

2007 DISTRICT GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

THE CHURCH PINE, ROUND AND BIG LAKE PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT RESIDENTS INFORMATIONAL MEETING SATURDAY, MAY 26, 2007 – 9:30 am WEST IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH, FELLOWSHIP HALL

Meeting was called to order at 9:45 am by Merle Paulson

Board Members Attending:

Dick Rudolph (Big Lake)	Brad Johnson (Alden Township Board Chair)
Matt Dallmann (Round Lake)	Merle Paulson (Church Pine)
Mary Hazzard (Big Lake)	
Arthur Gamache (Polk County Supervisor)	

Guests:

Tim Lauridsen - Osceola Police Chief
Earl Mork, Jr. – Big Lake Store

Fishing Contest - Earl Mork, Jr. – Big Lake Store presented the association with \$1070 raised from their Feb. 2007 fishing contest, which is earmarked for future improvement of fishing, such as fish stocking. The attendees and Board thanked the Mork family for their contribution as well as sponsors present. Details of winners and sponsors are posted on the website.

Boat Patrol: Tim Lauridsen was present from the Osceola Police Department and he stated that 7 of 9 of his officers had volunteered to patrol during the 2007 season. He also reported that in 2006, 17 tickets were issued and prosecuted through the Polk Co. He promised that they will issue citations when warranted (rather than warnings) and they will be prosecuted this summer as well. Although their Jurisdiction is technically on the water, if there is a problem on shore, they will call a dispatch to Polk County and stay to help control the problem until a County officer arrives. Residents who want to call in an altercation or potential crime, should call 715-294-3628 (Osceola Administration tel) or 911. The patrols typically end at 9:30 pm (dusk), but the officers can schedule patrol after dark if requested.

Pole Barn Movie Night – Mary Hazzard introduced Dennis Gaffney who gave a brief presentation of a new Association event that will be held at the Gaffney Family pole barn on Homes Court June 23 starting at 6:30. RSVPs are requested via email to -info@biggroundpine.com.

Meeting Minutes The Meeting Minutes from 9/02/06 were read by Mary Hazzard in Doug Thompson's absence. It was also stated that the Minutes are posted on the website at www.biggroundpine.com web site. A motion was made to accept the Minutes by Ed Bruno. Tom Diaz seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Treasurer's Report - Dick Rudolph gave his report, which is attached. He stated that Garfield still owes us money due to a mistake in their calculations.

Channel Dredging – Merle reported that the channel work had been already completed and asked for a show of hands as to who had already seen it – a good sampling of those in attendance had used the channel already. He also reported that we did not receive a Grant as hoped, but that the Board decided to go ahead with the project as there would be no guarantee of Grant money in the remaining time left on our permit. In addition, the DNR added some stipulations such as the installation of silt protectors and additional boulders, which added \$2000 to the cost. The final result was excellent and the attendees as

well as both landowners, who were very cooperative throughout, were happy with the results. The final costs were \$500 for the permit and \$8433.64 for the work and materials. Our thanks were given to both homeowners and Dale Selzer, the person who handled the project and waived some of his costs.

2007 Aquatic Plant Control - Dick reported 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.

There is some Purple Loosestrife on Big Lake in several areas. There is a little on Round Lake and none found on Church Pine. He also called attention to samples of invasive snails found in our lakes this year. He and Merle attended the WI Lakes Assoc meeting and shared what he learned about water clarity, etc. there. It was suggested that we request local stores to sell no-phosphorous fertilizer.

Fish Cribs – Matt Dallmann reported that he had assisted in building some of the fish cribs on Cedar Lake. He and Merle attended a meeting of the Star Prairie Fish and Game Club where they were coached on creating good fish habitat. They were told that our lakes do not need fish cribs because of the weed cover and also that they were booked up with the Cedar Lake project for the winter of 2007 and unable to help. Matt further reported that he is committed to removing the beaver dam this early summer.

Boat Landing Signs - Matt Dallmann reported that he has done research about large boat signs for the landing(s) to alert non-resident boaters to the necessity and legal requirement of clearing their boats, trailers, and live wells PRIOR to using our landing of any debris, water or weeds from other lakes. He passed out samples and there was some discussion about the signs. Ultimately it was suggested that the signs

- be large enough to not be overlooked
- be protected from vandalism, etc. by plexi-glass
- that they contain a box/slot for applicable take-away literature
- list the laws regarding boat ramp and lake use

Boat Landing – Merle stated that they have been looking for possible sites for a new boat landing, as the current boat-landing situation is not the ideal solution, partly because of the lack of parking. Attendees were asked to let the Board know of land with good access and a small “take-down” cabin when available on any of the lakes. There was also discussion about staffing the landings with volunteers (we already have hats, T-Shirts, Clip boards): Tim Formo, Big Lake, and the Schlagels, Church Pine Lake volunteered to set it up. Bobbie Benno, Big Lake, also volunteered to help.

Milfoil detection and sampling - Brent and Diane Martin, Jerry and Nancy Schlagel from Church Pine volunteered, also Dick Rudolph, Big Lake, to test samples every other weekend this summer.

Website/Propane/Newsletter Report – Mary Hazzard reported that residents must make sure their information is correct with the Polk County Tax Board so that our **mailing list** is correct for meeting notices, newsletters, etc. A list was circulated so attendees could see how their contact information was currently posted by Polk Co. Residents were encouraged to accept the newsletter via email and emails addresses were collected. **Website stats** show that the residents are using the website as we hoped, with 300-400 visitors each month mostly from local email addresses and several sections and pages viewed during each unique visit. International visitors, although the minority, were from a wide geographic spread – including Europe, Asia, and the Pacific. **Propane Gas** rates are expected to rise for 2007/2008, but she will negotiate with the companies for lower rates as the program for 2006/2007 was well received and used by 25-30 residents. Details will be mailed later in the summer when pricing is finalized and also posted on the website.

New Zoning Laws – Gary Ovic reported that effective June 1, 2007, the set back will go from 63' to 35' while an accessory building (i.e., garage) height will change from 20' to 25'. For more details, visit the Polk Co. Zoning section on their website.

New Business – Brad Johnson answered a question about street name signs by clarifying that the Grant/funding for signage only included stop signs/curve signs, etc., not street signs. However, the Town of Alden is replacing signs with larger lettering as they fade on their own.

Adjourn: A move was made to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded. The motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:35 am.

**THE CHURCH PINE, ROUND AND BIG LAKE PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT
ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2007
IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

The meeting was called to order at about 9:40am

Guest speaker: Bye Barsness from the Kinickinick Land Trust. He outlined the Rehabilitation and Protection Plan for Bass Lake, talking about water level and how it related to water quality. He also discussed monitoring, shoreline development, fertilizer use and retention of beneficial plant life.

A report on the Boat Patrol was made by Officer Jeff Johnson from the Osceola Police Department on behalf of Chief Lauridsen. He talked about the numerous issues they've had with the patrol boat this summer, somewhat limiting the amount of patrol they were able to do. He listed that the starter went out twice, the bilge pump failed, and the ignition wires became wet and corroded. He said Earl Mork has performed the necessary repairs and the boat is now working.

He also mentioned that there were some scheduling conflicts with officers in Osceola, so that also limited the time they had available for lake patrol. There were 169 hours of patrol time recorded so far this year, that compares with 290 total hours of patrol last year. There was a desire expressed to see more patrol time spent on weekends, when the lake activity is higher.

There was a concern expressed about an obvious drunken boater being reported and no response was received. A request was made to have a better way to get a hold of the patrol in cases like this. Officer Johnson said that the rotation for patrol was on a volunteer basis, and with the department being short-staffed this summer, that was why the patrol hours and response time was lower.

Officer Johnson did say that he observed a lower level of activity this summer from non-residents. He attributed this possibly to the patrolling of the lakes, and that word may have gotten around.

Most of the citations issued this year were for not having enough life jackets, juveniles operating without certificates, and a few jet-ski incidents of not observing distances. Most citations were issued on Church Pine Lake.

A question was asked about enforcing fishing licenses and Officer Johnson replied that they do not have jurisdiction to enforce those laws – that would be the DNR.

The Minutes from the Spring Meeting were read by Doug Thompson. A motion was made to accept them and seconded. The motion was passed. A correction to a previous comment was made that the Lake Association Board could not purchase land for a boat landing, but could lead the effort.

Dick Rudolf read the financial report. A motion was made to accept them and seconded. The motion was passed.

Mary Hazzard reported that 38 people attended the first annual movie night.

She also talked about the propane group-buy through River View in New Richmond. The price is just \$.01 per gallon higher than last year @ \$1.55 per gallon. Contact Kyle Vanasse if interested. The lake website has been receiving about 300 hits per month with the primary users being local (some from Canada and the UK though). Mary asked that if residents have photos or other contributions to send them to her at www.bigroundpine.com. We are building an email list to enable sending out the newsletter electronically. Please submit your preferred email address to Mary at the address above if interested.

A report on the Clean Boats, Clean Water program was made. Mostly the information given out was in the form of education about threatening species and listing lakes that are infested. The volunteers learned that boaters from MN have a higher level of awareness due to the more lakes being infested there. So far, we only know of two lakes in Polk County that are infested. The report on inspections yielded only two boats with suspicious weeds, one confirmed with Eurasian Milfoil though. A plea was made to sign up for the volunteer work for next year.

Dick Rudolf gave a report on water clarity. He said that oxygen levels were good. He reported that the larger snails we have been seeing lately have apparently not had a detrimental effect on the lakes, but he is watching it. He also mentioned that duck droppings (and the snails) are part of the cycle that sustains swimmer's itch (so don't encourage ducks by feeding them).

Water clarity was about 3-4' on Big Lake (which is normal for this time of year).

Related to weed control, he also mentioned that Half-Moon Lake was allowed to test lime slurry to see how it worked. Results are still pending, but we hope they were favorable because this may speed up approval to use it on our lake.

He said that there were two spots on Round Lake where purple loosestrife was found. The beetles seem to be good at helping to control this plant, but more are needed to keep it at bay.

A report was given on the channel dredging that occurred early in the spring. The channel between Church Pine and Round lakes was dredged to a width of 12', depth of 36" and length of 100'. Silt barriers and extra rock were added to help keep the banks from eroding.

Once again a question was asked about the board in the dam – could it be returned. The DNR has said "no" to this request repeatedly, citing that the level of the lake was established many years ago, and because our lakes are an influential part of a larger watershed, we cannot change the level of the dam or it could have a detrimental effect on many other areas. A full chronology of the water level is posted on the website for those who need a refresher. Nonetheless, Tom Diaz said he would be interested in contacting the County about seeing if we could change the level of the dam.

Matt Dallmann reported on the new signs at the boat landing that he had installed. The signs remind folks to clean their boats of weeds. He would like feedback, and will add a box for literature about the Clean Boats, Clean Waters program. Matt also reported on the cleanup of debris that the beavers dragged into the lake last winter. Four loads of branches and wood were hauled out of the lake, mostly where it was threatening access to the channel. Some wood was left for fish breeding, but he will continue to monitor further activity by the beavers.

On the subject of fish breeding, the folks at the fish hatchery did not think that we needed to add any cribs to our lakes because we have enough cover with the natural weed growth. They do encourage us to leave trees that are in the water to provide a natural cover for the smaller fish.

In Old Business, the subject of **weed treatment** was discussed. Dick Rudolph told the group that there are no plans to harvest weeds in the coming year. He reminded folks that we are allowed to treat or have weeds cut in front of our own properties though. Since there seemed to be an interest in having weeds

harvested lake-wide, he reminded us that there needs to be a consensus in order to spend Association money on that.

A suggestion was made to allocate \$8K next year for weed harvesting. A lively discussion ensued. A motion was made and seconded. 8 were in favor, at least 25 were not. The motion did not carry.

Another motion was made to form a study group to look into weed treatment options and costs. The motion was seconded and passed by the majority. Brent Martin will chair and committee members are Tom Diaz and Matt Dahlmann.

It was pointed out that in order to have money available in the budget for weed cutting or treatment next year, it would have to be voted on and passed during this meeting (so it would catch the 2008 tax assessment cycle). There was more discussion about how much to allocate. It was pointed out that the board could allocate up to \$5K without a vote, so it was suggested that \$3001 be assessed and that could be supplemented with the \$5K if needed. There was a motion to do so, seconded and passed by the majority (21 to 3). Since the new budget would have to be raised in order to accommodate this amount, there was a motion made to increase next year's budget to \$21,001. The motion was seconded and passed by majority. The added amount will be divided up by about 240 homes that are a part of the Association.

Eligibility to vote was discussed. If the home in the Association is a primary residence, then everyone in the household at an age of 18 years or older can vote. If the home is a secondary residence, then a maximum of two can vote from that address.

An opening on the Board representing Church Pine was announced. Brent Martin proposed that Jerry Schlagel be nominated for the open position. It was seconded, voted on and passed by majority. Dick Rudolph said he would be stepping down from his position on the board, but he would be willing to continue to contribute to the water quality work for an unspecified amount of time.

There was discussion about developing a strategic plan for maintaining and improving water quality. Dean Henderson indicated that he would be interested, as did Jim Anderson (Big Lake) and Diane Martin (Church Pine).

A change to the Spring meeting date was proposed to the week before Memorial Day. A motion was made, seconded and passed.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting, seconded and passed. The meeting adjourned at 12:26pm.