



**Big Pine Lake Association (BPLA) Annual Meeting
August 18, 2012.
Crosslake Community Picnic Shelter**

We ate first, and our speaker was *Nikki Shoutz, Conservation Officer with the DNR*. Each DNR person covers 600 square miles which includes woods and waterways. She gave us a description of their duties and experiences and said when you see something suspicious you should call the MN State Patrol and they will dispatch a DNR officer to the location. She also talked about the HOT topics which are invasive species such as zebra mussels, just recently found in Pelican Lake. They were first discovered on shore stations and docks. The adults are approximately 2 inches in size and the eggs are microscopic free-living larvae and soon begin to form shells.

When there is event like the boat show, they post a person from the DNR or a volunteer at the landings to inspect all boats going in and coming out. They inspect the trailers, requiring owners to drain water from the motor and live well and empty the bait bucket on land before leaving the water. This is a process which will take approximately 3-4 minutes. The fines for violations have recently gone up. During the Fourth of July they are checking 80-100 boats at each of the landings where inspectors are stationed. If they do find invasive species, the boats are not allowed to enter the water and owners are instructed to go to the car wash in Pequot Lakes to wash them.

Nikki also briefed us on some of the boating regulations, life jackets, fire extinguishers and the age at which a person can drive a personalized watercraft like a jet ski. They can drive starting at the age of 14 alone if they have completed a DNR course.

Nikki then answered a few questions....

What if we closed down some public accesses so we can control the invasive species better?

What if the City of Crosslake would install a power wash station?

What if the lake associations would get volunteers to help man the boat landings?

Someone asked why zebra mussels are so bad for the lake and Nikki explain that they will filter the water but what they leave behind is only for the bottom feeders while reducing the plankton food which supports the upper water species.

Nikki also distributed out brochures to us and had some examples of exotic plants and zebra mussels that she passed around. She also talked about motorized weed rollers and the process for obtaining permits for these.

The state patrol dispatches the DNR in our area and their number is 218-829-4749. Nikki Shoutz was a great speaker and we all thanked her.

Terri Rammer (secretary) read the minutes from 2011

Carol Veeninga 1st motioned

Jane Bengston 2nd motioned

Dave Rudberg (treasurer) read the treasurer's report

The beginning balance on 8/20/11 was \$5,716.32 and the balance on 8/18/12 was \$6,361.03.

Tom Veeninga 1st motioned

Carol Slieter 2nd motioned

OLD BUSINESS

Mosquito Spraying – no complaints

NEW BUSINESS

High Water – Please NO WAKE ZONE The affects from the waves are erosion to the shore line. The cattail bogs' root system gets pulled up from the bottom of the lake and floats downstream and creates more problems for the lake level.

Well Testing – Mostly the sand point wells were affected. If the lake level reaches over the cap of the deep wells you should get them tested for e-coli and other contaminants.

Bog Permit – Nancy received a blanket permit from the DNR for anybody on the lake to remove floating bogs. The permit is free and it is also very detailed as to what you CAN and CANNOT DO to the bogs. Nancy will get a notice from them next year for renewal. She will get it renewed for 2013 just in case it happens again.

Federal Flood Insurance – There were three to four homes that needed to be sand bagged, check out their web site to see what YOU need to do.

Dam Status – The Dam belongs to the County; they can apply for FEMA money which they have done. If they get the money they will use it for removal of the bogs and repairs to the dam, as some of the rocks have been washed down stream. There is a 50/50 chance that FEMA will accept the request. If the County does get the money for our dam, FEMA will cover 75% to 90% of the repair. Rob Hall received an estimate to remove the bogs and repairs to the rocks that support the structure of the dam from Holmwig Excavating and it would be approximately \$9,000.00.

Buddy System with your neighbors in case of emergencies (like weather damage)

The Big Pine Lake Association Website is in process.

Grant Requests - Richard, Bill, and Jon are looking for money and how to apply for it. The key to the process is in the wording of the application.

Policing the dam - For vandalism call the City of Crosslake at 692-2222. They have told us they have no problem responding. For the officer on duty call 829-4749. Bob Hartman is the police chief.

Ideas for a speaker for next year? Maybe the new DNR officer for our area.

Fishing Tales...Someone asked if there are any in our lake? Yes there are!

Thank you for donating to the Crosslake Food Shelf

OPEN DISCUSSION

Fireworks are illegal in MN and the police should be called if anyone witnesses anyone using these. The more people who call, the better. Nancy will put some of this information in the spring letter with a friendly reminder that fireworks are illegal.

Aquatic vegetation seems to be abundant this year - why? Apparently with the warm weather that we had and the declining lake elevation, the boat propellers chop it up and then it floats ashore especially during the month of August.

Election of Officers: Three members are up (Dave, Richard and Bill). Anybody can put in their input or give us suggestions. Nobody new wanted to run so the Board remains unchanged.

Meeting Adjourned