



# PINE LAKES PRESS

*Big Pine Lake • Little Pine Lake  
Perham, Minnesota*

## WINTER 2018



## Lake Associations Request Cleanup Help

“The lakes belong to everybody in the state of Minnesota,” said Jerry Horgen, a member of the Otter Tail County Coalition of Lake Associations (COLA) and the president of the West Battle Lake Lakeshore Association.

The waters are open to everyone, exemplified by the countless ice houses on the frozen lakes right now. Each year, after the houses come off the lake, the West Battle Lake Lakeshore Association pays a group of kids to come out and clean up after the houses.

*“There’s a need for taking care of this beautiful county and the beautiful lakes we have and keep them as clean as we possibly can”*

“For several years, we’ve had a group of supervised kids go around and pick up the debris left on the lake, all in a very safe fashion,” Horgen said.

Otter Tail County Coalition of Lake Associations is requesting that fishermen take up clean practices when on the lakes.

This year, Horgen suggested to COLA to try to ask for help during the ice fishing season from the fishermen themselves. This is the first year a real call to clean up has been put out.

“There’s a need for taking care of this beautiful county and the beautiful lakes we have and keep them as clean as we possibly can,” Horgen said.

According to Jim Wolters, the area fisheries supervisor, the main debris that are currently being cleaned up are plastic bottles, aluminum cans, cylinders, wooden planks and even human waste.

“I think we’re probably seeing a little bit more of that being an issue, the littering, being that there’s a trend now to go to larger fish houses and spend all weekend out there,” Wolters said. “It really comes back to a few individuals making a bad name for the rest out there.”

Unfortunately, once the thaw comes, the leftover debris from these individuals end up on the shores of lake property owners.

“We don’t own the lake, we just try to keep them as clean as we can and we could use some help,” Horgen said.

While area groups, like the Boy Scouts, have traditionally

*Continued on Page 2 >*

# Little / Big Pine 2017 Fish Survey Results

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR), Fisheries Section in Fergus Falls conducted fish surveys in Big and Little Pine Lakes during the summer of 2017. Big Pine Lake was surveyed the week of July 17th and Little Pine the week of June 26th. Fish surveys are conducted on the Pine Lakes every three years by MNDNR Fisheries. The following is a summary of the findings in 2017.

## BIG PINE LAKE

Walleye gill net catch increased from 16.0 per net in 2014 to 18.3 per net in 2017. Walleye sampled ranged from 8.1 to 27.0 inches in length, representing multiple, consecutive year classes. Almost 90% of the walleye sampled were under 18" in length. A fall electrofishing assessment for young walleye done in September, 2017 showed good numbers of small walleye present in Big Pine

Lake. Many young yellow perch were seen during this fall assessment.

Northern pike gill net catch rate decreased from 6.8 per net in 2014 to 1.3 per net in 2017. This is a historical low, matching the catch rate from 1958.

Yellow perch gill net catch decreased from 34.0 per net in 2014 to 23.3 per net in 2017.

White sucker and tullibee catches (good forage fish) increased from the 2014 survey.

The fish populations appear to be in good shape on Big Pine Lake.

## LITTLE PINE LAKE

Walleye gill net catch increased from 8.6 per net in 2014 to 14.8 per net in 2017. Walleye sampled ranged from 9.1 to 25.4 inches in length, representing multiple, consecutive year classes. About 75% of the walleye sampled were under 18" in length. A fall electrofishing

assessment for young walleye done in September, 2017 showed a fair number of small walleye present in Little Pine Lake.

Pike gill net catch rate decreased from 6.3 per net in 2014 to 4.3 per net in 2017, continuing a downward trend.

Yellow perch gill net catch increased from 18.4 per net in 2014 to 33.3 per net in 2017.

White sucker and tullibee catches (good forage fish) increased from the 2014 survey.

All of these trends are good for Little Pine Lake. Angling success may be poorer this year due to more yellow perch being present in the lake.

For additional information or questions/concerns contact: Jim Wolters MNDNR Area Fisheries Supervisor 1509 1st Ave. North Fergus Falls, MN 53537 Jim.Wolters@state.mn.us 218-739-7576, x223

## Watercraft Inspectors to Increase for 2018 Boating Season

Otter Tail County commissioners have approved hiring up to 30 watercraft inspectors for the 2018 boating season. The action, reported by the Pelican Rapids Press, is subject to the candidate pool and resources necessary to manage the inspectors. Some workers may be hired for part-time duties. The county is currently advertising the positions, listing them as 20-40 hours per week.

Commissioners have also approved increasing the Aquatic Invasive Species prevention marketing fund to \$50,000, an increase of \$15,000. This action, along with the approval to make \$3,575 in upgrades to the I-LID Sensor took place during the commissioners' Jan. 23 meeting.

Land & Resource Director Bill Kalar explained the AIS Task Force Marketing Committee funding recommendation

and I-LID sensor upgrade during the meeting. The funding is subject to exploration of marketing the AIS prevention message in various social media venues in concert with recommendations of the county's external communications director. This directive follows the recommendation of the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Task Force. AIS Task Force Chairman Bernie Steeves is reviewing how other counties are operating the boat decontamination process.

The I-LID system utilizes advanced sensors that activate when a boater has entered the launch area. Video monitoring then begins.

Discussion also took place regarding the recommendation of the AIS Task Force to accept a \$5,000 donation to support the operation of I-LIDS at the Dead Lake public accesses.

### > CLEANUP *Continued from Page 1*

been a huge help during cleanup time, there's a simple thing fisherpeople can do to make the job a little more manageable.

"Just the general rule of if you bring it out there, bring it back with you. Any paper trash, plastic bottles, trash, bring it back with you and remember the lake is for everybody to enjoy," Wolters said.

Wolters says common sense is the best tool to use when

you're out on the lake, but there are some that use the snow as an excuse to hide their garbage instead of taking it with them when they leave.

"It's just about being aware of the space you're using and when you leave to make it as clean as when you came and if you notice your neighbors have some debris to help them out. If we all do that, our lakes will be a whole lot cleaner," Horgen said.

*Otter Tail County Pine Lakes Improvement District*  
**APPLICATION FOR LAKESCAPING PROJECT**

Up to \$1,000 for vegetation in matching funds may be available from OTCPLID

Name of property owner: \_\_\_\_\_

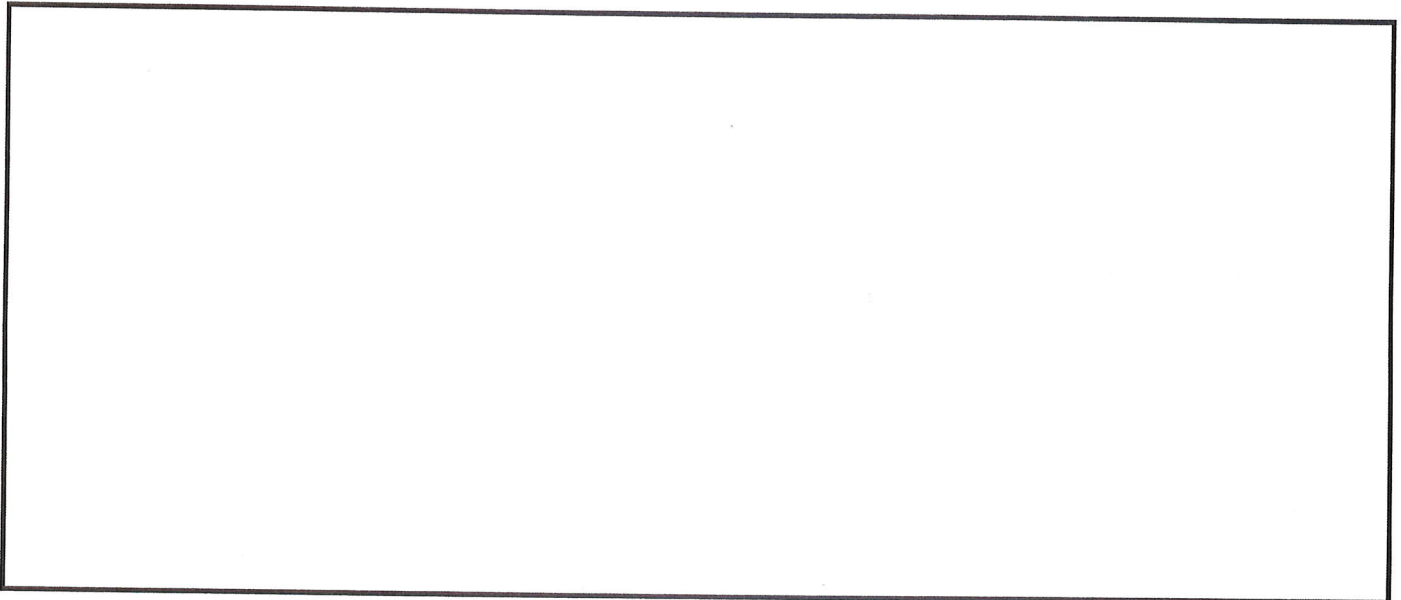
Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Location of project:

Description of project:

Simple diagram of plans:



Signature of Property Owner: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of OTCPLID Committee Chair: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of SWCD Specialist: \_\_\_\_\_

The East OTC Soil and Water Conservation District Office is located at 801 Jenny Avenue in Perham.

# OTTER TAIL COUNTY PINE LAKES IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT Minutes of the Annual Meeting *Saturday, June 24, 2017*

## 1. Call to order:

The OTCPLID board meeting was called to order by Chairperson Sylvia Soeth at 9:08 a.m. at Zorbaz on Little Pine Lake. A number of Lake Residents were present along with the OTCPLID board members.

## 2. Secretary's Minutes:

The secretary's minutes were handed out and read. A Motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the minutes as presented. Motion approved.

## 3. Treasurer's Report:

The treasurer's report was presented by Nick Theroux including the budget for upcoming year. Nick suggested a resolution to approve a levy increase for 2018. The proposed budget is for \$50,590. A motion was made to approve the treasurer's report and the levy increase, a second was made and report was approved and the motion passed.

## 4. Curly Leaf Pond Weed treatment on Big Pine

a. Chairperson Sylvia Soeth and Treasurer Nick Theroux explained the process of treatment, the company who does the treating, the cost and upcoming costs to continue treatment of CLP. There was considerable discussion on the topic from the members present.

## 5. Reports of Standing Committees:

a. Land and Resource – no variances requested at this time.  
b. Projects – Ben Underhill from East Otter Tail Soil & Water Conservation District and Wayne Enger gave a report on the lakeshore restoration project done on Wayne Enger's property. This restoration project and others like it can be partly funded by monies received by the L.I.D. and the EOT Soil and Water District. Ben handed out cards and a sign-up sheet for any lake members who are interested in undertaking a project

of this type.

c. Water Quality – Monthly testing has been done the results are good. Pete Guck told where the samples have been taken. RMB. does the testing and statistical data is available thru their web site.

d. Legislative – Wayne Enger reported there is not much happening in the Legislature. The State Of MN Buffer initiate is 60% completed at this time. Otter Tail County is way ahead of the rest of the state at 95% completion. Members are encouraged if they have any legislative concerns to send e-mails to their legislators.

e. Communications and Education – The newsletter will be coming out soon. Judi Maddock encourages all to read it and also to work on doing better by using non-phosphate cleaning products and approved fertilizers. She also stated that it has been reported to this board that some lakeshore members have been discarding lawn clippings and other debris into the lake and drainage ditches or creeks entering the lake. This is highly discouraged by the DNR and the L.I.D. Lakeshore residents are asked to find another source for disposing of lawn debris.

f. Fisheries – There was extensive discussion on fishing and the decrease in fish caught in recent years.

g. Volunteers – Leroy Luedke, OTC COLA representative gave a report on what is happening with COLA. COLA has expanded testing of calcium, phosphorous, and chlorophyll A. Lakes that have zebra mussels also have a significant amount of these elements. At the annual meeting last August the COLA recognized OTCPLID as the Lake Association of the year 2016. Bryan Zepper was also honored for 19 years of service.

## 6. Unfinished Business

a. Aquatic Invasive Species –

1. Curly Leaf Pondweed treatment approved on Big Pine was discussed earlier in the meeting.

2. Zebra Mussels & Starry Stonewort update –Doonie reported on this noting that affected lakes have been found to have high Calcium, Phosphorus and chlorophyll A, which is why COLA has expanded their testing to include these.

3. Otter Tail County AIS Task Force  
a. I-LIDs for Big and Little Pine second season seem to be doing fine.

b. Train the Teachers to Train the Kids  
b. Matching LID funds for Lakescaping up to \$1000 and cooperation of EOT SWCD.

c. Beaver DMN lakes and Rivers membership

d. Promote Clean, Drain and Dry.

## 7. New Business

a. MPCA WRAPS is a state study being done at Toad River inlet, people are noticing the equipment at that site.

b. Nominating Committee – 2 seats on the board are up for election, Jerry Moberg will not run again and there is another open position on the board that was not filled. The committee has four interested nominees and it was suggested that we put two on the board this year from Little Pine as at this time there are only two Little Pine board members. The other two would be alternates with the plan being to nominate them for positions open next year. Nominations were made for Gary Layman and Jim Gravalin both of Little Pine as board members and Chantal Tougas and Ken Krajsa as future possible board members. A motion was made, seconded and approved by the membership present.

c. Other – nothing suggested.

8. Adjourn –at 11:15 a motion was made to adjourn, seconded and passed.

*Respectfully submitted by Barb Schave, Secretary.*

## Sandhill Dairy, Toad River Farms earn State conservation honors

*Pelican Rapids Press*

Sandhill Dairy and Toad River Farms of Perham, were recently recognized as Minnesota's Outstanding Conservationist for 2017. This is a great honor for Otter Tail County and local farmers, as the Dombecks were chosen from 60 other nominees in the state.

The Sandhill Dairy and Toad River Farm operations were honored this year as Minnesota's State Conservationist for 2017 by the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) at their annual meeting held December 3-5 in Bloomington.

They were selected by the East Otter Tail Soil and Water Conservation District for the county award and the MASWCD for the state award. These two operations were selected from a pool of 61 outstanding conservationists in the state, each one representing a different county in Minnesota. The Dombeck family received the award on behalf of the farms.

Each year, the state's SWCDs recognize individuals and organizations for outstanding accomplishments in implementing conservation practices and improving the quality of Minnesota's natural resources. The award program is conducted with support from The Farmer magazine. It recognizes those that are truly outstanding in implementing conservation.

While all our County Conservation Cooperators do a great job, Sandhill Dairy and Toad River Farms stood out to the association. "The MASWCD Awards Committee was impressed by how this diverse farming operation had an equally diverse portfolio of conservation best management practices implemented across the operation," stated MASWCD Assistant Director Sheila Vanney.



"With technical assistance and program support from the East Otter Tail SWCD on practices like irrigation scheduling, manure management, and riparian buffers, the Dombecks have shown how a family farm can be stewardship-minded and at the same time run a successful operation."

In addition to their conservation practices, both operations were recently certified through the Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program.

"We are really proud of Sandhill Dairy and Toad River Farms and what they have done for conservation in East Otter Tail County," said East Otter Tail SWCD District Manager Darren Newville. "These operators provide a wonderful example for our county by taking a proactive approach to resource conservation."

For more information on the program, contact Darren Newville at the East Otter Tail SWCD, 218-346-4260 ext. 3.

## Property Owners' Input Needed to Help Prepare for Annual Meeting

It's the middle of winter, but the OTCPLID Board is looking forward to Spring and the 2018 Annual Meeting. The date and place aren't finalized; you will receive a notice. In recent years the Annual Meeting has been the last Saturday of June at Zorbaz.

To prepare for the meeting and keep it vital to the property owners the Board would like your input. Every year it is a challenge to make the meeting short but informative. This is the one time during the year we can share information and concerns face

to face. At last year's meeting there was quite a conversation about fishing results. From the test netting reported in this newsletter there are lots of fish, but they weren't eating bait when they had so many little perch that didn't involve getting on a hook! It's a shame to have to cut discussion short or to limit the information that comes from a speaker.

Would you answer questions for the Board to prepare for the meeting?

• **Do you like to have a speaker at**

**the meeting?**

• **Is there a suggestion for the topic to cover?**

• **What item would you like to hear explained by the Board?**

Please contact any Board member whose contact information is in the LID Officers' List or mail your reply to OTCPLID; PO Box 405; Perham, MN, 56573.

Replies must be received before May 15 to allow the Board to complete plans. It might not be possible to cover all the bases, but we will try!

# LID BOARD MEMBERS

Name	Address	Phone	Represents	Position
<b>Wayne Enger</b> (2016)	43680 Mosquito Hgts Rd. Perham, MN 56573 wae2000@hotmail.com	218 850 7159	Big Pine Resident	Legislative
<b>Jim Gravalin</b> (2015)	43892 N. Little Pine Rd. Perham MN 56573 megravalin@gmail.com	701 580 2869	Little Pine Resident	
<b>Pete Guck</b> (2015)	43077 Co. Hwy. 53 New York Mills, MN 56567 peteguck@gmail.com	605 431 1972	Big Pine Resident	Water Quality
<b>Mark Huber</b> (2015)	43922 Mosquito Hts. Road Perham MN 56573 hubers@arvig.net	346-3916	Big Pine Resident	Vice Chair Projects
<b>Gary Layman</b> (2017)	45470 N.Little Pine Rd. Perham MN 56573 l.layman@sbcglobal.net	630 803 2577	Little Pine Resident	
<b>Judi Maddock</b> (2016)	44543 Yellow Pine Drive Perham MN 56573 javajude5@gmail.com	346-5347	Little Pine Resident	Comm. & Education
<b>Barbara Schave</b> (2015)	45187 Red Pine Loop Perham MN 56573 bshave@arvig.net	346-3058 218 849 0776 cell	Little Pine Resident	Land & Resource Secretary
<b>Doonie Soeth</b> (2016)	46562 Timberline Dr. Perham MN 56573 812 N. 20th Moorhead MN 56573 dooniesoeth@gmail.com	346-6676 701 238 3662 cell 218-236-6118	Big Pine Non-resident	Chairperson
<b>Nick Theroux</b> (2016)	45919 Whispering Sands Trail Perham MN 56573 nick.jodi.theroux@gmail.com	218-371-7751	Big Pine Resident	Treasurer

*Each board member is elected for a three year term. The election date is indicated by the date after their name.*

# 2017-18 BPLA Board Members

Name	Board Position	Term Expires	Address	Phone	Assignment
Sylvia Soeth	President	2019	46562 Timberlane Dr. Perham, MN 56573	346-6676	LID Liaison
			812 North 20 Moorhead, MN 56560 dooniesoeth@gmail.com	218 236-6118 218 701-3662	
Bryan Zepper	1st Vice	2018	43686 Mosquito Hts. Rd. Perham, MN 56573 bkzepper@arvig.net	218 639-4496	Water Monitoring
Cyndy Huber	Treasurer	2019	43922 Mosquito Hts. Rd Perham, MN 56573 cyndyh@ucbank.com	346-3916	Membership
Jim Arno		2020	43753 Hwy 53 Perham, MN 56573 jimarno@eot.com	346-3363	Legislation
Clint Brandt		2019	44753 Nitche Lake Rd Perham, MN 56573 crbrandt@arvig.net	346-5168	Membership
LeRoy Luedke		2018	45771 Whispering Sds Tr Perham, MN 56573 leroy@EOT.com	346-6902	Otter Tail COLA Representative
Jascha Pettit		2020	45477 Whispering Sds Ln Perham, MN 56573 jpettit@map-inc.org	218 639-7837	Fishing Concerns

2017 Big Pine Lake Association Membership

Name or names \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

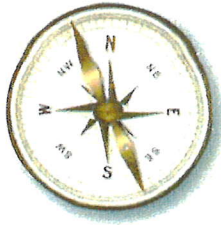
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

BP address if different from above \_\_\_\_\_

\$20.00 dues included \_\_\_\_\_ Property owner \_\_\_\_\_ Affiliate member \_\_\_\_\_

BPLA needs you to help protect our water quality and natural resources. Return this portion in the enclosed envelope to BPLA, Box 174, Perham, MN 56573.

# From the North Shore



*President Sylvia Soeth*

Did you make a Resolution for 2018? Lots of people do, apparently. According to the media reports most of them involve going to a gymnasium or going on a diet. One year slides into another for me without the need for resolutions to remind me another year flew by!

OTC COLA has encouraged the county's Lake Associations to sample

lake water and test it through RMB Labs for many years. The program was expanded to all lakes in the county that have DNR access in 2017. This valuable data is used by the State of MN and several agencies to assess the condition of the lake and, only recently, to indicate vulnerability to aquatic invasive species.

Phosphorus is one of the nutrients measured in the OTC COLA water testing program. Please read and learn about the significance of phosphorus in Minnesota waters. "Before you can care, first you have to know." The Big Pine Lake Association began water testing in 1991 and learned with

volunteers and grants that phosphorus was our worst enemy. There will always be phosphorus but without taking action the lake would have continued to deteriorate.

Use Best Management Practices: No phosphorus in fertilizer; it's been outlawed for shorelines since 2005. No vegetation dumped in the lake. Manage your septic system. Use phosphorus-free soaps. Check incoming rivers, streams and drainage.

Make it your Resolution for 2018 to know about phosphorus! "One pound of phosphorus grows 500 pounds of weeds."

