

DRAFT – not reviewed or approved
PIPE & NORTH PIPE LAKES PROTECTION AND
REHABILITATION DISTRICT
Commission Meeting
Saturday, January 20, 2024
BY ZOOM

Commissioners Attending:

James McCarthy, Gene Schultz, Tim Larson, Tom McIntee, Carla Gillespie, Dan Lowe

Absent: Brad Olson

Public: Over 10 residents attended by Zoom

Meeting Convenes

9:05 a.m.

Approval of Draft Minutes

Draft minutes of October 14, 2023, meeting are approved.

Township Report

The new section of the boat ramp has been installed.

In order to assist emergency vehicles, Polk County is working on changing the addresses some houses with alphabet addresses. e.g. “152C” will be reassigned a new numerical addresses.

County Report

The County Board made a change to the county boarding house rule. The rental season lasts a maximum of 180 days and begins on the first day of the first rental of the year and

ends 180 days later. During this season, the dwelling may be rented for stays of a minimum of seven days, for a maximum of one renter per week.

Treasurer's Report

We have about \$76,000 in checking and \$26,000 in savings for rapid response. Treasurer suggests transferring \$50,000 from checking to savings to earn some interest. A motion to move the funds to the Savings account was approved.

The 2023 cost for the porta-potty was not billed or paid in 2023 so the projected cost for 2024 will include both the 2023 cost (\$575) and the 2024 charge.

Cash flow on the statement seems larger than usual because the lake monitoring study did not occur.

Treasurer has added a third page to the report which shows transactions between meetings.

Landing Monitor Report & Aquatic Invasive Species Surveys 2023

Chair reports that Matt Berg found no invasive species in either lake in his 2023 survey. Berg's new report has color photos that make plant identification easy. Berg says early detection is a priority, especially since lakes in the surrounding area have invasive species. If anyone sees a plant they think is suspicious, they should get a sample and contact him.

Butch Knight and Doug Effertz will again be the landing monitors this coming season. They will be present at the landing:

Every weekday from 7 to 10 AM

Every Friday afternoon from 2 to 7 PM

Saturdays from 7 AM to 4 PM

Sunday from 7 AM to 2 PM

Monitors will be there on the fishing opening weekend and will be asked if they can be there each weekend between the opener and Memorial Day.

Boat traffic was 17 percent higher in 2023 than in 2022, getting closer to pre-pandemic levels. A total of 428 boats were checked going in and 176 boats were checked coming out. No invasive species were detected. Sixty-six boats had been in another body of water

within five days of arrival at the landing, there were 58 last year. Butch reports the overall level of compliance was good.

Secchi Ratings

North Pipe - 4.66 ft in 2023, 7.9 feet in 2022, 3.2 in 2021

Pipe - 10.7 ft in 2023, 12 ft in 2022.

In 2015, it was 15.6 ft, in the 1990s it was regularly over 20 ft.

Tom Klein who lives permanently on North Pipe will coordinate landing monitors, previously done by Dick Hollar.

Maps of the lake showing 100 ft and 200 ft from the shoreline will be prepared so they can be handed out and also may be made available through the creation of a QR code.

Water Quality Committee

Tim reports that the committee has been meeting monthly. During the most recent meeting, the 7 tasks outlined in the draft grant proposal were discussed. Because we did not get the grant, we would have to use our own money to pay for any of the tasks we may want to complete this coming summer. The commission approved the expenditure of up to \$3,000 to complete Task 2, analysis of historic water quality and precipitation data. It will consider additional tasks at the next Commissioner meeting.

Data storage

Dan Hollar created, manages and physically hosts District's database on his private server. We need to make plans for a new host and a new manager. There is a January 23 meeting scheduled with him to discuss what this entails.

Healthy Lakes Program

Tom McIntee has volunteered to be the point person for this project. Bone Lake has some user-friendly materials that we could use as a template.

District Website

The website is difficult to navigate and could use some improvements.

Lakeland's Internet Fiber Optic Project

Bob Zuzek has left Lakeland. The new contact person is Alec Mortel (715) 825-5110. Alec reports that the fiber optic project is behind schedule because the Lakeland's subcontractor had staffing issues so they lost an entire summer. However, Alec says it

must be operational by December 2024, so there may be a flurry of work. It is not expected to interfere with or compound travel issues with the renumbering of fire numbers. One can go on the Lakeland website and put in your address to learn the estimated installation cost. Jim says the installation to residences is expensive @ \$1,000 - \$3,000.

New Business

Mike Linden suggests the following:

Make it easier to participate in Healthy Lakes

Create a water recreation plan

Consider using video cameras to look for invasive species

Consider incentives for septic system testing and upgrades

Larry suggests we make a lake management plan as the old one has expired.

Carla volunteers to put together a “Welcome to the Lake” document.

Calendar

**All District and Commissioner meetings on Saturdays at 9 a.m.
In-person meetings at Christ Lutheran Church meeting room.**

April 20, 2024 – Commissioner meeting - Zoom

May 25, 2024 – Commissioner meeting - in-person

July 6, 2024, (Saturday) - boat parade, rain date Sunday, July 7.
(July 4 is Thursday in 2024)

August 10, 2024 – Commissioner meeting - Zoom

Aug 17, 2024 - Annual Picnic at 12 noon at County Line

August 31, 2024 (Saturday) - District Annual Meeting - in-person

October 12, 2024 - Commissioner meeting - Zoom

Meeting adjourns at 10:32

Respectfully submitted by Carla Gillespie, Secretary