

DRAFT – not reviewed or approved

**PIPE & NORTH PIPE LAKES PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT  
Commissioners' Meeting (virtually by Zoom)  
Saturday, March 7, 2026, 9:00 a.m.**

(Note - certain items on the agenda for the January 28, 2026 meeting were not addressed at that meeting but rather were addressed at a March 7, 2026 meeting.  
Hence, the minutes below address the later portion of the January 28, 2026 agenda).

**Commissioners Attending**

Jim Ladner, Gene Schultz, Carla Gillespie, Jim McCarthy, Tom McIntee

**Absent**

Brad Olson, Dan Lowe

**Other District Members**

Fewer than 10

**Call to Order**

After some technical difficulties, the meeting is called to order at 9:04 am.

**Update on District Projects (continued)**

Jim Ladner is looking for someone to collect stream samples on Pipe Lake.

**Report about WDNR Surface Water Grant Submitted in November 2025 (awarded Feb 2026)**

This grant allows the District to update its comprehensive lake management plan. The primary focus will be to examine the impact of streams that flow into Pipe & N. Pipe Lake. Researchers Paul McGinley and potentially Joe Magner, and/or other the District recruits, will be involved in providing advice, conducting modeling, and assisting the District to collect data and perform analysis.

**Overview/Discussion of Pipe & N. Pipe Toolkit: An Integrated Synthesis of Watershed, Hydrologic, Limnological & Sediment Studies and Lake/Stream Monitoring**

This toolkit synthesizes over two decades of watershed and limnological studies into a 40-page memo for strategic planning. It highlights important differences between Pipe Lake and North Pipe Lake which should assist in guiding the district to chose meaningful and appropriate management pathways.

By consolidating historical data and study results, this tool will also assist the District with resource allocation and effort and assist the District to appropriately fashion and direct attention to future district priorities. A water quality committee meeting is planned for April to discuss the toolkit in detail, with Jim Ladner and Tim Larson leading.

The memo will be shared broadly, including posting on the district website for wider accessibility.

**Healthy Lakes Program Update**

The District has received another grant to conduct Healthy Lakes projects. The District has three participants whose projects will begin this summer (2026), and three from last summer that will finish up. Going forward, the District hopes to get five additional projects each year.

To assist in creating awareness about the value of these Healthy Lakes projects and to educate District members about how smooth and streamlined these projects can be, the District plans to organize and an “open-house type” tour of past projects that have occurred on Pipe and North Pipe Lakes in June 2026. The likely date is June 20, 2026. Some other lake district provide those who complete a healthy lakes project a decorative marker to place on their property so they can be viewed from the water, to assist District members to see what is possible. Members of the commission are looking into the same for properties in our Lake District.

### **Review of Land Use Permits and Applications**

The Commissioners discussed whether it makes sense for the Lake District to be notified about building projects that are to occur within the Lake District boundary. It was noted that, at the present time, Johnstown Township does not see typically get notified about land use permits applications; rather the township is only asked to comment on variance requests. Sometimes, when the County approves a permit, they don't go back to see if the project matches the permit description. The District is exploring how it can best become aware of permit compliance. The Commissioners expressed an interest in holding further discussions about this topic, and plan to inquire whether the Polk County Zoning and Land Use team could provide notice about new projects in the District.

### **Possible Updates to District Website**

At a future Commissioners' meeting the board will review suggestions for updates to the website and have additional discussions about this topic.

### **Discussion: Creating & Implementing Lake District “Neighborhoods” to expand engagement of District members**

Creating small groups or neighborhoods around the lakes could help people get to know their neighbors and improve engagement. The District Commissioners plan to have about a roll-out of this project.

### **Old Business**

The lake district map will be updated. Outreach is being made to those who were involved in the most recent update of the lake district map.

### **Meeting Adjourns**

10:04 am