

The Church Pine, Round And Big Lake Protection And Rehabilitation District Annual Members Meeting

Saturday, September 3, 2005

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

The meeting was called to order at 9:42AM by John Schulte, Board Chair

Open Positions: John started by announcing that there are two positions on the Board that are open for nominations; Merle Paulson and John Schulte.

Minutes: There was a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the spring meeting. The motion was seconded and a show of hands indicated the majority, but a large number of members wanted the minutes read. As a compromise, and since a significant number wanted to review the notes, Doug Thompson briefly reviewed the subjects covered in the last meeting and indicated that the complete meeting notes should appear on the web site once he delivers them to Mary Hazzard (he had not delivered them to her since the Spring meeting).

Budget: John Schulte presented the budget details:

Beginning balance of \$39,372.75

Deposit totals of \$6820.16

Expense totals of \$6836.22

Ending Balance of \$39,356.69

John explained that our share of the bridge upgrade would be \$40,000 since the Association requested some modifications to the original design. This amount would be paid as \$20,000 this year and a \$5,000 assessment per year for the next three years. A motion to dispense with reading of the details of the finance report was made and seconded, passed by unanimous vote. It was noted that the details would be made available on-line.

Boat Patrol: Mike Jarvey estimated that he wrote about 40 warnings and 10 actual citations, explaining that next year he will step up enforcement of the Rules (fewer warnings and more citations). A member asked where the fine money goes. Mike explained that it is distributed to a number of organizations, among them: DNR (education), State (expenses), County (enforcement). Two of the citations were to guests of lake residents, 8 were to non-lake residents. The majority of the citations were written for operating too fast in the Slow – No Wake zones, operating too close to other boats or docks and no spotter on jet skis while towing. Merle Paulson pointed out that the State funds 60-75% of the patrol and thanked Mike for his good work in keeping complete documentation and follow-up, allowing us to receive the maximum amount of funding.

The status of the Church Pine landing was questioned – is it legal and maintained? Brad Johnson stated that the road is maintained by the township and that includes a right of way along each side. It is not legal to park vehicles on that road. If neighbors don't want vehicles parked there, they should contact the Sheriff's office. Mike Jarvey does not have jurisdiction on land – only the water.

The landing is not an approved public beach. One member asked whether the landing could be repaired – there is apparently some rebar sticking up and could cause injury. Brad will look into this.

The Fourth of July parade was great! It was orderly and fun. Mike Jarvey lead it through all three lakes.

Lake Weeds: Meg Rattie from Barr Engineering reviewed what has been done so far. In 1995 the board was asked what to do. Barr was then contacted to perform a survey and develop a plan. In 1996 a survey was taken on Big Lake, in 1997 Church Pine and Round were surveyed. The goal was to improve navigation by controlling weed growth. It was determined that Big Lake needed weed density reduced, Pine and Round could benefit from selected areas of treatment. A pilot study was performed in 1998 and 1999 using control plots to determine which treatment was most effective at reducing weed density and controlling long-term growth. The Lime Slurry method was determined to reduce weed density by about 50%, and the effect carried over from the previous year. In 2000 the board sought approval from the DNR to treat the lakes, but found that Lime Slurry was now being considered a herbicide, and thus required more testing to confirm long-term effects before the DNR would approve it's use. It so happened that a study on the effects of Lime Slurry was being undertaken at the University of Missouri. The results of that independent study would benefit us and help convince the DNR that the treatment is

safe and effective. In 2006 Big Lake will be treated in select areas and results of that testing will help us secure DNR approval and partial funding for the lake treatment program. Funding is available in the form of an Aquatics Invasive Species (AIS) Grant and requires that we monitor 160 sample plots. The previous study we performed required only 85 plots. Treatment will occur from approximately the ends of docks to about 80' from shore. Meg emphasized that we do not want to rid the lake of weeds, just restore a balance. A related example of Cedar Lake was pointed out that after carp were introduced to eat the weeds and thus reduce the weed density, the oxygen level in the water was reduced and the water turned green with algae. We do not want to go that far with a treatment that we cannot control (like uncontrolled carp growth).

One thing that we have to be very much aware of is the spread of Eurasian Milfoil. Meg showed pictures of the plant so that we could identify it. If it is introduced into the lakes (even a dried piece can grow), it can spread within just a few seasons to form a thick mat on the surface, thus making it near impossible to boat or swim. We have to inspect boats that come into the lakes to prevent the introduction of this weed! Meg cited one lake that spent well over \$100,000 in one season to control the weed, but it appears not possible to actually rid the lakes of it completely once it begins growing.

A motion was introduced to proceed with the study next year. The motion was seconded and passed by majority, though there were a few that opposed the motion, citing perceived lack of progress for the money spent so far.

Water Quality: Dick Rudolph stated the water quality is good:

Visibility was 3.5' in Big Lake in July

Round Lake was 11' in July and August

Church Pine was 21 in July (38' in Spring!)

Fish Stocking: We will be receiving 5000 Walleye fingerling of 6" to 8" in length, early in November. We chose to wait until late in the season so we could get larger stock and so that the predators were not as apt to eat the stock. The fish will be stocked into Church Pine because the water is deeper and there is more cover/protection, but they will pretty much go where they want to.

Budget: there is a planned increase in the assessment due to the bridge rebuild, weed treatment and fish stocking. There was a motion to accept the budget assessment, it was seconded and carried by majority.

Fish Cribs: There was some discussion about effectiveness. In general, it seemed that the cribs help protect smaller fish so they can grow. There are 30 cribs planned to be built this February on Big Lake. The fisheries manager from Polk County actually recommended the locations. Volunteers are needed! We have equipment and materials, but green oak brush (1" in diameter) is still needed. Contact a board member if you would like to help. Cost is about \$60 each and we do get some help from the DNR on the funding.

Elections for open Board positions: Merle Paulson and Dick Rudolph A motion was made to re-elect Merle Paulson, motion was seconded and passed. A motion was made to close the nomination, seconded and passed. A motion was made to re-elect Dick Rudolph, motion was seconded and passed. A motion was made to close the nomination, seconded and passed. The vote was unanimous for both candidates.

Old Business: a reminder to sign up for helping with fish crib construction No new business.

Mary Hazzard provided an update on the Lake Association web site and encouraged folks to look at it and use it for local events and interesting lake activities, as well as posting pictures of lake scenes. E-mail info to: [HYPERLINK "mailto:info@bigroundpine.com" info@bigroundpine.com](mailto:info@bigroundpine.com).

There was request made to have the mailing list of all Lake Association members posted on the web site. It was agreed and Mary will do this.

There was a discussion about how to control Purple Loosestrife. John Schulte stated that he had some good first-hand experience with the beetles that eat the plants. Apparently, the beetles only eat the Purple Loosestrife, traveling from plant to plant. When they run out of plants to eat, they go dormant and can come back in following years. John even observed DNR folks releasing beetles on the north end of Big Lake, so he assumes they are a tested and accepted method of control for this plant. Another method of control is to cut the plants just above the waterline and apply Roundup to the stems.

A question was raised about whether dredging of the channel between Church Pine and Round lakes

would happen. Merle Paulson stated that we needed the approval of the landowners before moving ahead. One of the landowners was present and provided their permission. Merle said he would seek permission of the other landowner and we would do the work in the fall. Also, Merle stated that beavers have been working against us in the channel and contributing to filling it up with silt and branches. Apparently, it is legal to trap the beavers and so we will look into doing this.

A concern was voiced about safety at the Big Lake boat landing and an inquiry was made into having a 3-way stop sign installed at the intersection near the store. Brad Johnson offered his perception that the County and/or State do not believe that stop signs are an appropriate way to control speed. He stated that speed enforcement is about the only option we have today to control the speed near that intersection. John Schulte offered that the Board can compose a letter to the County Highway Department and County Chairman listing our safety concerns at the intersection. A motion was introduced to send the letter, seconded and passed. Another idea offered was to ask if we can add a crosswalk at the intersection with the belief that motorists would be required to stop when the crosswalk was occupied (by State law). This was agreed as having a better chance of approval than the stop sign proposal and this would also be investigated.

Water Levels: It was acknowledged that the water level of the lakes is down. This is possibly due to the lack of rain in the second half of the summer, but some thought it might be due to the board being removed from the outflow in Big Lake. The DNR has stated that an established water level had been made years ago without the board in place, but Earl Mork's historical water level records dispute what the DNR is telling us. A motion was made to approach the DNR about replacing one of the boards (thus raising the water level by 4"). Two members opposed, the rest voted to go ahead. Motion passed.

A request was made to keep an outhouse at the Big Lake landing year-round. It was explained that the DNR would pay for half of the year, but not the full year. A motion was made that the Lake Association pay for the second half of the year (effectively splitting the \$45 per month cost with the DNR), seconded and passed.

A request was made to list the names and phone numbers of Board members on the web site. This was agreed and it will be done.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting, seconded and passed.

The Church Pine, Round And Big Lake Protection And Rehabilitation District Informational Members Meeting Saturday, May 28, 2005 - 9:30am

WEST IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH, FELLOWSHIP HALL

Introduction of **Mike Jarvey** with the Osceola Police Department, our new lakes patrol officer, **Presentation on Water Safety and Lake Rules**. Mike reviewed the Rules using slides and then did an actual demonstration of how far 100' is (distance to stay away from other boats) using a plastic tape. The actual length surprised many, being quite a bit farther than most estimated.

Amy Kelsey, the Information and Education Coordinator from the Polk County Land and Water Resource District. Amy did a **Presentation on Lake Ecology** (water quality, weed control, shoreline care and new laws), helping to identify weed types and even some of the bug species found in our lakes. She explained that we do not want to upset the natural balance of the lake (by cutting or poisoning the weeds for example) because we can potentially ruin the water quality that we currently enjoy for many years to come.

Weed Control – Merle Paulson presented an introduction of the Clean Boats and Clean Water program to help curb the spread of Eurasian Milfoil and other invasive species, and John Schulte explained the status of the DNR lake weed study and treatment options. We do have some Purple Loosestrife on our lakes –effectively treating it includes pulling up by the roots, cutting and treating stems with Roundup, and using DNR-approved beetles that eat only this plant. The weed treatment hit a few snags because the DNR is now classifying the Lime Slurry treatment (which proved effective at reducing weed density) we were considering as an herbicide. More studies are required to receive approval to use this treatment.

The NEW Lake Association Web Site "www.bigroundpine.com"– **Mary Hazard** demonstrated the web site she helped create. She showed where to find useful information and answers to questions about our lakes and valuable links to other websites of interest. This is our website, so any input and suggestions will help Mary improve it and make it even more useful – so send your ideas, ads, events and pictures to "info@bigroundpine.com"!

Fish Stocking – **Merle Paulson** told us that there will be another 5000 Walleye fingerling (6"-8") stocked

this year. Last year the stocker ran out of fish so we did not receive any.

Fish Crib Construction – A recent successful project at Cedar Lake has us proposing to build fish cribs for our lakes. The cribs provide cover and protection for smaller fish from predators so they have a chance to grow. The cost is about \$75 per crib (the DNR helps with costs. We need green oak brush (1" in diameter is perfect) because oak does not deteriorate as quickly as other wood. The association is looking for volunteers to help join the crib-building party next winter, contact any board member
The Traditional 4th of July Parade will be on all three lakes - Mike Jarvey in the lake patrol boat will lead the parade, starting on the east side of Big Lake at 1pm, and lasting until 2pm.

It is requested that all water sports (skiing, tubing and PWC use) be curtailed during the parade on all lakes.

Orderly and safe will be the theme this year - Please note that water fights or other disruptive activity will not be tolerated during the parade – citations with fines will be levied against perpetrators.

A motion was proposed to adjourn the meeting, seconded and passed by unanimous vote.

Attendance was quite good at the meeting, filling the Immanuel Church Hall.

Your Big, Round and Church Pine Lake Association Board:

John Schulte – Chairman and Treasurer

Merle Paulson

Dick Rudolph – water quality monitor

Bryan Rivard

Douglas Thompson - Secretary

The Church Pine, Round And Big Lake Protection And Rehabilitation District Board Members Meeting

Notes From 4/02/05

ATTENDING:

Dick Rudolph (Big Lake)
Brian Rivard (Wind Lake)
John Bonnarpise (Polk County Commissioner)
Doug Thompson (Secretary)
Brad Johnson (Alden Township Board Chair)
Merle Paulson (Church Pine)
John Schulte (Big Lake)

GUESTS:

Amy Kelesey Polk County Land and Water
Mike Jarvey Osceola Police Dept
Meeting called to order by John Schulte.

It was proposed by John that we dispense with the reading of the minutes from the last meeting on September 4, 2004. The move was seconded by Dick Rudolph. The motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: (Dick Rudolph): There is \$41,761.56 in the association checking. Alden taxes deposited (1st half): \$1536.25. Garfield taxes deposited: \$2796.56

During the winter the dam on the northwest end of Big Lake was damaged by ice. The repairs were performed by Forest Construction at a cost of \$4950.00. It was commented by several that Forest did a nice job.

BOAT PATROL: Mike Jarvey was present from the Osceola Police Department and had expressed an interest in acting as our boat patrol this summer. A motion was introduced to hire Mike by Merle Paulson, seconded by John Bonneprise and carried. Merle had applied for funding from the DNR before the March 1 deadline. Merle explained that Mike will need to provide monthly reports along with time sheets to qualify for the DNR funding. The DNR funding would also cover the costs of equipment (radio, lights, boat and motor plus repairs) along with any necessary training for Mike.

The funding was set up through Jeff Dauterman of the DNR.

Merle stated that residents expressed a strong interest at the Fall meeting in having existing ordinances enforced, rather than adding any new laws. John Schulte recounted that there were no tickets issued last season and that we need to enforce the existing ordinances with tickets and fines. Merle stated

that the majority of complaints come from mis-use of PWC - not observing the speed and operating distance rules.

There need to be some repairs to the boat, so once Mork gets it into the water, it will be checked and necessary repairs will be made. John B. suggested that we consider a canvas cover to help protect the boat from the elements. The board will look into what this costs.

Mike mentioned that Matt O'hara may be helping him with the patrol. The board stated that Friday afternoon/evening, Saturday and Sunday are best, though it is preferred that the hours for the patrol be somewhat random. It was confirmed that there can be more hours for the patrol due to funding from the DNR.

SPRING MEETING: A few reminders for residents; observe the slow no-wake zones and watch out for rocks around the entrance of the new culvert (go slow).

Amy Kelsey is interested in conducting a Lake Association safety seminar after the spring meeting to help attendees better understand the laws and regulations that govern the use of the lakes. The group agreed that this may be the best way to help folks follows the rules - if they know about them. She thought that we could have hot dogs and pop (which might help boost attendance). This would have to be promoted in the spring meeting mailing/flyer. Both kids and parents should be encouraged to attend.

Amy is looking into an Aquadic Invasive Species grant to help step up the awareness and elimination of unwanted vegetation from being introduced into the lake (like Eurasian Milfoil and others). So far, we do not have any E.M. present, but there is some Purple Loosestrife in Big Lake. Several talked about another beetle release - it seemed to help cut back the Loosestrife last year.

BOAT LANDINGS: It was acknowledged by John B. that the boat landing on Big Lake is dangerous because of the intersection and lack of parking. The DNR is aware of this and trying to find an alternative. It was also stated that the landing on Church Pine is not a county supported landing (is not listed in their records, it is by "use" only). Because there is no legal parking, it too is considered unsafe. It is used as a beach by many increasing the problem. John B. suggested we have someone that is more knowledgeable than us look into what else we can do about making the land(s) more safe, and what options we may have open to us.

WALLEYE STOCKING: There were no Walleye planted in the Fall due to the inavailability of good-sized stock (only fingerlings). Stocking is intended again this fall if we can get the 6"-8" size. Most of the stock would be planted in Church Pine due to the larger number of predators in Big Lake (they will migrate where they want to). The recommended number to plant is 10-15 per acre. Cost of the stock is about \$1.25 each.

FISH CRIBS: A group of folks built a large number of cribs for Cedar Lake last winter. We should consider this for our three lakes to help provide the smaller fish some cover from predators.

WEB SITE: Dick proposed that we hire Mary Hazzard to develop a web site for the Lake Association. Bryan seconded and the motion passed. Cost \$500 to create and \$150-\$300 per year for maintenance.

WEED CONTROL: No action due to ongoing research. The U.S. Corp of Engineering will not allow full treatment, but spot treatment with Lime Slurry may be allowed.

It was proposed by John B. that the Association join the Polk County Land and Water Association of Lakes and Rivers so we can be kept aware of news and educational opportunities. Bryan seconded it, the motion passed. Cost is \$25/year.

NEW BRIDGE/CULVERT: John B. will look into how much we owe on the bridge. We had it raised above the original height so there is some cost to the Association from what the County pays for. Dick will call the DNR. Brad indicated that this should be a joint issue between the Lake Association and the County. John B. will get section maps with boundaries marked so we have more information.

NEXT MEETINGS OF THE BOARD: Monday, May 9th at 7pm, at Dick Rudolph's house.

ADJOURN: John S. made a move to adjourn the meeting. John B. seconded it. The motion carried. Updated Board List is attached. Any corrections, additions should be sent to Doug Thompson's attention.