

**CROOKED LAKE AREA LAKES
PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT
MEETING MINUTES**

May 25, 2024

A meeting of the Crooked Lake Area Lakes Protection and Rehabilitation District was held on Saturday, May 25, 2024, at the Crooked Lake Community Center in the Town of Riverview, WI. The following were in attendance:

Commissioners: Brian Webb, Chair
Bob Sipiorski, Treasurer
Pam Wierzba, Secretary
Kevin Rasmussen
Dean Stoller
Dave VanZeeland, Oconto County
Dave Szepanski, Town of Riverview

Also present: Curt Hoffman, Firewise
24 citizens were in attendance

Chair Webb called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. CST. He began the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Brian Webb presided, and Pam Wierzba acted as the secretary.

After affirming that no directors present declared any conflicts of interest with any agenda topics, Brian Webb asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Hearing none, he proceeded with the meeting.

Approval of Minutes from Prior Meeting

D. VanZeeland presented the motion, seconded by D. Stoller and carried; the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Crooked Lake Area Lakes Protection and Rehabilitation District meeting held on May 04, 2024 and presented to the Board of Commissioners at this meeting, be and hereby are, approved.

Treasurer's Report was reported by B. Sipiorski. Total revenue to date is \$20,507. The current checking balance is \$33,631. Current amounts of the three CD's are \$16,004, \$20,493, and \$20,097. Total expenses to date are \$3,339. Projected checking balance at year end is \$22,901. D. Stoller made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, seconded by D. VanZeeland, unanimously approved.

Due to the rising costs of Onterra lake studies, permitting, and weed control and the fact that the DNR grants are becoming more difficult to obtain, the board recommends that the tax assessment remain at \$100 per lake parcel.

Citizens present at the meeting made suggestions to help with expenses;

1. Ask Oconto County to assist in weed control expenses.
2. Additional assessment amount to those with multiple docks that are being rented.
3. Boat launch fees.

A motion to approve the \$100 tax assessment was made by K. Rasmussen, seconded by D. Szepanski, unanimously approved.

Committee Reports

Clean Boat/Clean Water

B. Webb explained the Clean Boat/Clean Water program. It is a volunteer program where citizens man a boat landing and remind boaters to clean off boats and trailers, ask what bodies of water have they been on in the last five days, empty all live wells, etc. This is done to reduce the spread of the Eurasian Watermilfoil.

Zebra Mussel Update

Zebra mussel monitoring will continue. There is some indication that the population has peaked. If zebra mussels are spotted on your docks or boats, contact B. Webb and he will verify that it is zebra mussels and will add the location to the database.

Education

New placards with the lake rules including the new Town of Riverview wake ordinance will be available at all of the boat landings. Please keep a copy at your property and/or rental property.

D. VanZeeland explained the new wake ordinance which was passed in December 2023. The DNR reviewed and approved the ordinance verbiage. Other local communities have also passed a wake ordinance including the Town of Doty (except Bass Lake) and Townsend lakes. A door drop flier was suggested to ensure visitors at lake properties know the rules.

The Oconto County Sheriff Department suggests that any ordinance violations be reported to the non-emergency number. If it is a dangerous situation, please call 911. If possible, take a photo or video of the violator showing the boat registration number.

Commissioner Election

There are two commissioner terms up for election, B. Webb and P. Wierzba. Both have agreed to another term.

A motion to nominate B. Webb and P. Wierzba to another three year term was made by K. Rassmussen, seconded by D. Stoller, unanimously approved.

Other Business

OCLAWA (Oconto County Lakes and Waterways Association)

This is an organization whose goal is to protect the health of the surface waters throughout Oconto County. They are an important advocate for lakes in northern Oconto County. A grant request of \$1000 will be pursued by B. Webb to help pay for Onterra activities. Receiving a grant from OCLAWA may assist in receiving further grants/points from the DNR by showing we have support from other organizations. Money for grants is raised through The Lucky 13 Raffle. The drawing is August 24, 2024. Raffle tickets are available from commissioners.

Firewise

Laura Hayes from the DNR (and special guest Smokey the Bear) discussed the Fire Ride ATV Ride celebrating the 80th birthday of Smokey the Bear. It will be June 15, 2024. Food and raffles will take place at the Lakewood Fire Station. The ride will include stops at six fire stations in the area, including Crooked Lake. It will be a family friendly event. She reported that there have been 744 wildfires in Wisconsin so far in 2024.

Multiple structures, including 22 homes, have been lost. An Emergency Action Plan Packet was hung on doors last fall. It contains information on how to evacuate and where to go in case of an emergency. Code Red is the Oconto County emergency system to sign up for on the county website.

It includes weather emergencies as well. Home Ignition Assessments will take place June 26th. Gypsy moth caterpillars are present in the area. Please destroy when you see egg masses.

C. Hoffman discussed Firewise. Leaf and needle pick-up is still ongoing. Firewise district is from Bunn Lane to Up North Lane on the west side of W. Roadside chipping will begin June 10. Make sure to record hours worked on the timesheets. There have been requests to have leaf and needle pick-up for the other side of W. The Firewise program goes through the Lake District, not the fire department. In order to expand the pick up area, there would need to be volunteers to help in various areas. The grant money amount stays the same, regardless of the size of the district.

New Business

To save on postage, E-mail addresses are requested to send the Lake District Newsletter. Thank-you to J. Porubcan for her work on the newsletter.

A concern was raised on why we are holding onto the weed cutter. It hasn't been used in years. C. Hoffman feels it should be kept as an insurance policy in the event there comes a time when we may not receive grant money for weed control chemical application. It is in good working order. A suggestion of insurance coverage/deductible changes may help with costs.

Chair Webb adjourned the meeting at 10:02 a.m. Next meeting will be September 7, 2024 at 9 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Wierzba, Secretary