

MINUTES ANNUAL MEETING
PINE LAKE PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT
July 2, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Kloehn at 9:00AM. Commissioners Gehl, Sprenger, Gagnon, Binter and Tauer were present. 50 members of the District were also present and participated in the meeting.

Notice of the meeting was placed on our Web site and published in the Forest Republican prior to the meeting.

Copies of the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of July 11, 2015 were distributed to the members prior to the meeting. Minutes approved as presented.

Commissioner Sprenger presented the Financial Statements and Auditor's Report for Year Ended December 31, 2015. Total Revenue, \$34,291, Total Expenditures, \$23,191 resulting in Excess of Revenue over Expenditures of \$11,100. Total Assets, \$328,315, Total Liabilities, \$0. Balance Checking, \$2,962; Tax Freedom Account Money Market, \$30,105; Tax Freedom Account CD, \$70,053; Regular Money Market, \$123,228, for total of \$226,348 cash deposits. Expenses decreased for weed cutting and Lake dredging project. Question raised on what is purpose of Tax Freedom Account. Answer: District approved early on to set aside \$5,000 annually to help fund any future major projects, rather than having to increase tax assessments in one year in order to pay for it. Motion made and seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented, motion carried.

Election of Commissioner:

Chairman Kloehn nominated Robert Binter, Gehl seconded. Binter had previously been appointed by Kloehn to fill the remaining term of Richard Tarcin who had left the District. In answer to a request that a permanent resident be elected to the Board, Binter advised that he has been a permanent resident of Pine Lake for the last year and one half, and has been coming to the Lake for over 30 years. There being no other nominations, nominations were closed. Motion to elect Binter carried unanimously.

Old Business:

Kloehn reported on the sediment removal project. Flambeau Engineering has been selected to provide a sediment survey and analysis. Question raised if this includes core sampling and testing. Answer: Yes it does. Completion date by the end of this summer. At the same time a plant survey will be conducted to fulfill that requirement for future harvesting. A satisfaction survey and information on shoreland improvement will also be sent out this year. A check for \$3,000 was received from the Sokaogon Chippewa Community for Pine Lake aquatic plant management projects. A report of the largemouth bass dieoff last year was presented to the members and included in these Minutes.

Binter reported that weed cutting is scheduled for week of July 12 this year. Binter asked Tauer to hold the lake at its highest level allowed to improve harvester operation. Motion made and seconded to advise Town of Hiles by letter of the District's desire to maintain the level at or near the maximum allowed. Discussion followed. Motion carried.

Tauer reported the Town has begun preliminary engineering studies on reconstruction the dam and roadway. This will take at least a year to submit proposals and then be approved by the DNR.

Gagnon reported on the CBCW program. A \$4,000 grant has been awarded by the State to help fund this program. Because of our help in maintaining the Forest Service Campground, the District was presented with a Plaque of Appreciation by the Forest Service and waived the \$85 permit fee for installing the District pier on their land for 5 years. Gagnon also called for additional volunteers to help with the maintenance of the boat

landing and campground. Volunteer service is important to prevent closing of the campground and boat landing as has happened on other lakes.

Gehl reported on this coming Thursday there will be a Citizen Lake Monitoring Workshop sponsored by the DNR. All are invited to attend. Meet at the boat landing at 9:00. Also, FCAL has published a book showing the aquatic plants both native and invasive, found in northern Wisconsin. Cost is \$15 which includes a membership to FCAL.

Mark Ferris advised that on July 12th. 6:30PM, Pam LaBine, Zoning Administrator of Forest County, will be hosting a meeting to answer questions regarding shoreline zoning. Ferris suggested that the Forest Service has a 5yr. window to dredge in front of their property, it would be an opportunity for the District to help clean out the boat landing and in front of the campground.

Ferris reported that the broadband upgrade possibly would be active by the end of July.

Budget Hearing:

Gehl moved to accept the proposed 2017 Budget as presented to the Members at the Meeting. Seconded by Kloehn. Discussion followed. Tax Assessment would remain the same at \$30,000, anticipated interest of \$300 and CBCW Grant income of \$4,000 giving a Total Revenue of \$34,300. Using last year's Expenditures of \$22,700 results in a surplus of \$11,600. Proposed Budget does not include a cost of \$11,000 previously approved for Dredging studies but not spent. Question raised as to why the District keeps spending money on surveys but nothing gets done. Answer, because these surveys are required by the DNR to allow future harvesting and possible dredging. According to the District Bi-Laws, any expenditure over \$5,000 must be approved by the Members of the District. Motion carried.

There being no other business, motion made to adjourn, seconded and approved. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectively Submitted,

James Gehl,
Secretary

2015 Spring Largemouth Bass Die-off

From: *Gregory R Matzke*

Senior Fisheries Biologist
Florence & Forest Counties
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Date: May 11, 2015

Below you will find the preliminary commentary from Dr. Megan Finley, who works in our Fish Health Department in Madison. She was able to take a look at some of the fish, and has sent some for further analysis. As you will see below we are looking at 4-5 weeks before we can definitively know what the cause of the LMB kill on Pine Lake was.

Caution: The email below from Dr. Finley is not definitive.

From: Dr. Megan Finley

Date: May 11, 2015

Thank you for all the information you provided. It helps me get a clearer picture of what's going on there. We took a look at the fish and I have some preliminary commentary. Unfortunately the majority of the fish were showing considerable post-mortem changes. This makes some of the observations hard to interpret as you do not know whether they are related to the cause of death or if they occurred afterwards. For example, most of the fish had pale, emphysematous livers, and adhesions of organs to the body wall. This could be disease related or post-mortem. We took samples for bacteriology and virology. I am hoping that the fish that had been alive when you collected them will provide us with some results.

I am thinking that with the species of fish that were affected, the environmental conditions, and the spawning readiness of the fish that we may be dealing with a spring die off situation. This problem often occurs when waters warm rapidly, and fish start metabolizing more vigorously and are also under stress from spawning related activities. They find the added stress of lower oxygen levels, noxious gases, and pathogens in the water to be overwhelming and will die. This condition usually lasts only a couple of weeks and the overall numbers that die are still relatively low. Species most often affected are bluegills, crappies, perch, bass, pike and suckers.

I will let you know as soon as we get any results from either bacti or virology. Bacti usually takes about 1-2 weeks and viro 4-5. In the meantime if you have any questions please let either Bridget or I know.

From: Gregory R Matzke

Date: June 17, 2015

Thanks for contacting me in regards to the Pine Lake Bass Kill this spring. We collected bass at the time of the kill in various states of decomposition and sent them to our lab in Madison. It took 4 weeks to get the results back from virus and bacteria testing.

(over)

A virus was detected. It was not “largemouth bass virus” which is commonly the cause of a LMB die off due to virus. They tested it against other known viruses and can not identify it. It is being sent in for more detailed work to identify the family of the virus. However, our fish health expert in Madison is not sure that the virus caused the die-off. It was only detected in one of 5 fish that underwent the testing. She believes that the die off was most likely caused by a combination of environmental stressors (increasing water temperature, water quality, spawning stress) and the presence of two forms of bacteria found in the bass sampled. You can see her comments below (that I just received today)

From: Dr. Megan Finley

Date: June 17, 2015

I have spoken with the lab and the virus detected cannot be identified at this time. I have arranged for it to be sent for electron microscopy. Hopefully this will tell us what family the virus is from and can aid us in its identification. From there we can send it for next generation sequencing to get a full ID. A lengthy process and not one that I think will be of importance to this case. Because the virus was only detected in one of the virology samples (a 5 fish pool) I am less inclined to believe it to be the cause of this fish kill. Bacteriology results however revealed motile aeromonas and pseudomonas in most of the fish sampled. I think that this bacteria along with other stressors (environmental factors, spawning) are most likely the cause of this fish kill. I have attached a case summary that provides a bit more information.

From: Gregory Matzke

Oct. 14, 2015

Here is a quick summary:

Most of you already know that the major largemouth bass kill was determined to be caused by what I call the “perfect storm”...there were two different types of bacteria present in the fish samples that were sent to our lab this spring and our fish health experts determined that the presence of these two bacteria (which are commonly found in all of our lakes) along with the seasonal stress put on adult largemouth bass (rising water temperature, spawning stress, water quality, etc) is what caused the fish kill. However, one of the samples that were sent down tested positive for a virus that has never been seen before. We obviously know very little about this virus, since it has never been documented before, so last week we collected 15 live bass of varying size/age class and our fish health team came up from Madison to take tissue and fluid samples from these bass while they were fresh. Samples of brain, gill, muscle and other organ tissues were taken. These samples will be tested for the unknown virus to get a better understanding of how common this virus is in Pine Lake largemouth bass and to get a better understanding of what this virus does and how it works. I have attached pictures from the sampling process that occurred last week.

Update

June: 28, 2016

Confirmed by recent lab tests, the unknown virus did not appear in any of the fish collected last fall, and did not cause the spring die-off.