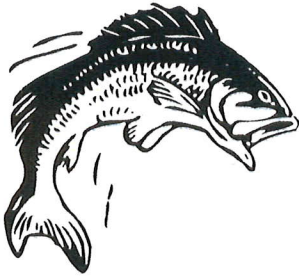


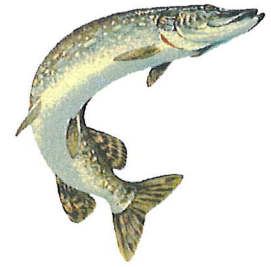
Big Pine vs. Little Pine

What's the Difference? • From the Fisheries Committee



Depending upon the lake you reside on there has always been the debate of the differences between the Pine sisters lakes. Anyone interested in finding out what each has to offer can find a bunch of information at www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakes. Here are some of the basic facts to perk your interest in our jewels of Minnesota, Big Pine Lake and Little Pine Lake.

	BP	LP
Water Acres	4728	2079
Littoral Acres (<15 feet)	2386 (50%)	698 (35%)
Shoreline Miles	14.59	7.28
Maximum Depth	76	63
Av. Water Clarity	4.9	7.0
Inlets	6	2 (1 source)
Outlets	1	1
Public Access	3	2
Aquatic Invasive Species	2 (Zebra Mussels?)	1 (Zebra Mussels?)
	Curly Leaf Pondweed	
Recent Fish Stocking fingerlings	111 lbs. Lake Sturgeon	62 lbs. Lake Sturgeon



The Minnesota DNR samples the fisheries every so often to determine fish populations. There is virtually no difference between the lakes. Both lakes have the same fish species and numbers per water acre. The growth rate and average size of any given species in the sampling is also similar. The only real significant difference comes when comparing the numbers of bluegills caught in test nets with BP having a significant higher catch rate. Northern Pike attain an average 25 -26 inches in 4 years while Walleye reach about 14-15 inches in the same period. Both lakes have a high perch and crappie population. So when it really comes down to it, size does matter. Big Pine has a fisheries advantage being twice the size and 3.5 times more littoral area. This means that BP has 3.5 times more spawning area to produce fish and twice the number of acres to support the whole fishery.

The real advantage to Little Pine appears to be water quality. With 5 fewer sources of water entering the lake there is less sediment and nutrients entering the lake which translates into clearer water. Another plus for LP is the absence of the invasive curly leaf pondweed. Although there appears to be no finding of zebra mussels on either lake, both have been designated for this invasive due to its presence in the upstream section of the Ottetail River.

While our Pine Lakes are not identical they are very similar. A few more fish here, a bit clearer water there, twins yet not identical. Our commonality is in the lakeshore residents. We share a common concern for our valuable resource and strive to not only maintain but improve it.

LID Annual Meeting Minutes • August 1, 2020

Call to Order

Chair Soeth called to order the 2020 annual meeting for the Pine Lakes Improvement District at 9:04 am on 8/1/20 at Tuffy's baseball field in Perham. Approximately 27 Lake Residents were present along with board members Sylvia Soeth, Jeff Lepp, Chantal Tougas, Gary Layman, Mark Huber, Jim Gravalin, Bruce Becker, and Ken Krajsa. Wayne Enger was not present.

Reoccurring Action

Secretary's minutes from the previous annual meeting were reviewed by members and were approved by unanimous vote. Gary presented the 2019 and 2020 through June financial report and bank statements and were approved by unanimous vote.

Standing Committee Reports

Land and Resources- Bruce had nothing major to report.

Projects- Mark read a letter from Howard Fullhart, DNR Fisheries, stating that they are proceeding with the fish passage project which will modify the areas below the dams on Otter Tail, Rush, Big Pine, and Little Pine Lakes. They are working on obtaining funding for the project hopefully for 2021 and 2022. A walleye population study was completed on Big Pine this summer by the DNR. Results show a healthy walleye population. Little Pine was not surveyed due to their shutdown during the covid virus outbreak.

Water Quality- Ken reported that for 2019 Little Pine Lake phosphorus and chlorophyll levels were down and clarity up. The levels for Big Pine Lake were mixed. Both lakes are within the water quality parameters for our ecological region.

Legislative- Funding opportunities from the state for this year are not looking good.

Communication and Education- Chantal reported that a newsletter is planned for this year. She is looking into the possibility of an online apparel clothing store.

Fisheries- Jim asked if there was concern over the slot limits on the lakes. Bruce commented that the DNR is proposing a reduction to the sunfish limit for Big Pine to either 10 or 5 in order to try to increase the size.

Volunteers- Ken recommended everybody checkout the COLA web site as it contains some good information. Brian Zepper and Roger Silkey reported that water clarity in Big Pine and Little Pine in June was around 14 to 17 feet which was higher than previous years. Midsummer was about 5 to 6 feet. Brian has been doing the COLA water testing on Big Pine for 23 years. Roger does Little Pine.

Unfinished Business

AIS: Forty- Eight and a half acre were treated for Curly Leaf Pondweed on Big Pine this year for a cost of \$27,094.75. Seven Big Pine lakeshore owners contracted with PLM privately to treat their shorelines at \$431.00 each. No Curly Leaf Pondweed was found on Little Pine. Big Pine has been designated for zebra mussels based on them being in the Otter Tail River, but none have been found in the lake. Doonie discussed the purpose of the I-LIDS on both lakes being able to identify weeds being brought into the lakes. This is the 6th season they have been in use. The county maintains them. Otter Tail County has 25 AIS inspectors for this year plus a Deputy and the DNR inspectors. Doonie mentioned that there is a 21 day wait rule on moving docks and lifts and a permit is required. Cold water decontamination for zebra mussels maybe coming. Doonie mentioned that the U of M Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center is studying the impact of wake boats on shorelines. We all need to promote clean, drain, and dry.

Doonie mentioned that there is up to \$1000.00 available from the LID to landowners performing lake scaping projects on their shorelines in cooperation with the EOT SWCD.

The LID is a member the OTC COLA and Minnesota Lakes and Rivers.

A question was asked concerning the McDonald Lake water pumping. Gary reported that the county is testing water levels at 10 to 12 sites. A recommendation was made to install a permanent water level gauge on the new bridge going in on Highway 8 by Little Pine.

New Business

Budget - Gary reported that 2021 budget was approved by the Board for \$40,249.00, Gary stated that the Ad Valorem tax by the county is driven by the LID's annual budget which is mostly allocated to curly pond weed control. A motion was made to approve the 2021 LID budget, as attached, to the minutes. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Nominating Committee

Ken reported for the committee that terms were expiring for 2 members: Gary and Jim. Jim has decided to resign from the board and John Chose has agreed to be a nominee. The committee nominated Gary and John for full terms. A motion was made and approved by unanimous vote to elect the 2 nominees to full terms.

Bylaws - Gary reviewed the new proposed bylaw changes, as attached to the minutes, that were approved by the board. A motion was made and approved by unanimous vote to approve the bylaw changes.

Chair Soeth adjourned the meeting at 10:30am.

From the North Shore



President Sylvia Soeth

It seems nothing is “normal” in 2020, not since March anyway. We did find a way to have an Annual Meeting August 1, outdoors at the baseball stadium and past our usual June date, but we did it! The Board has met on Wayne Enger’s deck, but soon it will be too cold for that and we will find another option.

We have continued to keep an eye on our special lakes, however. Water Quality Chair Ken Krasja samples water at four inlets each month and runs it to RMB Labs in DL. It has been a fairly “normal” year with seasonal fluctuations. COLA water testing began late in May but has been done. Roger Silkey, MN lake clarity monitor, put the secchi disk down and reported

exceptional depth of clarity early in the season. This is reported to the State where we have years of data recorded thanks to George Taylor before Roger.

Two Lakescaping projects were completed on BP this season. Josh and Laura Pettit and Mary Mercer worked with the EOT Soil and Water Conservation District for plans, grants and planting assistance on their lakeshore restoration. Plans are in the works for one on LP in 2021. The Board enjoys the beauty of Enger’s and the success of Jeff Lepp’s restoration projects as they have matured and been maintained. A matching grant of \$1000 from LID is available to any property owner with the easy application. The first step is at EOT SWCD.

Board member Jim Gravalin decided not to run for reelection this year. He will be missed! We have to understand that he and Mary plan to travel more, though. It’s a standing joke that you have to find your own replacement to retire from the Board, but Jim did just that. Jon Chose was elected at the Annual Meeting. Jon lives on Little Pine and has been active with LPLA and interested in OTCPLID. He will

handle the Projects portfolio.

We have a new Editor! Chantal Tougas has agreed to take on the Pine Lakes Press. She has been gathering articles and working with the printer - appreciate her! You’ll find that she has organized a T shirt shop with LP or BP logos. In her day job Chantal is Administrative Secretary at EOT SWCD, a great resource for the LID. On the LID Board since 2018 with Communication and Education, she and Mike and their puppy live on Little Pine.

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