

Final – approved as amended on Oct 29,2022

PIPE & NORTH PIPE LAKES PROTECTION AND
REHABILITATION DISTRICT

Commission Meeting

Saturday May 28, 2022

Meeting Room, Lutheran Church at County Roads T & G.

Commissioners Attending: Jan Breyer, Tim Larson, Jim McCarthy, Gene Schultz, Natalie Lovejoy, Brad Olson (Polk County Supervisor and representative to District)

Public attendees: Over ___ residents signed in on the attendee register.

Meeting:

The meeting was convened at 9:00 am. The minutes of the prior meeting (April 9, 2022) were reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's Report:

The most current financials through 4/30/2022 were presented and approved. Gene Schultz shared the income and expenses, the account balances and the Grant summary. Income for 1/1/22 – 4/30/22 was \$15,301, expenses \$14,718. Bank balances were \$69,042 in checking, and \$25,512 in Rapid Response Savings.

Landing

Dick Hollar reported that there is full coverage arranged for the monitoring at the boat landing. In the past, the DNR reimbursed most of the cost of the monitoring program. Near the end of the Scott Walker administration, the funding for the program was reduced and the DNR put a cap of \$4,500 on monitoring. The actual cost of monitors is in excess of \$8,000. When the DNR changed its funding, the Town of Johnstown and the District agreed to share in the unreimbursed monitoring cost. The last couple years the town has declined to make its contribution to the monitoring cost.

Over the last two years, the Town of Johnstown has also declined to share in the cost of the porta-potty maintained near the boat landing.

A motion was made and approved by 100 percent of all those in attendance at the meeting to request the Town to share in the monitoring and porta-potty costs. The District is preparing a letter to be presented at the June 12, 2022 Town of Johnstown meeting that will request that the Town share in both the monitoring and porta-potty costs.

County Report

Brad Olson introduced himself. He is a Polk County Supervisor representing the Frederic and Clam Lake areas. He has agreed to serve as the County's representative on the Pipe Lakes District commission.

Brad discussed several changes in the new Polk County shoreland ordinance. The Tourist Rooming house provisions were changed to reduce rentals from 172 days/year to 7 days /month in summer. Only 1 camper per 2 acres. No easements to lake from backlots.

Brad noted that the new ordinance is 120 pages long and is available on the county website.

Brad reported that boat washing stations have been installed at the 7 or 8 landings maintained by the County. There was discussion whether a station is something appropriate for Pipe Lake. It appears that the washing is primarily for boats coming out of a lake to avoid a spread to other lakes.

Wake Boats

Jan Breyer discussed the new peer reviewed study conducted by a professor at the Univ of Minnesota that looked at the impact of wake boats. Jan reported that he had discussed the report's findings with several wake boat owners. They have said that they will try to stay in the middle of the lake. We can see if that approach works over the summer.

Channel

A resident raised a concern about boats moving too fast in the channel between Pipe and North Pipe. It is a no-wake zone. Operation with 100' of the shoreline is a no wake area.

Healthy Lakes

Jan Breyer reminded all residents that \$1,000 of shoreline restoration and landscaping can be done under the program and that all but \$125 will be reimbursed to the homeowner by the DNR and the District. A lake resident needs to apply by November 1, 2022 for a project in 2023.

Water Quality Committee Updates:

Tim Larson provided a summary of the reports and recommendations of the various experts who have been involved with the Pipe and North Pipe lakes. Steve McComas of Blue Water Science, Prof Joe Magner, Jeremy Williamson, Dr Uday Singh of the Mississippi Watershed District and Alex Smith of the Wisconsin DNR.

Tim said that the Internal Load study on North Pipe showed that the lake was strongly stratified in the summer and the phosphorous level in the deep center of the lake does not interact with the algae on the surface. Tim noted it may be worth expanding the research to see if the shallower areas are stratified.

An algae study was conducted that showed cyanobacteria algae (blue-green) is present in the lake.

The Geochemistry study of Pipe and North Pipe lakes concluded that the natural buffers on individual lots are important.

Steve McComas was retained by the district to review the two DNR Grant studies and other historical data and recommend next steps. A link to the McComas' memo summarizing his findings is found on the front page of the district website. McComas said that North Pipe is within the range where one would expect lakes in this eco-region to be, but Tim Larson noted that North Pipe is listed as a "non-conforming" lake by the DNR. That listing is probably because of phosphorous that leads to algae growth.

Tim Larson then outlined the several possible capital projects for North Pipe.

1. LG Sonic Ultrasound. New technology that is effective in laboratory and in municipal water treatment sites.. No track record on recreational lakes. Cost would be \$100,000 - \$150,000 plus annual service fees.
2. Alum treatment on North Pipe. Aluminum forms a bond with phosphorous. It has been used for years on many lakes. Rough cost is \$200,000 over 7 years. (\$65,000 yr 1; \$50,000 yr 3; \$40,000 yr 5 and \$40,000 yr 7). Bone Lake

considered an alum treatment but did not go forward because of cost. The use of alum is discussed at length in the Bone Lake Alum Committee report found at:

https://www.bonelakewi.com/docs/ALUM/BLMD_AlumCommitteeReport4.16.19.pdf

3. Use of alum on North Pipe sediment pond. Might it make sense to apply alum on the sedimentation holding pond? A much smaller area where phosphorous is concentrated.

Public Discussion

Kent Wilson stated he had been on North Pipe since 1965 and his family since 1948. The water quality on North Pipe has deteriorated. He was disappointed with the lack of mitigation solutions in the various reports. He suggested that the District consider meeting with Dick Osgood to consult on solutions. Kent gave background on Dick Osgood's impressive credentials. Kent provided copies of books written by Osgood on lake management and offered to set up a meeting with him.

Megan Mears said she spent her entire life on the lake and that the worsening conditions mandate that something needs to be done.

Natalie Lovejoy said that while data is important, action is needed. She said that she thinks the community should make a leap even if there is no guaranty of effectiveness. Natalie said that maybe alum could work. It has more of a track record. She thought that alum may be supported by state grants. She said State grants usually have a September deadline.

Marc Schulte on Pipe Lake said that he was frustrated by the lack of any concrete recommendations in the Blue Water Science (McComas) report. With respect to Kent Wilson's suggestions of Dick Osgood, Marc said that he has worked for years with Dick Osgood's partner, who always recommends alum. Marc is not certain if that is the most effective use of \$200,000.

Mark Hartman said that we need to look at other lakes to see what has worked and what has not worked. We do not want to throw dollars at a project on the hope that it may work.

There was some general discussion about the cost and funding and how the district may raise several hundred thousand dollars. Its current annual tax levy is about \$17,000. Raising \$200,000 over several years would require changes in the tax

levy. Marc Schulte said it was important to emphasize the value of lake improvement and preservation rather than just the cost.

Natalie Lovejoy said that we need to get info out to lake residents about funding options, LG Sonic and Alum.

Tom Hartman said that any multi-year funding should require re-approval to permit evaluation of effectiveness of the treatment program.

Lake Maps

Natalie Lovejoy reported on the lake map project. The maps have been prepared and she had several copies for review. Printing costs had escalated and so she did not order a large print run. Natalie asked everyone present to review the map and make corrections and additions. She said that the corrected map will be printed and distributed in the summer.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jim McCarthy, Secretary