Pike Lake Neighbors, Inc.

2022 Annual Meeting Minutes

At Rugger’s Landing, Sunday Sept 4, 2022.

11:30 – 1:00 Meeting Signup and Collection of Dues

Attendees:

Guests from Lake of the Falls: Dave and Pat Anderson.

Guests from Rice Lake: Mike Benninghoff and family, Paul Losiniecki.

Pike Lake Neighbors: Steve Kubacki, Steve Anderson, Kathy Anderson, Duane Silkworth, Cyndy Silkworth, Charles Schuler, Sharon Schuler, Dan Gossen, Mark Erspamer, Jeff Bradley, Paul LaFourest, Emily LaFourest, Bev Johnson, Mary Gronen, John Gronen.

12:00 – 1:00 Social Event and Lunch

Brats were provided, cooked, and served, by Steve Kubacki, with his home-made sauerkraut!

Thanks to Rugger, for allowing us to hold the meeting on his lawn, with his picnic tables.

1:00 – 2:00 Annual Member’s Meeting

* President’s call to order and introduction (Steve Kubacki)
* Review of 2019-2022 AIS Control Activities (Steve Anderson)

Mike Benninghoff from Rice Lake discussed the Great Pondweed Pull activity on Rice Lake. Approximately 35,000 pounds of Curly Leaf Pondweed was pulled from Rice Lake this year.

Steve Anderson gave a detailed presentation explaining the CLP control activities on the Turtle River and Pike Lake. He described each of the of the CLP patches on the lower river and Pike Lake, explaining each of their history, size, challenges, control efforts, and status. We are making significant progress toward controlling most of these patches.

Steve explained the type of control work (hand-pulling, rakes, snorkeling), equipment (boats, canoes, rakes, bags, nets), that works best at each type of site.

For large harvesting operations, as on Rice Lake, best practice is to pull CLP early in the growing season before it develops turions which can detach and spread the CLP.

For the isolated patches on the river and lake, our experience is that the best control method is to pull them each several times during the summer, not letting them grow to maturity with turions. And to be very careful to capture/net all dislodged plant parts. At some patches which were originally extensive, we are seeing regrowth of only a handful of small plants.

Our goal is to establish a much larger set of about 20 active volunteers, who can repeatedly go out in small teams.

An active online map, developed by Zach Wilson, Iron County AIS coordinator, with all patches discovered 2019-present is available on our website [**CLP in Pike Lake and the rest of the watershed.**](https://pikelakeneighbors.org/ais-control-project/ais-at-pike-lake/#ClpMap)

* Treasurer’s Report (D.Silkworth for S.Bourne)

Presentations are available online at:

* + [**Status of 3-year DNR Grant.**](https://pikelakeneighbors.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/DNRGrantStatus.pdf)
  + [**2022 financial report**](https://pikelakeneighbors.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/2022FinancialSummary.pdf)
  + 2023 budget projection
  + Possible future Dues Adjustment

We expect to have a balance of a couple of thousand dollars next year, and available cash of about 1000 per year. It is not clear currently what is the exact best use of the organization’s funds going forward. The Board has the action to discuss this and create a plan.

Dues are fixed at $50 in the By-Laws and will remain for 2023. If desired, we can adjust this at our 2023 annual meeting for 2024 and beyond.

* Open Board of Directors Member at Large, call for volunteer

Dan Gossen, who has participated in several pulling events, indicated that he would be willing to serve as a BOD member at large. The Board has the action to fill the open position.

* Open Members Discussion, possibly including
  + Implications of DNR Grant Completion

See presentation materials.

* + Volunteer Recruitment Challenge

Suggestions: Regular scheduled Saturday biweekly events did not work well this year. More notices closer to the event. Develop a targeted email list of volunteers. More information about what to expect and what to bring. Use other social media. Talk to your neighbors.

* + Possible Hiring of Workers and/or Contractors for CLP control

Suggestion that some funds could be used to hire labor or provide a bounty for CLP harvesting by youngsters. No other significant discussion or action.

* + Lake Management Plan
    - Formal plan, with DNR grant and professional contractor
    - Or, Informal Lake Plan, by Pike Lake Neighbors

No significant discussion or action.

* + Intent and Ideas to cooperate/coordinate with other watershed stake holders

Rice Lake, Lake of the Falls, Pike Lake, and the Flowage associations are cooperating and providing volunteers. A donor from the TFF provided significant funds to Rice Lake, including $5000 to hire the Discovery Center to pull CLP from the river/Rice Lake south bay, part of our grant’s project area.

A meeting/seminar is planned 3pm October 12 (or 13??) at the Mercer community center, which may establish a Turtle River volunteer organization to address Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) in the watershed.

* + Establish a Fishery Forum and Interest Group

Some walleye stocking has occurred in Pike Lake recently by the DNR. Charles Schuler has agreed to lead a Fisheries group for Pike Lake Neighbors.

* + History

Discussed possible interest in providing a Pike Lake History web page section.

* Voting.

No votes were taken during the annual meeting. Election of Officers and Board members occurs every two years and will occur at the 2023 meeting.

* Adjourn
* Dues Status

23 members have paid-up dues for 2022.

Submitted by Duane Silkworth, Secretary, Pike Lake Neighbors, Inc., 09/07/2022.