

PLIA Annual Meeting Notes 6/21/25 9:00 a.m.

Pickrel Lake Improvement Association

Zion Lutheran Church of Amor

1.Meeting was called to order at 9:03 am by Zach Fjestad, President Motion

Ethan Soland from Water Patrol Presentation 9:03-9:47:

General info: 7 water patrol deputies - summertime patrol thousands of lakes Ottertail county - most lakes in the lower 48.

Rules & Regulations: Always worried about safety - life jackets; always asking for lifejackets; must be wearable. Automatic inflatable (Mustang Automatic Manual option) lifejackets. People don't wear life jackets because they are uncomfortable or kids don't want to wear. Under age of 10, has to be on all the time. By law, you have to have lifejackets up and available. Every boat over 16 feet has to have a throwable; ring buoy or boat cushion (needed to save a life - easily toss out; put a rope on it is a good idea). Fatality on Ottertail; the throwable was way underneath the life jackets - person perished. In a tote on the deck of boat is fine. Mustang life vest is not good for tubing, skiing, etc.

New boater law: 10 years in the making. The new operation laws July 1, 2025 rollout until July 2028. Creating a new age when people have to have operator's permit. At the age of 12 - 21 starting July 1, 2025, you have to have an operator's permit over 25 horsepower boat. Next year, ages 12-25, following year 12-30, by July 1, 2028 ages 12-40. Everyone has to have an operator's permit. Personal watercrafts (jetskis, etc). The goal is for people to be more aware of the laws, safety, water patrol is encouraged by it because it is educational for waterways that have no speed limits, etc. It's better for safety on the lake. Out of state, if you have one from out of state, yours works from another state. If you are from out of state or country and do not have an operator's permit, you DO need it in [MN](#). If you have one from the original state, you do not need it. 18 or over to rent a boat; after 18, anyone can rent a boat in MN, you have to have an operator's permit. If kids have taken this test in the past, you do not have to retake. To look up information regarding this - can re-get: 866-688-2628 Boater Exam Bender to get your permit copy. Lifetime certificate. Registered with the state - watercraft is not on license. You need to have your operator's card with you OR digital/phone. DNR website: Watercraft/Boater safety certificate. Online course. ("I'm over the age, can I still go take it? Yes."). Educational first few years. Personal watercraft rules of past rules 13-17; *as of July 1, 2025 is ages 12-21 for any 25 horsepower*. Size lettering on stickers 2" or 3" stickers...they won't be "sticklers" on the stickers.

Wakeboats: 1. If you are towing people, there has to be a driver and at least one observer. The observers need to be within the cabin while watching. Carbon monoxide goes under and sits under the platform - 2 people died last year in MN due to this. 2. If you are driving the wakeboat without an observer, you need to have a mirror.

Personal watercraft (Jetskis): Per capita Pickerel per any lake in the county. 9:30am cannot start operating until then - law. Have to be off the water 1 hour before sunset. Give yourself plenty of room - above wakespeed you cannot be 150 ft. from shore, boats. It's discretionary - so better safe than sorry. Be good neighbors to each other regarding courtesies and safety. Paddleboards or paddle boats - they need to have a lifejacket with them or on them. Under 10 has to be on.

Pontoons & boats: No rule from docks - there is no rule, but courtesy of each other. Give distance.

Dock ordinance of Ottertail county: If you are a property owner, if you put your dock out, you have to give a 5 foot buffer between your property line. It cannot go over for another homeowner. 10 feet in between - don't encroach.

Loons: If we see something egregious, get a boat number and model number. Loons are curious, there is no law to keep away from them.

AED: Pickerel lake is the only lake that has it! It's for public use.

Sheriff's office to report non-emergent line: 218-998-8555

Scuba flag: rule is 150 ft from a scuba flag

Structures anchored in the water: Swim raft overnight = it needs a temporary structure permit. Lily pad if it's in and out, don't need a permit. Anything that is anchored overnight needs a structure permit.

Members in attendance: Jayson Storo, Zach Fjestad, Mike Harmsen, Kevin Hutchison, Molly Johnson, Dawn Streifel, Mike Iverson, Robin Pratt, Rick Kylo, Vicki Quist, Todd Champ, Steve Klemm

Motion with amendment to accept agenda: Kevin seconded

2. Agenda Acceptance – No additions; Motion to approve by Jayson, seconded Keven.

3. Minutes from prior meeting – Molly Johnson, Secretary Jayson moved to approve, Terry seconded

Molly Old Minutes: Molly read Pickerel Lake Improvement Association Annual Meeting June 15, 2024

Board members plus approximately 131 others were in attendance.

The 2024 annual meeting held at Zion Lutheran Church of Amor was called to order at 9:02 AM by Pres. Fjestad. Guest speaker, Chris LeClair, Otter Tail Co Land & Resource Management director, was introduced. He spoke on a number of items. The shoreland management ordinance first went into effect in 1971. For lakes, the shoreland management zone is any area within 1000 feet of the water. Within this zone, the maximum impervious surface coverage is 25% of the lot area. The setback from the water for structures on a lake classified as “recreational development,” such as Pickerel, is 100 feet from the lake. For non-conforming structures, the property owner may rebuild in the same footprint/same location. He spoke about the VRBO ordinance recently passed in Otter Tail Co and scheduled to go into effect July 1, 2024. All VRBOs must have a license to operate, and there are specific regulations regarding occupancy, noise, parking, pets, etc. He encouraged anyone experiencing an issue with a VRBO to contact the OTC Sheriff’s Dept. Following the guest speaker presentation, board members introduced themselves. Next, the agenda for the annual meeting was approved. (M/Terry Jensen, S/Krista Frederickson.) Secretary Beth Wicklund read the minutes of the 2023 annual meeting. Minutes were approved as read. (M/Mary Jane Hay, S/Terry Jensen.) Treasurer Vicki Quist then gave the financial report. To date in 2024, there were a total of 217 paid memberships totaling \$5425.00. An amount of \$2795.00 has been newly collected in the spray escrow account in 2024. Interest earned on CDs was \$819.96. Total revenue collected to date in 2024 is \$9039.96. The balance in all accounts is \$55,526.64 (operating funds being \$37,956.64 plus the spray escrow funds being \$17,570.00 overall.) The treasurer’s report was approved as presented. (M/Lowell Wilcox, S/Steve Helle.) The water quality report was given by Steve Klemm. He reported a Secchi Disk reading of 9 ft in May 2024. Readings from the summer of 2023 were as follows: May = 11 ft; June = 17 ft; July = 19 ft; Aug = 13 ft. There was a decrease in the phosphorus level, which was encouraging. Pete Jacobson delivered the worm report. He noted there are different types of worms we may see. Tent caterpillars make silk, not webs. One outbreak may last 2-4 years and on average we can expect to experience an outbreak every 10-16 years. The most recent spraying

occurred in 2019. In old business, the AED that the association received through a grant is expected to be installed shortly in township road right of way, near the public access adjacent to the fence gate separating the access from the Wicklund property. In new business, a committee may be formed to look at possible bylaw revisions. Voting for lake board (one vote per membership) occurred prior to the meeting. There were 5 candidates vying for 4 open positions. Elected to the board were incumbents Zach Fjestad (87 votes) and Vicki Quist (84 votes.) Newcomers elected were Mike Harmsen (76 votes) and Robin Pratt (68 votes.) Retiring board members Pete Jacobson and Beth Wicklund were recognized as they have each served the allowed two consecutive terms and will be going off the board. Numerous \$50 gift certificates for restaurants advertising in the directory (provided by the association), two Beach Bums \$50 gift certificates courtesy of Boll Realty, and other items were awarded as door prizes. Items of Note: 1. The boat parade will be held on July 4 @ 1:00 PM, starting at the access and going counter-clockwise. 2. The 2025 annual mtg will be held on Sat, June 21 @ Zion Lutheran Church of Amor, beginning @ 9:00AM. 3. Monthly board mtgs will be held @ Zion @ 9:00 AM on the second Sat of the month (*note new location.) 4. The lake wide garage sale is scheduled for Sat, June 22, 2024. 5. The Adopt A Highway cleanup is slated for Sat, Sept. 28, 2024. Meet at 10:30 AM @ St. James Catholic Church in Maine. The 2024 annual meeting was adjourned at 10:31 AM (M/Vern Baardson, S/Dale Busta.) Respectfully submitted by Beth Wicklund, retiring Board

4. Treasurer's Report – Vicki Quist recording: \$60,265.80 balance, 211 members paid out of 280 mailing (75% paid up). Spraying donations to date: 2, 345.00 Brought in \$4,825.00). Motion to approve treasurer's report by Dawn S., seconded by Terry.

5. Water Quality Report – Steve Klemm - not much to report for this year. Sechi disk 9 feet 6/15/2025. Sept. 2024 22 ft Sechi disk. Dividing into 7 equal regions - we are in the North Central Hardwood Region - our total phosphorus was better than expected. We are in great shape compared to all lakes in our region! The RNP labs does our water testing - they don't test for Zebra mussels.

6. Worm Report: Nothing new. They sprayed E McDonald lake. Nobody has seen any this year. **Question Dave Wolfe:** Instead of worms, spray for mosquitoes. Peter Jacobson has looked into it, and there is something that doesn't quite work; chemical is not lake safe. Zach will look into it.

7. Fish stocking update: Jim Wolters - fisheries manager for DNR - new area Luke Skalacamp is new one. Stocked walleye fingerlings in 2024. August 4th week of nets on

the lake for the walleye stocking - can find on DNR website. 548 lbs of fingerlings 2024; 19,180 fingerlings. 2026 next stocking.

6. Old Business:

a. AED: Is there for everyone's use; will investigate battery issues. We are in a dead zone for emergency response. Beth Wicklund will train anyone who wants to be trained in it. Can take it with you to save someone's life.

b. Bylaw Revision Update: Formed bylaw committee: Zach, Jayson, Rick, Robin. Looked at other lake associations to firm up the direction we knew. Initial draft - worked with Pemberton Law. Main revisions: Membership eligibility, officers and term limits, bylaws sent to everyone, received feedback and responses. We did have some revisions - noted in the redlines of the draft (2/table at the meeting).

Lee Motioned and Terry seconded comment.

Question: Carlotta is asking about insurance; paying board members - what are the fees. Term limits - you could be 6 years. Why do we need this? Traveling - where we have our meetings. Zooms be paid for. Looking at the future and want to.

Answers: We need insurance in case we get sued - it costs \$500. \$200 stipend for treasurer and secretary. The attorney's recommendation is to stay broad in language regarding this. The checks and balances are in there. Term limits: We have struggled to keep people on the board. (personally, the president should get paid).

Question: 2.8 (Dutchkinz) Improper use of member list - "proper purpose". What is proper purpose?

Answers: clarified the question

Question: Section 1.3 Mission: "The Association *may (not shall)* take appropriate steps to prevent development on or around Pickerel Lake that will negatively impact the *natural environment of the lake (not Association's members)*".

Answers: We included this in here so it's clear that says we can at least look into something like a big development. We have no legal authority, but we can advocate. We changed it to be "the environment of the lake".

Approved to accept bylaws as of June 21, 2025.

7. New Business:

- a. **Outlet Fish Screen Update:** Zach shared info about this - informative to tell the members about what it is and what could happen. Comment from Irwin Wahlgren: The creek is on it's property, first it was sand, weir controls the lake. Ryan Bjerke DNR - Zach called him - member reached out concerned of fish screens being broken. Zach didn't see anything that was broken, Rick said it's pushed away from the culvert. There's a lot of research showing that the small good game fish provide competition for the rough fish. Ryan is suggesting replacing it with a sort of boulder rapids, similar to Otter Tail lake - yet at a much smaller scale. Jim Wolters retired - Luke Scallecamp is new lakes area manager. We would pay for the cost, but there are a lot of grants right now. We are going to look into it. Rick, Mike, and Jayson are interested in meeting with Luke to learn more.
- b. **Pickerel Lake Website:** We are looking into it. Anyone interested in website development. Molly will look into it - godaddy domain OR Canva options.
pickerellakeimprovementassociation.jigsy.com pickerellakeiamn@gmail.com
- c. **Lake Picnic** - Saturday, August 23rd or Friday, August 29th at Rick Kylo Pickerel Lake Gathering. 2-6 in the afternoon. (Blue English Variety of Music) Going to tell this at the annual meeting. About \$2000. Reimburse Rick for actual cost. Motion to approve the Pickerel Lake Gathering and fund it to the expenses. Kevin seconded it.
- d. **Up for election 2025:** Rick Kylo, Erik Burke, Pat Jacobson, Kevin Smith.
Finishing our term: Todd Champ & Molly Johnson secretary
- e. **DRAWINGS:** This year we are doing cash prizes of \$500 (\$50 cash prizes), JK Sports donated two drawings, Dutchkinz 2/\$25 gift certificates.
- f. **Reminders:** Obey the speed limits on the lake - tell your guests, clean up after your pets, be courteous of each other.
- g. **Old North Pickerel Drive Update:** Beth Wicklund is on Maine Township Board. they are very aware of the road - they are looking at a new product to fix the cracks.
- h. **Reminder of Dates:** Adopt-A-Highway – Saturday, September 20, 2025 10:30 a.m. – St. James Catholic Church

Pickerel Lake Annual Meeting – Saturday, June 21, 2025, 9:00 a.m.

Pickerel Lake Garage Sale – Saturday, June 28, 2025

Pickerel Lake Boat Parade (direction Clockwise) – July 4, 2025 1:00 p.m. Mike Harmsen

8. Next Annual meeting: Tentatively set to June 20, 2026. Zion Lutheran Church in

9. Motion to Adjourn: Motioned to adjourn at 10:42 am by Terry, Seconded by Dale.