

MINUTES: Pentwater Lake Association (PLA)

OCTOBER 18, 2021

1. Meeting called to order: 6:30pm at Centenary Methodist Church
2. Roll Call: PLA Board Members – Pat Hooyman, Tom Walter, Rich Pugsley, Joe Primozich, Beth Provencal, Dr. Ross Feltes, Joan Menke-Schaenzer and George Richey. PLA Members – AnnaMae Bush / Newsletter Editor and Betty Pleva / Education Committee Chair. Guests: Kelie Bond, Kathy Evans: Program Manager at WMSRDC, Fallon Chabala: New Program Manager at WMSRDC as of November 2021 and Gale Nobes: Planner at WMSRDC.
3. Approval of Agenda: with additions – added Water Sampling Committee changes and training necessary under section 13. Motion made by Rich to accept with additions, Joan seconded the motion. All approved, motion passed.
4. Opportunity for Public Comment: George stated he is very happy to be back.
5. Approval of Minutes: September 20, 2021 reviewed. No corrections. Motion made by Joan to accept Minutes as written, Ross seconded the motion. All approved. Motion passed. Minutes will be posted to PLA website.
6. Treasurer’s Report: Rich sent Treasurer report via email for review. This included 4/12/21 through 9/17/21 checking, savings and Weed Harvest balances. PLA Checking: \$5492.92. PLA Savings: \$11,550.52. Weed Harvesting: \$2025.00 (included in checking account amount). Numerous expenditures will be paid shortly including Directory cost, November Newsletter, Riparian Magazine cost which was deposited with recent Membership dues and also the annual cost of MI Lake & Stream membership. The balance will soon drop but we do remain within current budget.
7. Next Board Meeting: NOVEMBER 15, 2021 at 6:30pm @ Centenary Methodist Church. Decisions regarding meeting schedule for winter months will be discussed in November.
8. Introduction of Kelie Bond: Ross introduced Kelie to PLA. Kelie stated she is a retired scientist, and has Water and Air Quality experience. She has worked with the DNR and DEQ Administrations. She has returned to Pentwater, built a home on the family property and is interested in becoming an active community member once again. She was heartily welcomed as a great asset to Pentwater and the PLA in the future.
9. a. Presentation by Kathy Evans and Fallon Chabala from West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission (WMSRDC): Rich began the presentation with a slide show of the “good and the bad” areas of the North Branch of Pentwater River. The erosion was quite significant. This was important to point out prior to Kathy and Fallon’s presentation.
Kathy began their presentation by introducing her replacement: Fallon Chabala effective November 1, 2021 when she officially retires. They brought Gale Nobes, Planner at WMSRDC as another key resource for the PLA. He offered to answer questions regarding how to establish a Watershed Focus/Partnership group. He initiated the

Muskegon Lake Focus Group over 20 years ago and is still actively involved with grant work.

Multiple handouts were distributed: First - a WMSRDC Newsletter, Second -Great Lakes Costal and Nearshore Habitat Engineering & Design Project- Pentwater River Drowned River Mouth / Costal Wetland Habitat Restoration detailed description with contact information for Matt Preisser: MI Dept of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy. Third: an aerial photo of the Pentwater River Habitat Restoration area with the proposed BMPs and goals: Restore River Corridor and In-Stream Fish and Wildlife Habitat along a 340 ft. eroding River Bank. Reduce 34 Tons of Annual Sediment Deposition to Protect and Enhance a 53-acre Great Lakes Costal Marsh.

The presentation was a broad overview of how the WMSRDC interacts with PLA, and included how responsibility and ownership overlap with a multitude of agencies. A basic discussion of the process of obtaining Grants to help protect, preserve and maintain Pentwater Lake and the attached Pentwater River occurred. She updated us on current Grant statuses, specifically the Big Sandy Bend erosion situation. Costal NOAA (coast.noaa.gov) has been made aware of concerns with Sandy Bend. There are multiple organizations applying for various grants that may overlap our goals.

After many questions and discussion, PLA decided to form a subcommittee to look at whether to form a Pentwater River Watershed Partnership. Good partners to have would be PLIB, MI DNR, GVSU Monitoring Program, etc. Kathy said if formed, she would highly suggest having a secretary. It was determined to be important to consider because current Grant work is covering the South Branch, not the North Branch of Pentwater River. What occurs in the entire river has direct bearing on the health of the lake including water quality, fish and wildlife sustainability. It was suggested with the Hart to Pentwater Bike Path coming, likely involving Longbridge Road, the discussion and coordination of all parties involved would be helpful for the protection and health of Pentwater Lake. It was noted that “Whoever gets a Grant takes the lead”. Opportunities are lost if preparation is not done. Of note, there are 3 major projects in the 2019 Grant that are still in process (see below). It is not possible to capture all the discussion in the Minutes. It was very interesting and informative. We thanked all 3 for sharing their time and expertise.

9 b. Discussion / Updates given regarding PLA Projects:

- i) Sandy Bend Project – in process
- ii) Update to the Watershed Management Plan – included in WMSRDC presentation
- iii) 2022 Clean Boats, Clean Waters Grants – Rich will be submitting application soon
- iv) Michigan Department of Natural Resources, CD3 – Proposal must be submitted by December 17th. Will include in it budget for cost of Clean Boats, Clean Waters T-Shirts.

10. Committee Reports:

- A. Newsletter – AnnaMae

-The first draft of the November Newsletter is completed. The stories submitted were sent to authors for checking any errors. Hope to have all responses by end of week and get to printer next week. Pictures remain a challenge with .pdf format, how they are sent and scanned. Pat offered to help AnnaMae if needed. There is improved compliance of the authors to stay within the new Guidelines which is very helpful. There was some discussion about various potential topics, all agreed need to remain relevant to the PLA mission and purpose. A Newsletter Committee has been formed to review, but have not met formally yet. Will continue the May / August / November / February schedule. Four local news outlets were added to our email distribution list. -A handout was distributed to all with Printing Costs and Variable from Aug 2020 to Aug 2021. The reason for the increase of cost is twofold but mainly the cost of paper (lumber) has increased and also because we are full color now rather than B&W. PLA will continue to monitor the cost and adjust to remain in budget as needed.

B. Publicity – Pat

October meeting announcement sent in to both Oceana Herald-Journal and Oceana Press online version.

C. Website & Facebook Page – Beth & Janet

-Website: September meeting announcement posted and August Minutes. Beth asked when to post the Annual Treasurer – informed it is posted after approved next June. Did add link: West Michigan Conservation Network: <http://wmconservation.net> as discussed. Added information to Frogbit and Starry Stonewort under current issues. Thanked Rich for sending information.

-Facebook Page: Added meeting Announcement and photo of Bobcat. Site has gradually picked up more followers. Will continue to work to engage the public with educational information and pictures of Pentwater Lake happenings.

D. Membership – Rich

Final PLA Membership count is 228, up from 212 since last meeting and final email reminder sent. There is a full list, validated and has a cross reference to use for other needs. Of note, there are 21 charter members since established in 1995! See Old Business for vote.

E. Water Quality – Mike Peters absent. Joe reported –

-Kelie Bond here to help advise, and help present reliable/relatable information during interim change of Chair of this committee. PLA all expressed gratitude for her presence and look forward to working with her.

-Joe does not have the Water Sampling information. Will report at November meeting. The process for collection reviewed for Kelie. Rich drives the boat, sample the deepest spot (50 ft deep), Joe and Tom or Rich do the sampling of all 4 tributaries. Tom or Joe or

another volunteer transport them in a cooler to Grand Rapids twice a year and GVSU Annis Center four times a year.

F. Natural Resources – Joe

August and September, many calls were fielded. With each rain event the river/marsh was flooded resulting in an increase of algae, which appears as a foamy green mass. Filamentous type algae were noted on the east end. Mechanical harvesting is helping reduce the bulk. Fortunately, the toxic “blue-green” algae wasn’t seen this year. Many have kept an eye out for it, so far so good. Sadly, last year a dog died from ingesting it in Bass Lake.

G. Social – via email Lynne Cavazos – No report this month.

H. Education – Betty

-Discussed having a Student Representative from Pentwater High School to be part of the PLA. Summers are busy so would suggest participation in the months of Sept/Oct/Nov and March/April/May. Discussion ensued – perhaps two students who do Green Projects would make sense? Betty will check with Erika Futura regarding this.

-See Unfinished Business below regarding the 2022 Oceana Speech Project.

11. Unfinished / Old Business:

a. Consolidated Water Quality Historical Data Project – There is data available, written and digitized since 1977 that needs to be compiled. Pat, Ross and Rich will be working on this. Of note, when initial collection began, current sewer systems had not been developed. There used to be a sewage drain right into Pentwater Lake that was closed years ago. Should be interesting to see the changes over the years.

b. Finalize the Directory – Motion made by Beth to finalize the Directory, seconded by Joe. All approved. Motion passed.

c. Score the Shore update – Has been started, not completed. Now the weeds are gone, will restart in April. Tom wrote an article about it that will be in the next PLA Newsletter.

d. Oceana Speech Project – Betty proposed a potential project for the PLA to sponsor. A handout was distributed: Pentwater Lake Association: Speech Contest 2022 but called it the “Oceana Speech Contest” as it is to encompass students in Pentwater, Hart, Shelby, and surrounding area including home-school and online students. The project goal is to educate Oceana County HS youth the values and needs to keep our county lakes and water resources viable and healthy, and to encourage them to become good stewards of our local environment, ecosystems and waterways. It would take place the week of March 21-24 (suggested), and to have at least 10 participants. The topic will be: Keepers of our Lakes. PLA would provide

resources for students to do their research. The handout outlined the process to have this occur. Rick McGrath, the Speech Class teacher at Pentwater HS will help organize. Rich offered to assist Betty to create a power-point presentation to stir interest in the students. Beth and Pat will assist posting FB, PLA website and local newspaper sources. It was suggested each student who participates receive a PLA Clean Boats/Clean Water T-shirt and the 3 winners receive \$100. It is not determined what the categories will be. Rich will add this cost to the 2022 Clean Boats, Clean Waters Grant proposal. A motion was made by Joe that the PLA pay the \$300 winnings if not covered in the above Grant. Tom seconded the motion. All approved. Motion passed. There is much work to be done. Betty will keep PLA informed of progress and needs.

12. New Business:

a. Discussion of Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation – Pat distributed a copy of both for all to review. Discussion will require more time than this meeting has available. Will be tabled.

b. Outreach to other Lake Associations – If someone would gather an email from the various local Lake Associations, we can email them a PLA Newsletter if they wish to receive. Joe and others offered to find out which area Lakes have an Association and establish a contact person.

c. Midwest Glacial Lakes Shoreline Living Documents – Pat brought several copies of the Shoreline Living Magazine to take home and read. It is a publication funded by 3 agencies: Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership, the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies and Sportfish & Wildlife Restoration Programs of the USFWS. This magazine is packed with useful Lake information. Discussed how to share these with Lake Associations and local Pentwater Lake organizations.

d. Annual Membership Fee – Tabled for November Meeting in addition to discussion of creating alternative revenue resources.

13. Board Member Comments –

-A get well card sent around for Mike Peters. Mike had sent an update about his medical condition and acknowledged the need for a new Water Quality Committee Chair but stated he wants to remain a part of the PLA Board. He will try to make the November PLA meeting.

- Joe mentioned that November 17, 2021 there is an Annual Volunteer Monitoring Conference training program offered online/Zoom at www.MiCorps.net, and encouraged all to participate as the Water Quality Committee will need ongoing participation as people rotate off every 3 years.

14. Adjournment of meeting at 9:12pm // Next meeting November 15, 2021 at 6:30pm

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Provencal, PLA Secretary