (to December 31, 2121) approved by the DNR. Tim reported that Prof. Bill James, who completed his study of North Pipe Lake, has proposed an additional study of algae species that migrate vertically around the deep hole in North Pipe Lake. Prof. Joe Magnor discussed additional measurement study of hydro flow data. No fixed time deadline has been established but the committee hopes to complete planning as soon as possible.

Lake Monitoring:

Dick Hollar reported on the lake monitors and on Matt Berg's scuba fall inspection of the lake. Matt did not sight any evidence of invasive species in the landing areas.

Lake Warning Buoys:

Earlier in the year the Board heard from Andi Dickson that the warning buoys needed replacement. At the Board's request Andi investigated and provided a report and recommendation on new buoys and markers. Chris Wilson reported on the buoys put in three years ago. Dick Hollar and Marc Schulte discussed whether chins or stainless steel cable was preferable to moor the buoys. A motion to approve the purchase of the buoys was approved unanimously.

New Business

Wake Boats

Continuing the discussion of wake boat activity from the last meeting, Jan Breyer reported on what he had found out about studies and recommendations on the topic. There is a Lake Minnetonka study that is awaiting funding. Mike Engelson from Wisconsin Lakes Association reported that no Wisconsin state regulation has been adopted. There is a recommendation that boats operate 200' from shoreline sand docks, limit audio volume, and limit the number of passes along any one section of shoreline.

An open discussion followed. Beth Fox noted that waves go over the docks at the SW corner of Pipe Lake and come rolling onto shore. Jeff Luikhart noted the decrease in clarity in the lake. Dick Hollar said 2020 had the worst Secchi readings in lake history. Since there are only 3 wake boats on the lake to date, it was suggested that discussion with the owners may be a more immediate solution than formal adoption of rules.

New Lake Residents:

Beth Fox inquired whether there was any type of new resident communication. Is there a way to find out when new residents purchase and is any type of welcome packet given to them? Beth suggested it would be helpful to give new residents information about the lake, lake quality concerns and initiatives, the District's social activities, etc. Carol Vantine said that there had been a welcome envelope in the past. She thinks Megan Mears may have a copy. Jan Breyer noted that the Polk County Assessor has information that can be used to identify new residents.

Internet Service

There was extended discussion about the lack of adequate broadband connection around the entire lake and various individual's attempts to get Century Link to undertake needed upgrades and improvements. Joel Hedberg had a number of email communications with people up the chain of command at Century Link (corporate name changed to LUMEN although may continue to use Century Link as retail name). Joel was told that money was not in the budget for laying new line to improve coverage at SW corner of the lake. Jan Breyer reported that Century Link stated that it did not have capacity to provide service to his house on East side of lake. Jim McCarthy reported that service to SE corner had been reduced from advertised 20 mbps to something under 6 mbps at best, allegedly because of lack of capacity at the main hub on 220th.

Jan Breyer reported his discussion with Town Rep Joe Zaspel and will bring up the issue with the Town Board at its next meeting. Chris Wilson said it helps to complain regularly and demand \$ refunds to get Century Link's attention. People noted that fiber optic service is provided to each residence in neighboring townships. According to reports in the business press, new management was installed at Century Link in 2019 with a program to reduce or eliminate investment in "legacy" residential/copper line/DSL business and focus on business customers.

CenturyLink will do no more for rural fiber upgrades than absolutely required by government bodies.

It was agreed that internet Broadband service could be improved and needed to be improved and that official government t action and group action was needed.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim McCarthy, Secretary