

Pipe & North Pipe Lakes Protection & Rehabilitation District

Annual Meeting

Saturday, August 30, 2025 at 9 am

In-Person at Lower Level Meeting Room at Christ Lutheran Church, Johnstown, WI

Commissioners Attending:

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

Absent: Brad Olson

Public: About 30 residents in attendance

Meeting Convenes

9:04 a.m.

Approval of Draft Minutes

Draft Minutes of 2024 annual meeting are approved.

Elections

Tim Larson's term as Commissioner ends. Commissioners have nominated Jim Ladner as a candidate. There are no other declared candidates. Jim Ladner wins by acclamation.

Township Report

A recycling bin is now available at Town Hall.

Roads are getting patched, they will be chip sealing 220th.

The boat landing is a work in progress. We have a tentative agreement with a contractor.

One bid has come in at \$10,000. The Township is asking the Lakes District to share the cost. We agreed to pay up to \$5,000.

The Township Board is looking into possible grant money.

County Report

The sections of Cty Rd G that have been resurfaced will be the sole resurfacing project this year.

Treasurer Report

We have about \$56,000 in checking, \$78,000 in the rapid response fund and \$66,000 available for spending.

Income includes about \$10,000 in grants and \$15,000 in donations for a study of North Pipe Lake.

Expenses include the annual picnic and the boat parade.

The budget for landing monitor salaries is on target.

The treasurer's report includes a summary of five active grant projects and a transaction report.

An audit was completed this year with no issues.

Discussion of Tax Levy

The current levy was set in 2009 and hasn't been changed.

In 2009, the District's total assessed value was \$83.5 million and the levy brought in \$17,000. In 2020, the total assessed value was \$68 million, in 2024 it was \$107 million. At this valuation, the maximum we could take in from a levy would be \$272,000, that would not be the goal of a proposed increase in the levy, but District members are encouraged to mull a reasonable percentage increase.

Water Quality Report

Tim Larson gives a farewell water quality presentation, reminding us that the District was organized to protect our lakes so we can enjoy them now and in the future.

Lake and Stream Monitors

We are looking for a volunteer to collect stream samples. There are six ephemeral streams on North Pipe and four on Pipe.

We may consider adding more weir monitors.

Polk County Land and Water Study

Polk County Land and Water did a study of our watershed and made recommendations. Compared with other lakes, we have few agricultural properties in our watershed. They recommend addressing issues with some of these properties to improve water quality and improve our profile when applying for grants.

One of these projects would be on the Daninger Farm. The family, who have always been good stewards of the land and good neighbors, is receptive.

Database

The water quality database that Dan Hollar has been maintaining is on the website.

North Pipe Lake Study

The District has received donations to fund a study on North Pipe Lake about the efficacy of an alum treatment in the shallow areas only.

Healthy Lakes Program

Healthy Lakes is a program that encourages property owners to be more mindful of how improvements and maintenance of their lots affects water quality.

Participants can get reimbursed for a total of \$1,300 for participating in this program.

Proposed No Wake Zone

Consideration of a proposed recommendation for observation of a defined no wake zone on both lakes.

Although wake boat owners stay in the center of Pipe Lake, growing concerns about the impact of wake boats on our lakes has prompted the District to offer the following formal recommendation:

Boaters will observe a slow/no wake zone 200 feet from shore and wake boats will operate at least 425 feet from shore.

The motion for the recommendation passes.

Aquatic Invasive Species Measures at the Landing

Matt Berg has completed a study of both lakes and found no invasive species.

We have installed a decontamination station at the landing.

Our landing monitors are doing a great job.

Thank You Tim Larson

Thank you Tim for bringing professional water science and expertise to the job for nine years! We are grateful for your service.

Lakeland Fiber Optic Project

The Lakeland Fiber Optic project is mostly installed.

Meeting Adjourns

Meeting adjourns at 10:45 a.m.