

## MINUTES: Pentwater Lake Association (PLA)

October 16, 2023 @ 6:30 PM at Centenary United Methodist Church, Pentwater

1) Call to Order @ 6:33pm

2) Roll Call: Present -Pat Hooyman, Tom Walter, Rich Pugsley, Beth Provencal, Lynne Cavazos, Ross Feltes, George Richey, Joe Primozich, Joan Menke-Schaenzer, and new PLA Member: Mike Smith. Absent PLA Members - AnnaMae Bush- Newsletter editor and Betty Pleva- Education chair.

3) Approval of Agenda- Additions: Beth suggested to move “Harvesting Fund- PLA liability issues and future PLIB role” to Unfinished business 9i – not under Water Resource committee. Beth made a motion to accept agenda with change; Joan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

4) Opportunity for Public Comment: Mike Smith – asked 2 questions: Are members allowed to come to all meetings? Yes. What is Annis? Question answered- short for “Grand Valley State University- Annis Water Resources Institute” (referred to as AWRI throughout rest of minutes).

5) Approval of Minutes for September 18, 2023: Corrections requested per Ross, Rich and Pat. Motion made by Lynne to accept minutes with corrections; Joan seconded the motion. Motion carried. Will be posted on PLA website.

6) Treasurer Report: Rich – Report emailed to Board 10/10/23. The 990 – N tax report has been filed. Report reviewed- current fund balances - General: \$8,507.02 // Harvest: \$121.00 // Fishing Tournament: \$152.53 // Watershed: \$4,440.00 // CD \$9,000. TOTAL: \$22,220.55. Memorial funds for Hooyman and Richey – separate donations from Board members. Donation of \$ 3.00 noted- was a tip at launch site garbage can. Request for Rich to add the CD divisions of the \$9,000 in the financial report for next month. Lynne asked if CD has generated any interest? Rich will report amount at the November meeting. Treasurer report accepted as written.

7) Next Board Meeting: November 20, 2023 @ 6:30 PM at Centenary United Methodist Church, 82 S. Hancock St, Pentwater. All agreed. Will be posted on PLA website.

### 8) Committee Reports:

A. Newsletter – AnnaMae Bush / absent – sent email report: The submission deadline for the November PLA issue is due October 18. Nothing else to report. Could use one more article.

Rich: had an idea about having an “all photo newsletter” once a year – maybe in Winter 2024 – it could be a 5<sup>th</sup> newsletter – not replacing the quarterly newsletters. Pertinent and fun Pentwater Lake/River area photos with captions. AnnaMae absent so not able to discuss this with her. This topic may belong under the Publicity committee? Pat, as publicity chair, will follow-up.

B. Publicity – Pat - Press release regarding September meeting submitted 10.4.23 to: Oceana Herald-Journal, Oceana Echo and Oceana County Press/online news source. Mike stated this is what made him inquire about the PLA. Rich added the Echo to the email distribution list.

C. Website & Facebook Page – Beth – Report emailed 10/9/23 to Board. No FB posts in September. 2 in October. Website updated with Minutes, date of next meeting and added Watershed Committee with contact information. Met with Kathy O’Connor and Rich about adding Watershed page. (See 9.b. below)

D. Membership – Rich - Sent out reminder to 37 members (34 email, 4 mail). 7 renewal memberships received. 30 members have not renewed. 1 riparian magazine renewal. Current membership is 197. Can now get Riparian magazine electronically – need to find out details. Will report in November. The list of 30 members who have not renewed yet was sent to Board a few weeks ago. Rich will resend this updated list and individual board members can call personally to encourage to renew. Must have all renewals in by November to be in the PLA directory.

E. Water Quality – Pat – Really great team this year.

1) Lake and River Samples taken on September 14 and delivered to AWRI lab for analysis. Frozen chlorophyll and phosphorous samples delivered to EGLE Lab September 19 on schedule.

2) E. coli measurements made in several areas. Should have complete E. coli source reports from AWRI for all samples by the end of October. (Brian from AWRI is on vacation for another week.)

Current results show that AWRI detected HF183 (human marker) at 104<sup>th</sup> and 96<sup>th</sup> in the watershed, but not in the Village Creek. Good news for the lake and village. Results will be sent via email to PLA, when final and to EGLE, District 10 Health Department, Township, Village & County authorities.

F. Natural Resources – Joe

- October 7 was waterfowl opener for mid-Michigan. Pentwater had the heaviest opener on record based on 18 boat trailers parked at the Red Barn township ramp on the north branch. With out hunting in the lower third (south of Hesperia) of the lower peninsula, all duck hunters by Muskegon and south can come here to have an early duck opener before theirs opens on the 14th. The weekend hunt was uneventful with no emergency calls noted.

- High winds and rain with a big lake surge of a foot lifted the floating filamentous algae at the bridge and broke it up and dropped it to the bottom. We (PLA) are still monitoring for a fall blue/green algae bloom which if it happens will occur in 2 or 3 weeks when the lake water turns over. Last recorded blue/green algae bloom was in 2010. Pat suggested taking one more dissolved oxygen reading. Will discuss who/when will do this with the Water Quality committee. Steelhead are being caught now.

G. Social – Lynne – Nothing new to report

– Good news for next year’s Strawberry Shortcake Social (SSS): Lynne received a call from Christine Sammel and Bill Braun – were unhappy to see the use of plastic bowls and plastic spoons at the SSS and want to donate biodegradable bowls/spoons for next year. Will coordinate with them in July. This came with the stipulation that if we have left over plastic from 2023 will need to figure out how to recycle the old plastic. Ideas to do this: Kids? Erica/Green club. Will discuss before the next SSS August 2024.

H. Education - Betty – absent. Betty called Rich to share her report: No speech class this year as this is alternated every other year. New teacher getting acclimated. Betty is in discussion w/ various teachers what to do next year. Some ideas include: ? Essay? Media Project 7<sup>th</sup> Graders? Suggestion made that maybe a project could be done regarding recycling of the leftover plastic bowls/spoons?

I. Watershed Committee – Rich – Report emailed to Board with specific details. To summarize:

-A survey workshop was held and now have a content outline. Will hold a “dry run” survey at the Conservation District on November 2nd. He encouraged PLA board members to attend for input.

-Communications are scheduled for County Commissioners, Park Commissioners and Pentwater Township all in November. A press release regarding the survey has been created to send to the OHJ, Echo and Ludington News. Rich will issue the press release. The survey will be mentioned in the PLA

Newsletter. Mailings will be sent to State Representative Curtis Vanderwall, Senator Jon Bumstead, James Kelly-MSU Extension District Director, Erick Elgin- Aquatic Ecologist and Water Resource Educator at MSU Extension, Bob Sweet- Watershed Council Support RFP FY 2023 @ EGLE, Mark Tonello – DNR Fisheries Management Biologist, Dr. Ryan Otter- new Director at Annis Water Resources Institute- GVSU. – Dr. Amanda Buday (Project Coordinator, Social Science Lab @ GVSU) sent a PTW Watershed Planning Survey “draft” of a cover letter to riparians to be mailed 2 weeks before the survey. The PLA board is to review this draft and email Rich input before November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Rich handed out this letter and the press release that was drafted by Amanda. Any input is welcome from the board.

-The survey will have 5 different logos on it. PLA will be one of them. Rich showed the draft of the survey which has 5 different logos at the bottom. Question arose what 5 logos would be used? The other 4 logos include: GVSU, EGLE, Oceana Community Foundation and Fly Fishers International. (GVSU has 2 possible logos – one from ANNIS Center and one from the Social Science Lab. It was agreed that Amanda will choose the appropriate GVSU logo for the survey.)

- It was pointed out that the PLA has been using 2 logos over the years and never approved one or the other. Need to decide which logo to adopt for the PLA before can decide on logo for survey. Looked at the 2 logos and discussed options.

**MOTION:** George made a motion to approve the logo with an anchor inside a square; white background, royal blue lettering. Lynne seconded the motion. Motion carried. (see example below)



**MOTION:** Rich then made a motion to add the newly approved PLA logo to the Watershed survey. Ross seconded the motion with clarification that it is one of the 5 logos on the survey. Motion carried.

-The PLA board will need to approve the survey prior to mailing. Rich will send the latest version before meeting. AND then send final version after the meeting. Intention is to mail survey out by Thanksgiving. Stated hope will have survey results by March/April for the Newsletter.

-Rich will attempt to meet with the 5 Townships that are included in the watershed survey. Lynne stated that many township meetings overlap so might be best to call them and ask to speak to someone about the survey. Lynne also suggested talking to the township clerks as well as a heads up. Rich plans to meet w/ county commissioner too. Ross added that he recently networked w/ Senator Bumsted and told him of the planned survey.

J. Scholarship Committee- Joe

Last meeting stated the need for funding. George proposed funding it as the Suzanne Richey Memorial Scholarship. Start with \$500 as initial amount with the hope to subsidize this yearly. Committee: George/Betty/Joan/Dan/Rich/Pat/AnnaMae. Asked that they please meet, and bring back proposal to the Board with details. Will talk about it at the Annual Meeting to stimulate interest and donations. It's a seed... a starting point. Discussed if should put money into a CD, but that would require \$1,000 minimum. Going forward will put article in the Newsletter – probably in Feb/April when have things set.

### 9) Unfinished/ Continuing Business:

a) Upcoming or available seminars/conferences/webinars - Ross Feltes List – emailed to all October 4, 2023. Ross pointed out one of the resources – Watershed in Canada – has many online resources & great topics. Riparians have a major impact on health of the lakes... need information/education to help change priorities, how to combine beauty and science and how to get them engaged in Stewardship.

b) IT person re: Website page Watershed information – Beth – Met with Kathy O'Connor and Rich on September 27<sup>th</sup>. Kathy has SquareSpace experience and was very helpful. Built new page – changed River Management to Pentwater Watershed. Will fill in with information Rich provided October 8<sup>th</sup>. Hope to have it completed by October 31<sup>st</sup>. Unable to add a donate button but think only want one on the website to reduce confusion.

c) Rich - Clothing strategy - Need a group to define the design(s) Will come back w/ proposals. Tabled.

d) Invitation of GVSU/Annis Dr. Ryan Otter (toxicologist) to attend a PLA board meeting: Dr. Otter had expressed an interest in attending a PLA meeting as one of the various organizations who interact at Annis Center. If needed, can ask him who he would recommend to do a presentation on E. coli. (see 9e below) Pat will extend an invitation to a PLA meeting via email.

e) Speaker to the PLA Board re: Understanding E. coli data / ramifications: Because we don't have the final E. coli testing results, this was tabled until get the final results. Then can decide if need a speaker and who would be appropriate. If we do, perhaps ask a microbiologist? Or Brian Scull – Laboratory Supervisor at AWRI? Perhaps a policy kind of person would be more appropriate? Maybe have a presentation in the spring? Maybe ask Higgins Lake Association? Joe has worked with them. Tip of the Mitt has done most work on this of late. They want a statewide policy re: septic systems. Kathy Evans would be a good resource person for the future. Tom added the MLSA Conference he is going to attend has a session called "Pathogens" and hopes to come back with more information on this topic.

f) Joan: follow up on 3 questions:

- Membership Survey- Tabled. Once there is clarity of the different roles of the PLA vs. PLIB, maybe then.  
 - Need Communication to the public re: weed control and PLIB/PLA roles: Addressed by Pat: need to read each of their bylaws. Very clear. Provided a handout. Pat said maybe write an article or maybe educate via the Presidents Letter to address the differences of the PLA vs PLIB. Joe stated Nov 6<sup>th</sup> is the next big meeting and encouraged PLA members to attend. Tom stated there is no duplication of services but there are common goals.

-Recruiting younger members – is difficult, issue for years now. Need a true Membership Committee first. Rich stated hasn't recruited as he is a "one man show" and would need help. Challenges discussed.

g) Fundraiser - A book (Booklet) for Children – "Ideas of what to do when you come to Pentwater!". Rich- More discussion with my daughter this weekend Oct 14/15. Mike mentioned there is a woman in Hart who writes children's books, and is friends with Barb at the children's bookstore in Pentwater. Those 2 women might be good resources. Can ask for help.

h) PLA Insurance f/u – Rich - Electronic copy of full policy sent to Tim Cole. Await recommendations. Table to November meeting. Tim requested a hard copy. Rich following up.

i) Harvesting Fund: what to do with the donated funds- All- Can't really donate the donations to the PLIB. Discussed ideas of how to spend this money on harvesting weeds, even if indirectly. Ideas: maybe purchase a "Rakezilla"? Discussed whether we buy equipment that riparians and PLA members could rent. Great to offer, if possible; would be great PR. Where to store any equipment? Rent a storage unit with a combo lock and sign-up sheet inside? Mike stated he knows Doug Irvin who has riverfront property and a huge ware house may be able to store? Mike Smith – volunteered to assist on this committee – Joe/Pat/Mike also volunteered. Equipment needs would include: Rakes/waders/razors. *Add to November agenda*. Need to decide by June when weed issues surface again. Possibly create an Equipment Committee? Or at the very least a "Lake Equipment Initiative."

#### 10) New Business:

a) PLA approval to use the PLA logo on the watershed survey – Rich  
Done tonight- see Watershed Committee section with MOTIONS above. (8.I)

b) Registering PLA on Shoreline Stewards Association website – Rich – Sent an email request last month to the board asking if any interest but said no response so placed on agenda this month.  
-Beth emailed the Board with information/handout – asked everyone to check it out before meeting. Per their website: "The Michigan (MI) Shoreland Stewards Program is an initiative of the Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership (MNSP) designed to recognize lake front property owners who maintain their properties using lake-friendly practices." It segways into the Score the Shore initiative. After discussion, this may be a good idea in the future, but for now need more information and planning on the Score the Shore initiative. Tom is planning a second survey in 2024. In addition, the Shoreline Stewards Program would require monitoring PLA information on that website, meaning need further IT manpower, which is not feasible at this time.

#### 11) Board Member Comments:

Tom: at the Annual meeting – volunteer sign-up sheets were collected. Tom took the list – sent a note with Score the Shore information out- how to get involved and need for help to do a second survey. Sent to folks – heard from one person – Ron Beeber. Good discussion followed. Will need more volunteers.

Rich: Noted a 7-foot sandbar northside of channel. Channel remains 12-14 feet deep. Nothing new really.

Tom and Lynne: took the life jackets and stands down for the season. 3 life jackets were donated. Did lose some jackets at the Monroe launch. Removed jackets a little earlier this year. Will put out by Memorial weekend. Also lent some to Lee Price for Sailing Program.

Joan: Do we need to re-define the scope of the PLA? Decided will discuss this in February after E. coli survey results are completed.

#### 12) Adjournment @ 9:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Provencal, PLA Secretary