

PINE LAKE

NEWS

The Official Publication of:
Pine Lake Recreation & Rehabilitation District

Hiles, Wisconsin

QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE BOARD

July 13, 1996

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Vic Burkey, at 12:10 p.m. Also in attendance were Board Members Pat Coraggio and Charles Struebing.

First item of business was the reading of the minutes of the April 1996 quarterly meeting.

Charlie reported that he had talked with Aquarius on the delivery of the weed transport. The machine will be delivered within the next two weeks. Larry Handeland was asked when the weed harvester would start harvesting. Due to the lack of weed growth, the weed harvest-

ing will begin next week.

Vic mentioned that Steve AveLallemant, Fisheries Biologist for the DNR, confirmed the stocking of 70,000 Walleye fingerlings in the lake.

Ron Balzer questioned why we haven't considered stocking the lake with high bred, non-producing Musky to rid the lake of some of the smaller pan fish.

Pat Balzer reported that she had spoken with the DNR and was told that they were not aware of any discussions with the district regarding the lake level. Pat and Ron were concerned with the lower level of the lake this past winter and its effect on the game fish population. Ron Balzer added he did have a discussion with Jim McNalley of the

DNR and Jim also felt the lake level may have affected fish kill during the harsh winters such as we had last year. Vic stated that we had discussed these concerns with the DNR before allowing the level to be lowered. Lake levels have been discussed by the lake Commissioners with the Town Board and the DNR over the last several years but the Board will check further and report to the District. Vic had checked the current lake level and it is 1.30 (over the standard level of 1.0)

Pat motioned to adjourn, Vic seconded, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully,
Charlie Struebing



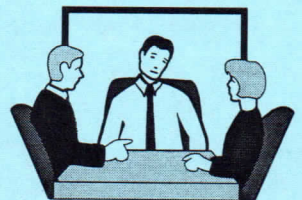
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE BOARD

July 13, 1996

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Vic Burkey, at 1:05 p.m. Also in attendance were Board Members Pat Coraggio and Charlie Struebing.

First item of business was the reading of the July 1995 Annual Meeting minutes. Ron Balzer motioned to accept, Norm Schulz seconded, motion passed. Minutes of auxiliary



meetings were also read, Joe Zver motioned to accept, Norm Schulz seconded, motion passed.

Pat Coraggio next distributed copies of and read the Treasurer's Report. He explained that prior to last year the checking account was not interest bearing and the District investing money in CD's whenever possible. Because of the purchase of the weed harvester last year, and the transport this year, he felt the interest bearing checking account would be

more suited to our needs. This account pays 4.5% interest. Pat has also arranged for a \$30,000 loan for the forthcoming weed transport. Bob Reimer inquired about our debt and it was explained that the weed harvester has already been paid for and since tax revenue is expected shortly and along with the reimbursement from the State, the loan can possibly be paid off shortly.

Pat also explained the Commissioners are required by law to have a CPA audit the books and this report be given at the Annual Meeting. Braun, Preboske and Brettingen, SC of Crandon, WI. was chosen and although the report was expected in June it was finally received yesterday afternoon. The report states on page 1, paragraph 3, *"the financial statements referred to in the first paragraph present fairly in all material respects, the financial position of the Pine Lake District as of December 31, 1995, and the results of its operations for the year then ended, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles"*. This report is public record and copies are available to anyone that chooses.

Ron Balzer motioned to accept the treasurer's report, Don Metten seconded, motion passed.

The 1996/97 budget was suggested to be left at the \$27,000.00 tax amount levied last year. Vic felt that we did a good job last year on the amount spent towards weed harvesting and we should be able to stay at this budget rate for this year. Tom Wirth asked if the weeds will need cutting this year and Larry Handleland answered saying that the men will start cutting next week. Don Metten felt we should start saving money for a truck purchase and future land and a building for storage of the equipment. It

was reported that the district will be renting lake access on Tom Knaus's land. This land will be available this year and possibly next year at a cost of \$450.00 per year. Vic thanked Tom Knaus on behalf of the district for the use of his land. Pat explained to the body that the Board recommended this budget as sufficient. Don Metten motioned to accept this 1996/97 budget, Ron Balzer seconded, motion passed.

Ron Balzer questioned who owns the beach by the dam. Vic explained it is privately owned and the owner refuses to sell to the City. Also, considering the road right of way, the amount of land is minimum. It was also explained that one of the stipulations in the weed harvester grant with the DNR was that the District is required in the future to provide a building for storage. Vic explained that for the next five years the lake has to follow the regulations regarding where on the lake the weeds are harvested. We are not allowed to disturb the weeds which act as a filter bed on the inlet side of the lake and we cannot cut bulrushes and lily pads.

Larry Handleland was asked the procedure used in the cutting of an area of the lake. Larry explained jugs were set up in a rectangular area and the weed cutter cuts back and forth in this area.

The next item of business was the election of an officer for Vic's term. Joe Zver nominated Vic Burkey, Lynn McHenry seconded, with no other nominations Norm Schulz motioned to close nominations, and seconded by Ron Balzer. Vic Burkey was voted to third term of office. A meeting will be held after the annual meeting for the Board members to decide who will hold what positions. Ron Balzer inquired on how many consecutive terms a Board member can serve. Pat confirmed that three are allowed by the by-laws.

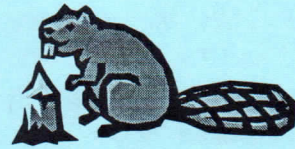
Pat asked if everyone got their newsletter, since we are using the Town treasurers mailing list. He also asked if two issues, Spring and Fall, is what the District wants. Ron Balzer moved we continue with the newsletter in spring and fall, Joe Zver seconded, motion passed. Charlie reminded everyone that Pat could use help with additional articles.

Joe Zver questioned the Board regarding the boundaries of the lake district. Vic explained the boundaries and also informed us that he had requested from the DNR a clarification on these boundaries, but hasn't received an answer back as of yet.



Vic was questioned on who controls the lake levels. Vic explained that the Town checks the level every one to three days and keeps a log on these records. The lake is allowed plus or minus six (6) inches above the mark. This height is regulated by the Public Service Commission and recently was discussed in our Spring 1996 newsletter. The Town is tired of the bickering on the level of the lake and would like to give the dam to the lake district. Of course, along with the dam would be the liability and cost of insurance. Vic doesn't feel that the lake district should control the dam and the level of the lake and that we should remain only as an advisor. Vic also felt the dam was poorly designed and retains silt rather than letting the lake flow through the bottom of the dam. Replacement cost of the dam would probably be between \$500,000 and 1 million dollars. Ron Balzer questioned what pressure the District could place on the Town Board for future replacement of the dam like what was done with the mill pond dam. Charlie asked if possibly the DNR and the Town could start discussions on future replacement. Vic asked those in attendance if they wanted responsibility of the dam and consensus was 'no'. (Vic mentioned that discussion of the dam would have been more effective if the Town representative was present at our meeting)

Pat suggested we take a vote on whether the lake should be lowered in the fall to reduce ice damage in the spring or left where it presently is at. Vic made a motion to send a letter to the Town Board to request the lake be lowered in the fall, Tom Wirth seconded. Pat Balzer questioned that with so few in attendance (24 present) should such a sensitive issue be voted on. Vic mentioned that the meeting was given notice in the newsletter and the Forest Republican and decisions must be made by those who attend the meeting. The motion failed by a vote of 12 against and 8 in favor. Tom Knaus motioned to send a letter to the Town Board to request that the lake level be constant all year long. Joe Zver seconded, motion passed (12 for and 7 against). Vic added there has never been a study on the high/low lake levels and its effect on erosion and fish kill. The DNR letter printed in our Spring 1996 newsletter was merely an individual's opinion. Vic suggested we petition the DNR for such a lake study. Ron Balzer so moved, Larry Handlehland seconded, motion passed unanimously.



Vic reported that the Town Board and the lake district jointly tackled the beaver problem in the creek. A bounty was paid for pelts to Mike Buchovic. Mike has trapped several beaver, but no figures are available. Now help is required to remove beaver dams, trees and debris. With the help of our transport we will be able to get up the creek and with the help of volunteers, improve the water flow into our lake. This will happen during the "Stake in the Lake" which will be held August 17 at 9:00 a.m. A potluck supper will follow the day's work. Vic will make the arrangements.

Tom Knaus made a motion to stock the lake this year with bass and highbred muskies (the type that do not reproduce), in addition to the walleyes which are generally stocked. Ron Balzer seconded, the motion passed.

Tom Knaus asked if there could be set hours for water skiing and personal water craft similar to what we had on the lake in years past. Pat added that we could pass any laws we want, but the lake would then need to hire personnel to enforce these laws. The Board will discuss these matters with the DNR and ask for their opinion.

Charlie questioned if there should be a limit to the number of boats allowed per 100 feet of shoreline. The DNR will be asked their opinion on this also.

Ron Balzer motioned to adjourn the meeting, Norm Schulz seconded, motion passed, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully,
Charles Struebing

Meeting of the Board

Pat made a motion that the Commissioner's remain in their present positions, Charlie seconded, motion passed.

Pat informed the Board that the bylaws require we collect per diem pay; and he also informed the Board that our insurance company requires an employment sexual harassment policy and that he had drafted a policy. Charles motioned to accept this policy, Pat seconded, motion passed.

October 26, 1996 at 1:00 p.m. will be the next quarterly meeting.

QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE BOARD

October 26, 1996

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Vic Burkey, at 1:05 p.m. Also in attendance were Board Members Pat Coraggio and Charlie Struebing.

Pat inquired if we had received the DNR reimbursement check for the weed transport or had there been any communication with the DNR. Charles offered to call Pat Zatopa and ask why it hasn't been received.

Vic talked with Steve AveLallemant, DNR fisheries biologist, on the sores which have been noticed on the northerns caught in Pine Lake. These sores are a result of Lymphosarcoma, or basically 'fish cancer'. Mike Bukovic added this has also been observed on walleye caught on Lake Geneva. In addition, many of these fish had a virus which accompanies Lymphosarcoma. Mr. AveLallemant stated that these conditions are not transmittable to humans and cause no health hazard. The appearance of these sores has been reported over the last 4-5 years, by ice fishermen.



Pat presented the Treasurer's Report for the period July 1, 1996 to October 25, 1996. Charlie motioned to accept, Vic seconded, motion passed.

Larry Handeland reported that the weed harvesting crew harvested only 48 loads of seaweed. This decline from last years 200 loads was due to the lack of weed growth, weather and the absence of dead weeds due to last years harvesting. When asked how the new transport was performing, Larry said he was still working on modifications to allow hookup to the weed harvester. Aquarius systems sent longer cylinders to allow correct hookup but there are still questions on compatibility. Charlie's suggested we have Aquarius come up as soon as possible, and take the transport back to the factory for revision. The bid stated that the transport must conform to the weed harvester and conveyor. Pat and Vic agreed and it was decided that Larry would summarize the problems and a letter would be written stating these problems and our dissatisfaction.

Vic reported that Mike Bukovic trapped 20 beaver. A bounty of \$20.00 per beaver was offered jointly by the district and the Town Board. Mike noted that it seems like

this is the extent of the beaver in the area of Pine Creek and our lake. The District will cut a check to Mike and will invoice the Town Board.

Vic also reported that the Town Board will be selling the dump truck that the lake has been using for week removal. Vic motioned that we purchase the truck and Pat seconded. Larry Handeland was asked if he felt we should purchase same, and it was his opinion that other than a few repairs, the truck should last for the light work we subject it to. Motion passed unanimously.



Vic added he had received complaints that people had not seen the District cutting weeds after the money spent on equipment. Larry Handeland said this year the lake weeds didn't grow and they were not long enough to harvest. Mike Bukovic added the program must be working! Tom Wirth asked if would consider contracting weed cutting around piers. The answer is no because the DNR won't allow the District to contract the services of the harvester and the size of this harvester limits its mobility.

Charlie questioned if we again want to rent Tom Knaus's land for the weed harvesting equipment. Vic motioned we send a letter to Tom requesting the same, Pat seconded. Motion passed.

Vic brought up the problems this year with an individual who was tying his boat up overnight to another persons pier without permission. There also have been problems in past years with "off" lake property owners who have lake access and have constructed piers on these Town easements. Because of liability, the Town is passing an ordinance which will not allow piers on Town land or easements.

Pat asked if the Board Members had any questions regarding the sexual harassment policy we recently approved. Larry Handeland and the Board were reminded by Pat that not only new employees, but also returning employees, must be given copies of the policy each year.

Pat reminded the Board that articles were due October 8th for the next newsletter. Larry Handeland was also

asked if would write about the weed program. Pat also noted that Ronnie Balzer wants to bid on the printing and collating of our newsletter. Pat said since the basics were already set up on his computer, he would like to continue the writing of the newsletter and this printing he would like to print as we have done in the past. Current cost was approximately \$315.98, but does not include Pat's employees time and materials. Pat agreed to keep track of these costs. We will further discuss this during our January meeting.

Mike Bukovic discussed with the Board that last year we had a problem with fish kill and he feels that we should look into aeration at certain bays in the lake. Pat had discussed fish kill with the DNR. Steve AveLallemant of the DNR had stated that some fish kill is good and the winter kill on Pine Lake was relatively small. Pat added that this was his best fishing this summer in his memory. Mike added that we should consider what lake weeds should be left unharvested due to their help in the creation of oxygen during the winter months.

Vic sent letter to the Town Board to request that they leave the lake level at the summer level throughout the winter. The Board took the matter under advisement.

January 18, 1997 at 1:00 p.m. will be the next quarterly meeting of the Board.

Charles suggested to the attendee's that many of them may be interested in attending the WAL conference in Stevens Point. There is a great deal of information on many of the topics discussed during our meetings given at this convention.

Vic reported on the question of whether there is any law regarding the definition of Lake District boundaries.

Mike Bukovic questioned if the Board has budgeted any funds for the stocking of walleye fingerlings. Vic stated that the DNR is already stocking walleyes in the lake every other year and he felt this was sufficient.

Vic motioned to adjourn, Pat seconded, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully,
Charlie Struebing

NOTE: Minutes of the Board of Commissioners meetings may be edited to accomodate printing - originals are on file.

4TH OF JULY MEMORIES

by: *Charlie Struebing*

When asked to submit an article for the newsletter, I thought I would relive the fun that many of us shared during the 4th of July pontoon and boat parade on Pine Lake. After some hasty decorations and the raising of "Old Glory",



my wife, kids, parents, relatives, fellow lake dwellers Tom and Deb, and our dalmatian "Pepper", joined the parade on our pontoon boat.

The happiness begins with the exchange of smiles and cheers with fellow parade boaters and is continuously shared during the parade. We envy the boats who have bore the expense of time and decorations to declare their pride in America. As the parade begins, this pride is nourished with the overwhelming enthusiasm by the spectators who have gathered on their piers and along the shoreline. Our attention is continuously redirected by waving hands and broad smiles, displayed by kids and grownups, happy once again to be kids. All of our make-shift "floats" are overwhelmed with people having great time. We proceed, like ducklings behind their mothers. Occasionally, the excitement of waving and shouting to the people on shore overwhelms the pilots of the floats and we find ourselves straying from formation. Slowly courses are corrected back behind the boat ahead and again the celebration continues.

As we reach the northeast end of the lake, boats alternately lift their motors to clear their props of seaweed, uncommon this year, but this passage in shallow water is a necessary evil to allow close exchange of cheers with fellow celebrants on this birthday of our nation. As we pass the boat landing and public campgrounds, I wonder how many of these visitors who have shared this event, will return next year to relive this. Slowly, as we approach Stoney Point, boats begin to break away from the formation and the jubilant had waving changes from excitement to thanks and farewell.

Until next year, let's all try to remember these times we shared.....

NO CONCERN FROM THE DNR REGARDING WINTER KILL

by: Patrick J. Coraggio

In the Spring of 1996, winter became the distant relative who showed up for dinner and never left! During the months of March and April, many Pine Lake residents became concerned about the lack of oxygen in the lake and the possibility of a severe winter kill off of the fishing population. Numerous phone calls were received by the Commissioners asking the status of the oxygen level and what, if anything, they could do to help preserve the fish population. In mid-May, as the ice finally dissolved, there was some indication that a winterkill had occurred, but the extent could not be determined by visual observations. The Commissioners contacted the DNR and wrote a letter to Steve AveLallemant, Fisheries Biologist for the DNR. Mr. AveLallemant is responsible for monitoring Pine Lake.



Additionally, Pine Lake residents who were at the Fishery held in February noticed that Fish Biologists from the DNR were taking samples of any fish that were caught during the Fishery which had open sores. The Fish Biologists advised the Pine Lake District Commissioners that they were going to take samples of these fish and have them analyzed at two different universities to try and determine the cause of the open sores.

In response to the Commissioners inquiry regarding the winter kill off and the samples that were taken from the northern pike in Pine Lake, the following letter was received:

August 15, 1996

Mr Patrick J. Coraggio
Commissioner - Pine Lake P&R District
PO Box 296
Hiles, WI 54511

Dear Pat:

Pine Lake did indeed experience some winterkill this past winter but I see no need for mitigation measures such as

stocking save for the continued alternate-year walleye stocking the DNR does. We monitored dissolved oxygen levels frequently and as late as April 10, 1996 there was oxygen enough to prevent massive die-offs. So, while a number of fish did die, there is plenty of "stock" out there to repopulate the losses. In fact, in lakes such as Pine, periodic winterkill often helps panfish like bluegills by thinning high abundance and allowing better growth of the remaining population. The bad side of winterkill is that it is often rough on the larger gamefish.

I still do not have the final results from the sampling of the sores on the northern pike in Pine Lake. I realize that we have been at this issue for several years now since I first started looking into it with Dave Houle. Different types of sampling have been conducted over this time and samples have been looked at by not only our DNR disease specialists but by a number of individuals from around the U.S. I am however hopeful that we will have some definitive results soon. Please bear with me.

Thank you and the rest of the folks on Pine Lake for your continued interest in your fishery.

Sincerely,
Steve AveLallemant
Fisheries Biologist

HOW WIDE AND HOW LONG CAN I BUILD A PIER

This question has been posed to the Commissioners on several occasions. So we decided it was time to find out what the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) looks for when they inspect a pier. What we found out was that it is not so easy to determine if it is a legal pier or not. The DNR specifically states that a pier cannot be more than six feet wide. However, when it comes to the length, it becomes more complex. The length of the pier should be only long enough to accommodate the size of your boat so that you can tie it up, and should not exceed the length of your boat



to any great degree. However, your pier can be long enough so that it can stretch into the water where it is approximately 3 feet deep or it can be longer if you can show that the boat you own requires a depth that is deeper than 3 feet.

So, as you can see, there is some flexibility on how long your pier can be and there is no definitive length established by the DNR. Anyone who has questions or concerns regarding their pier should feel free to call the DNR officer in Rhinelander, WI. at 715-365-8900.

TAX EXEMPT NUMBERS FOR LAKE DISTRICTS

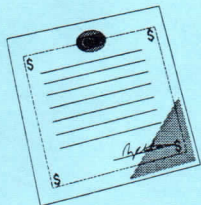
An officer of a lake district recently questioned a problem with tax exempt numbers. He knew that a lake district was a unit of government and therefore tax exempt, however, he was having problems with vendors who required a tax exempt number. His problem was referred to Elmer Goetsch, Chairman of the Board of the Wisconsin Association of Lakes. Elmer's response follows:

As we know, units of government, including Lake Districts, are not issued a tax exemption number. However, on rare occasions we get reports of Lake Districts being asked for a tax exemption number by local vendors.

I contacted the Wisconsin Department of Revenue (DOR), who verified that Lake Districts are not issued, nor do they need, a tax exemption number. The DOR went on to say a number of such experiences, like that of the Lake District officer mentioned above, have come up over the years. The Department of Revenue has

therefore prepared a *Government Sales and Use Exemption Certificate (form S-209; N.3-96)* which can be issued by the local government having the problem. The Public Inland Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District is specifically indicated on the certificate.

If the purchaser or the seller has questions regarding the completion or use of the exemption certificate, they may call 608-266-2776, or write to the Wisconsin Dept. of Revenue, PO Box 8902, Madison, WI. 53708-8902. Forms are available from the Department of Revenue or by



sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Dorothy Snyder, UWEX-Lakes Program, CNR-UWSP, 1900 Franklin St., Stevens Point, WI. 54481.

Above article taken from Autumn 1996 "Lake Tides"

WANTED

The Pine Lake Recreation & Rehabilitation District Commissioners are interested in obtaining information about any land or buildings on or near Pine Lake that are available for sale. Please send any information to Pat Coraggio, PO Box 296, Hiles, WI. 54511 or call [715] 649-3335

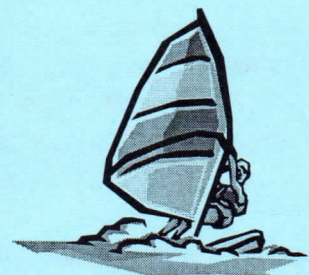
MAKING WAVES

Recreational Boating in the '90's

Wisconsin's lakes remain one of the last strongholds of relaxation and recreation available to most of the people in this region. Each year more and more of us head for the water "to get away from all". In the 1950's fishing represented 95% of all lake use and the customary form of propulsion was 'manual'. The '90's have arrived with lake use seeing major changes - ranging from SCUBA diving to para-skiing. The technology has been fossil-fuel driven and speed is a mania. With these changes in use, come changes in user arrangements and regulations.

Past public access policy and boating regulations have predominately centered on fishing.

These well-intentioned endeavors could not predict the changes in our recreational habits. There are sizable numbers of low-impact users who look to our lakes for solitude and a naturally aesthetic vista. There has also been major growth in the



number of folks operating large, fast vessels and personal watercraft. Today's recreation has the potential to become highly unsettling for all lake users. If this trend continues, it could lead to disappointment and frustration during what is supposed to be one of the best experiences of your life ... your time on the water.

With the swelling of today's users and their diverse interests, the need for some sort of compromise and understanding is evident. It is a shame that we all can't do what we want, when we want. Without some sort of tolerance and user arrangement, the frustration and anger that springs from conflict and overuse can ruin the "lake experience" for everyone.

Without suitable guidance that continually corrects for our shortcomings and unpredicted changes, our lakes might be a less satisfying retreat than they are today. We have the ability to circumvent such a fate for our lakes, but it calls for some tough decisions and a little "ground giving". Many people have solutions to assisting our society in reaching recreational fulfillment and maintaining a stable ecosystem. Some of the ingredients in the eventual solution may be found here:

> In the long term, the legislature may consider combining the rules for highways and waterways into a consistent unified system with the same restrictions on age, alcohol, eyesight and a point system. A 1995 National Association of State Boating Law Administrators survey revealed six states requiring operator licensing: Alabama, Connecticut, Indiana, Minnesota, New Jersey and North Dakota. No states require a special boating license to operate personal watercraft. Presently, 35 states set a minimum age requirement ranging from 10 to 18 years of age; 12 is the average age.

> More education about safe and courteous boating. While education and operator licensing is not usually mandated, many states have initiated public education efforts. Twenty-six states certify minor boaters. Thirty-six states offer boating education in public schools. Wisconsin has a mandatory boater safety program.

> A system of lake use classification. Currently all Wisconsin lakes under 50 acres are "no wake" lakes.

> Most of the best decisions about lake use will probably be made over a kitchen table and a cup of coffee - people building trust and respect and trying to make choices that

are best for the lake and acceptable for its people.

Local lake users are beginning to agree on:

- > Compatible hours for lake use.
- > Areas sensitive to motor powered craft.
- > Speed limits
- > Courtesy codes that encourage harmony.
- > Ways and places to limit noise.



PLN//Fall96/reb