

# The Church Pine, Round and Big Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District

## General Meeting Minutes Sept. 02, 2006

### Board Members Attending:

Dick Rudolph (Big Lake)

Bryan Rivard (Round Lake)

Doug Thompson (Secretary)

Arthur Gamache (Polk County Supervisor)

Brad Johnson (Alden Township Board Chair)

Merle Paulson (Church Pine)

John Schulte (Big Lake)

### Guests:

Diane Conklin – Wisconsin DNR Office

Mike Jarvey - Osceola Police Dept.

Meeting called to order by John Schulte at 10:14am.

**Meeting Minutes** The Meeting Minutes from 9/02/05 were read in an abbreviated form by Doug Thompson, Secretary. The Minutes were placed on the front table for anyone who wanted to review them in detail. It was also stated that the Minutes are posted on the HYPERLINK "<http://www.bigroundpine.com>" www.bigroundpine.com web site. A motion was made to accept the Minutes. The motion was seconded. The motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report** (Dick Rudolph): There is \$21,972.70 in the association checking. Details of the Treasurer's report are attached.

Diane Conklin from the Wisconsin DNR office described the permit process we would have to go through in order to dredge the channel between Round and Church Pine Lakes. She mentioned that there is possible funding, but the demand is high and we would need to apply within the next month. If we intend to perform navigational dredging, 50% of the funding could be available once every ten years. The process is: apply for the permit first (this has been done), then apply for the grant application. This money is also available for building or improving boat landings. Ed Bruno asked whether we could be awarded a rolling permit that would allow us to dredge when we needed to without re-permitting. Diane did not think so, but she recommended that the Board check with the DNR.

**Boat Patrol:** Mike Jarvey was present from the Osceola Police Department and he introduced Jeff Johnson, his assistant with the patrol this year. Mike stated that the patrol will have put in close to 300 hours this season, including training and administration. There have been 18 citations written this season so far. Most of the citations were for higher than "no wake" speed in the marked zones. A few were written for operators under 16 years of age with no certificate.

There were a few concerns expressed about the patrol and Mike explained. Mike made us aware of a program called "ride along" that allows family members to come along while the officer is on duty. He offered that if the Lake Association does not want anyone else in the boat, he would honor that request. A large number of members spoke up and said they approved of having family in the patrol boat.

Mike also brought up the concern that the patrol had been seen fishing while on duty. Mike said that he would disallow this in the future. A few complaints were reported about waterskiing after dusk and operating after dark without lights on. There was at least one instance of a burglary from a boathouse.

Mike was asked if more of the citations were for "off-lake" operators. Mike confirmed that after the early part of the summer, most were "off lake" offenders. It was suggested that the patrol be more "stealthy" to catch people when they did not know that patrol was around. Mike is keeping a list of who was stopped by the patrol. Repeat offenders will most likely receive a citation instead of a warning the next time.

**Open Offices** Nominations were opened for the two open positions on the Board (one on Big and one on Round). No new candidates were nominated.

- For Big Lake, the candidates were Mary Hazzard, Dave Larson and Tom Diaz.
- For Round Lake the candidate was Matt Dallman.
- Ed Bruno moved to accept and close the nomination for Round Lake. It was seconded and passed.

Voting took place for the Big Lake position. The result was Mary Hazzard with 20 votes, Dave Larson with 19 votes and Tom Diaz with 10 votes. Mary is the new representative from Big Lake.

Dick Rudolph presented the 2007 budget. It is the same amount as 2006 (\$18,000) and details are attached.

There was a question why we were paying \$25 per hour for boat patrol (seemed high to him). Merle explained that a poll taken of a number of lakes with boat patrol found that the range was \$15 to \$35 per hour, with ours in the middle. He also explained that we had trouble getting good help in the past and that that amount has worked. A majority of the members did not want the amount to change.

A question was asked whether the \$1800 budgeted for dredging would be enough. Merle stated that it cost that amount the last time we did it, and we had added a lot of boulders back then as well. He felt that with the reserve in the budget, we would have enough if it went over a bit.

**Dredging** Measurements of the water depth in the Church Pine/Round lake channel were taken: depth was around 16", + and - 6' from the center. We dredged the channel to a depth of 36" the last time we did it. It was suggested that we apply for a permit to install pilings to help keep the channel from filling back up as quickly the next time. A motion was made to go ahead with the permit application and seconded, passed.

It was pointed out that there was no money in the budget for fish stocking. It was explained that we are done with the 3-year planned stocking program as of this year. Merle stated that according to the fish count performed by Heath Beneke, the fish population looks good in all three lakes.

A motion was made to approve the proposed budget. It was seconded and passed.

**Aquatic Plant Control** Dick stated that there are very limited funds available from the DNR, so we don't expect to get any this year. We did apply for a permit to use the lime slurry treatment, but the permit was not approved. Thus, no applications of weed control will be applied to the lakes.

**Water Clarity** Dick Rudolph reported that the water clarity was very good in August, partly due to cooler evening temperatures. Big Lake was 3', Round was 12' and Church Pine was 21'.

There is some Purple Loosestrife on Big Lake in several areas. There is a little on Round Lake and none found on Church Pine. Based on a few years of results, it appears that the beetles that were brought in to help control the weed are working, and they seem to be spreading to other patches of the plant. Because of the good results, more beetles will be introduced by the DNR.

Fish Stocking and Crib Stocking is to be done in early September. We do plan to build about 30 fish cribs again this year. The ice was too light last year. Tom Diaz and Rich Volgard are on the committee to organize this. And, if anyone has oak brush to fill the cribs, contact Bryan Rivard, he is storing this on his land until winter.

**Boat Landing Update (Church Pine)** There was a public meeting hosted by the Township a few weeks ago. 76 people attended the second meeting and voiced concerns over some rumors they heard that the landing was going to be closed. Brad Johnson clarified that there has been no proposal submitted to the Township to close the landing. It was admitted that the current boat landing is not the ideal situation, partly because of the lack of parking. Ideally, some land could be purchased by the Lake Association and turned into a proper landing with parking and toilet facilities. There currently is a 50' strip of public-owned land on the west side of Church Pine, but it is not well suited for a landing. Jim Kowalski, the owner of the land near the current landing stated that he has no intention of closing the landing or beach, but he does have some concerns about liability exposure if anyone should get hurt while on his land. He also thought that traffic and use of the landing will only increase with time, requiring a better landing. He suggested that we begin planning for that time so we will be prepared when we really need it.

Since there is an outstanding question over who really owns the land being used for the landing, Jim agreed that we should go ahead with a survey to determine where his land ends and the public high-water designation begins.

A suggestion was made that commonly asked questions and researched (accurate) answers be posted on the web page to help alleviate confusion. Brad Johnson suggested that a link be posted on the Association web page pointing toward the Township web page, where a lot of this information already exists.

**Adjourn:** A move was made to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded. The motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:51am.

Updated Board List is attached.

\*Any corrections, additions should be sent to Doug Thompson's attention.

## **The Church Pine, Round and Big Lake Protection and Resident Informational Meeting Minutes - May 27, 2006**

### **WEST IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH, FELLOWSHIP HALL Meeting was called to order at 10am by John Schulte**

**Minutes** from the previous Fall 2005 meeting were read. It was pointed out that there was a part of the minutes missing, including two issues: raising the spillway level and dredging the channel between Round and Pine lakes. Jim Walker motioned to have the minutes approved as with amendments. It was approved.

In response to the concerns about the present lake water level, John Schulte read a letter received from the DNR in response to the board's request to raise the level. The letter stated that the water level is currently at the established datum of 96.5' and that it cannot be raised. Most of the attendees at the meeting were very interested in having this changed and asked the board to hold a public hearing and make a formal application to get the board put back the board in the spillway, thus raising the water level about 4". There is belief that having the water at the present level "damages" the lake.

**The financial report** was read (see actual report for details). A question was raised asking who pays for the outhouse at the Big Lake landing. The board confirmed that the township pays half, the Lake Association pays the other half. Ed Bruno made a motion to accept the financial report, passed.

**Mike Jarvey gave a report about the boat patrol.** He has three other officers trained this year so we will see them on the lakes at different hours. The largest number of warnings and citations last year were for driving watercraft faster than "no wake" in the marked zones. The second common offense was for having no valid registration on the vessel. Mike stated that there will be a larger percentage of citations vs. warnings written for offenses this year. Mike wanted to give lake users a chance to become familiar with the lake laws last year but now it is time to enforce the rules, in response to what the lake association member stated that they wanted.

Mike encouraged association members to report any illegal activity to his office, and to please provide the boat registration number if possible. To contact Mike: 651 343-0813.

If there are any off-lake issues (parking, parties at the landing, etc.) the County Dispatch is the appropriate number to call at: 715 485-8300. Mike has no jurisdiction to enforce off-lake issues.

Joe Kowalski stated that he is aware of the presence of illegal docks and inappropriate use of his land that surrounds the Church Pine landing. He wondered what he can do about it. It was pointed out that if the township has the area posted as a no parking zone, the county can enforce this and issue tickets and tow vehicles. We have had signs posted in the past, but they become damaged or are removed by vandals.

It was pointed out the Mike can be given authority to enforce lake related issues that are not on the water, including parking on the adjoining roads and boat landing issues, if the Association gives him that authority by petitioning the township. The board will pursue sending that letter to the township. The next town board meeting is June 8 where this could come up on the agenda. Last year Mike and his crew put in 173 hours of patrol. The Association received partial reimbursement from the DNR for patrol costs, but in order to receive the maximum amount of subsidizing, the patrol must put in closer to 300 hours of patrol time and write a higher percentage of citations. The maximum amount of subsidizing is 70% of all costs associated with the lake patrol (hours, gas, repairs, etc.).

**Dredging the channel** between Round and Church Pine lakes was discussed. Our permit from several years ago may not be still valid – we may have to renew it before work can commence. A valid permit is required by the DNR before we can remove any material from the lakes. It was pointed out that the dredging work can only be done by hand, as stated by the DNR restrictions. We will need volunteers to help and a signup sheet was passed around during the meeting. The people that signed up will be contacted when the work is organized and a permit is secured.

The Association asked for volunteers to man the boat landings during busy weekends and inspect boats coming into the lakes for exotic species of invasive weeds. Merle Paulson, who attended the **Clean Boats and Clean Waters** seminar warned that if only one small part of an Eurasian Milfoil plant is introduced into the lake, it will very quickly spread and choke out the desired plants in the lakes, thus effectively ruining the quality of the water. This non-native plant has the ability to grow and multiply very rapidly and cannot be stopped once it has begun. There are lakes that have been infested with this plant that spend upwards of \$100,000 per year just to control it, but they have not been able to entirely eliminate it. It grows in thick mats and pretty much eliminates the ability to fish, swim and even boat in waters around the shoreline and out to depths of up to 12'. That is why we are very interested in making sure the plant does not get introduced into our lakes – that is the only known form of prevention.

There were no **fish stocked** into the lake last year because the supplier ran out of the stock. There was a motion by Herman Halsey to resume stocking the lakes this year. It was seconded and passed. We will contact the supplier for stocking the lakes with 4000 Walleye fingerling (8-10") again this year.

We had everything lined up for building fish cribs last winter, but the permit was not granted until February 6. By then, it turned out that the ice was not strong enough to carry the weight of the logs. So, we expect to try again next year. We did receive the permit for Big Lake but not Church Pine. The board will follow up on the permit for Church Pine. A sign-up sheet was passed around at the meeting to get names of volunteers to help build the cribs next year.

A letter was received from the county (John Schulte read it to the group) pertaining to **control options for the intersection at the Big Lake landing**. We cannot install a stop sign or crosswalk because the intersection is at the bottom of a hill and on a curve, something the County decided was not an appropriate location for any kind of traffic controls. The letter also stated that there is no state funding to perform any studies or even consider looking into relocating the traffic to another route. The warning sign that we have is the most we can do right now.

There is no state money available for us to treat the weeds in the lakes this year, including applying **lime slurry**. So, we will hold out for another year and apply again next year. We can do our own weed control (individuals) and there are a number of contractors that provide this service.

Mary Hazzard talked about the **Lake Association web site**. We have a web master and budget to upgrade the site. There are some good pictures of the lakes available, taken by a helicopter pilot last summer. There is also information on the website to outline options for weed treatment and resources, a naturalist calendar, the lime slurry study that was performed on the lakes (in PDF format), meeting minutes from past meetings, rules and regs for the lakes. There is also a buy/sell/swap section for lake users. The location is:  
HYPERLINK "<http://www.bigroundpine.com>" [www.bigroundpine.com](http://www.bigroundpine.com).

Mary asked if there was an interest in **bulk-buying propane**. She has spoken to a supplier that will give a discount if a group of buyers band together and commit to an amount of propane. Contact Mary at: [info@bigroundpine.com](mailto:info@bigroundpine.com) if you are interested.

It was suggested that we put the website address on the meeting notices. The board agreed to include this with the next mailing.

**New Business** discussed: there was a concern brought up by Karen (?) about erosion at the public landing. It was suggested that we bring any issues up at the town board meeting on June 8 to get guidance and necessary approval.

There was a request to have a DNR representative attend our fall meeting to address concerns and answer questions. The board will invite that person.

A motion to adjourn was raised by Ed Bruno. It was seconded and passed.