

**MINUTES: Quarterly Meeting**  
**PINE LAKE PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT**  
**May 24, 2025**

**These minutes have not been approved**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mark Ferris at 8:00am. Present at the Hiles Town Hall were Mark, commissioners Terry Kloehn, EJ Kutchie, Jim Kurzynske, Jeff Seidl and Jerry Duhn. 30 people registered on the sign in sheets. Plus the 6 commissioners.

The meeting was posted 24 hours in advance of the actual meeting time. The agenda was reviewed. Motioned by Terry to proceed with the agenda, seconded by EJ. Passed

**Previous Meeting Minutes.** Jerry read the minutes of the Quarterly meeting held on August 31, 2024. Motion by Terry to approve the minutes, second by Jeff. Passed.

**Current finances.**

EJ reported on the current balances as of 4/30/2025.

**Laona State Bank-**

Checking           \$ 75,936.28 Checking account earning 2% interest.

Money Market \$224,357.25

Regular CD's     \$10,859.95

TOTAL             \$310,153.48

Motioned by Jerry to approve the finances. Seconded by Terry. Passed

**Rigero Update-** Mark explained the Lake District discovery of a company called Rigero. Rigero is a company that can eliminate muck by the use of Bio Pods that interacts with and eliminates the muck. They installed 5 units yesterday. Each unit will cost \$3,500. One unit will be placed at the boat landing. Mark suggested that the lake district help with the first 15 units to be installed by having an incentive program of a \$1,000 rebate to the purchaser of the equipment. Due to the rebate there will be some compliance requirements i.e.: you may own the unit, if you sell the unit or do not continue to use the unit in subsequent years you will need to pay the lake district back the \$1,000 rebate amount. Mark would also like to come up with a form for observation. One Lake District member challenged the board that for a project cost of \$15,000 we will have to present that at the Annual meeting for a vote. The board will investigate and take the correct action.

**Action on Sale of the Dredging Equipment, Trailer.** Mark would like to propose the sale of the equipment and one of the trailers to help cover the cost of the rebate program. There were no objections from the membership and this topic can be discussed and voted on at the annual meeting.

**Dam Update and Transfer of Ownership:** Mark believes we are about 60 days out to transfer the dam from the Town of Hiles to the Lake District. Some open issues are the ability to lock the gate mechanism, silt fences, blocking the tubes from fish moving down stream and the potential for a fish ladder. Jeff called Adam at Ayers Engineering. Adam understand our view point of items and work on some potential solutions.

**Pine Lake Dredging , Creek Restoration:** Mark shared with the Lake District members that last fall we started to work on a project to restore Pine Creek so cleaner water can enter from the mill pond to the lake. Mark, Jeff and Tiffany held a zoom meeting with 8 representatives from the DNR in late April.

There was a list of concerns from the DNR about the need to clean up Pine Creek. The two larger questions were—where the muck came from and if we cleaned up the creek will it just refill with the muck, and the designation that Pine Creek is a source for wild rice. Tiffany will be taking some core samples of Pine Creek to investigate the presents of any hard metal material. Jeff has been in contact with Scott Egan (DNR liaison between lake districts and the DNR). Scott has offered to come and see that situation on Pine Creek and Pine Lake to get an idea of what we are trying to do to improve the lake overall. Jeff wants to wait until August when the impact will be that greatest due to our week growth in the lake.

**Wake Boat Issue:** The Town of Hiles is considering a No Wake Boat ordinance for all the Lake located in the Town of Hiles. There have been some complaints from residents on the shorelines of the wakes causing shoreline erosion. A few members spoke up in opposition of such an ordinance. Wake boats need deep water and to run a wake boat on Pine Lake you must be in the middle of the lake. Thus, no shoreline erosion occurs on Pine Lake. Mark explained that it will also affect the lakes of Butternut and Franklin. It is difficult to do an ordinance for specific lake.

**Any other business:**

**Lake Water Level update.** A member asked for an update and Mark inferred to Jerry. Larry Konopacki and Jerry are working with GLIFWC (Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission). When the Lake District petitions the DNR for the lake increase the first organization the DNR will contact will be GIFWC. Since Pine Lake is designated as a “wild rice lake” GLIFWC will have the input if a level increase will deter or promote wild rice growth. Larry and Jerry want to get those concerns prior to the petition so they can be addressed up front.

Jerry encourages anyone who would accept the annual meeting notice by email vs through the mail can send an approval email at [pinelakeinfo@gmail.com](mailto:pinelakeinfo@gmail.com)

The Town of Hiles crew has been working hard at cleaning up damage from the ice storm. Continue to put damage trees by the road for pick up in early June. Another option is to take your brush to the transfer station.

**Meeting Dates for 2025.**

All meetings will start at 8:00am

Annual- Saturday, July 5 Fourth of July weekend

Quarterly- Saturday, July 5 After the Annual Meeting

Quarterly- Saturday, August 30 Labor Day weekend

The board will meet as needed to discuss lake business.

**Adjourn**

Being no further comments, Jerry made a motion to adjourn the meeting, EJ second. Passed. Meeting adjourned at 9:10. Next scheduled meeting will the Annual Meeting on Saurday, July 5<sup>th</sup> with a Quarterly meeting to follow.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jerry Duhn, Secretary