

MINUTES: Pentwater Lake Association (PLA)

October 18, 2022

1) Call to Order: Meeting called to order @ 6:34 pm by Board President, George Richey @ Centenary United Methodist Church (UMC).

2) Roll Call: PLA Board members: George Richey, Tom Walter, Rich Pugsley, Beth Provencal, Lynne Cavazos, Joan Menke-Schaenzer. PLA Members/Committee Chairs: AnnaMae Bush, Joe Primozich, Pat Hooyman. Absent: Kelie Bond, Ross Feltes, Dan Selahowski, Betty Pleva.

3) Approval of Agenda: Additions: None.

Motion made by Rich to accept agenda as written, seconded by Beth. Motion carried.

4) Opportunity for Public Comment: None

5) Approval of Board Meeting Minutes: September 19, 2022 PLA Minutes reviewed. Corrections noted. Motion made by Joan to accept September minutes with corrections, seconded by Tom. Motion carried.

6) Treasurer's Report: Rich

General Fund: \$14,553.56. Harvest: \$2,025. Youth Fishing Tournament/Rose Donations: \$2,317.28. TOTAL: \$18,573.84. Motion made by Joan to accept Treasurer's Report as written, seconded by Beth. Motion carried.

7) Next Board Meeting: November 21, 2022 @ 6:30pm @ Centenary UMC.

8) **Committee Reports**

A. Newsletter – AnnaMae

Working on November issue. Still reading a book about MS Publisher and experimenting with it. It's still a challenge. This one will likely 14-page issue. It will be sent to the printer next week.

B. Publicity – Pat

Press announcement of this meeting was made in both Oceana Herald-Journal and Oceana Press.com.

C. Social Media – Beth

Opened with question- since reporting two different sites, should we rename this committee "Social Media"? All agreed. (Start date September 2022 for title change as minutes just approved.)

Website: Keeping it updated in timely manner with latest Minutes and information about next PLA Meeting. Has not completed the "Fish" page yet. It's intended to include the most common types of fish found in Pentwater Lake. It will have internet photos of various fish with information about each fish, such as average weight, length, colors, etc. It will not include any personal photos of fish like there are on the Youth Fishing Tournament page. Beth hopes to have this completed by Spring 2023.

Facebook: Only two posts this month as there is typically less to post in the Fall and Winter. First post: The Oceana Road Commission closed the sidewalk on Longbridge bridge due to a structural issue. A photo of the barrier with a safety warning to stay off it was posted. Second post was an educational opportunity: The MSU Extension Intro to Lakes online course that is offered January 10, 2023. Beth will be posting the video link for an EGLE hour-long webinar entitled: "An Overview of the Clean Water Act and its History and Significance in Michigan".

D. Membership – Rich

Unpaid Dues- update was emailed to the PLA Board on 10/17/22. There are still 39 unpaid members. AnnaMae stated spoke to a few on the list and should receive more dues soon. Reviewed the list and assigned folks to contact. Rich will send reminder email on November 1st before the Directory is published. The directory lists all PLA members according to the fiscal year (June 30-July 1) not the calendar year.

E. Water Quality – Pat

Water Sampling update- Completed all data collection for the 2021-22 year. Pat created a schedule to follow which was helpful. We have added/changed members this year. They will need additional training to smooth the process and minimize miscommunication. Joe will do the training of the new crew which includes: Kelie, Rich and Tim Cole. Joe will coordinate with the team and go through the process in April 2023. George asked to be included in the training. The instruction manual used is from MiCorp. There are numerous videos to watch and a 4-hour class involved. Training is key. Rich added the fact that this committee is also measuring water transparency (or turbidity) weekly during the summer months, with the use of a “Secchi disk”. Pentwater Lake’s latest measurements: shallowest was 5 feet and deepest was 9 feet this year. Rich to enter that data to MiCorp. The PLA will be requesting the PLIB to resume the funding while PLA continues to does the field work. Cost is \$2400 currently, will ask the PLIB to allocate up to \$3000 per year.

F. Natural Resources – Joe

-Waterfowl migration started in September. Mute swans are here! The snow geese are in also – they have short necks and black wing tips. Many sand cranes spotted. Whistling Swans can be heard or seen any time in November or December migrating.

-Youth Fishing Tournament – less families involved but not less children.

G. Social – Lynne - nothing new at this time.

H. Education - Betty Pleva (absent)

Betty sent an update to AnnaMae who reported: Betty was able to connect with Rick McGrath. He’s not sure the number of students will be large enough for the contest. Fewer children are in his Speech Class this year. It will be open to anyone in Oceana County, children of family members or relatives of PLA Members and Pentwater High School. It will be announced in the November PLA Newsletter. Park Place is reserved for DECEMBER 11 @ 1:30pm, alternate date would be DECEMBER 18 @ 4:00. Prize money the same: \$125/\$100/\$75 (total \$300). Judges are lined up (4) for the event.

9) UNFINISHED/CONTINUED BUSINESS:

a) Grant Update Tom

West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission (WMSRDC) update on Sandy Bend Engineering - The second (zoom) meeting occurred on 10/13/22. No agreement reached yet. No decisions made. Next meeting November. Contract expires January 1, 2023 – may need an extension. There are 12 people on the interdisciplinary team: including Engineering and Design. It is managed by Craig Taylor from LimnoTech, Coastal States Management Division. (see Tom Walter’s extensive notes in September Minutes: Unfinished Business 9/a for further details) The WMSRDC quarterly meeting is coming up soon and will likely shed light on the Sandy Bend situation.

b) Upcoming or Available seminars/conferences/webinars – Ross absent

c) Update from Friends of the Pentwater River Watershed (FPRW) – Rich

-Riparian Survey - Looks good to get a \$2700 grant from Fly Fishers International (FFI) to help fund the survey. Submitted grant request for \$5000. They should know by end of year. May go to Oceana Community Foundation for funding as well. Rich would like to add a check box on the survey to support local watershed.

-Crystal Valley Dam – Nothing new. County Board of Commissioners have not voted or made any decision yet. Their next meeting is 10/27/22. If they vote to remove, focus will shift to bank restoration. Cost @ 1 million to rebuild the dam.

The next PLA Newsletter will include Friends of Watershed information to help inform the PLA members about this group and its efforts. During last month's meeting, the need to do an inventory of road crossings was discussed. Conservation Resource Alliance and Trout Unlimited gave them information how this is done. This information was given to the Oceana Road Commission to review, they did not have additional assistance on this topic. There are new apps available with detailed information. Apparently, it's a simple survey – if need to do this. Need more information, there is more to learn but they are making good progress. Lynne suggested asking Keith Edwards for the app information on the new Geographical Information System (GIS) – which includes relevant data and maps.

There are funding opportunities coming up. Little Cedar Creek, Stony Creek has a pending proposal for rip balls, wood structures to be placed into river/creek to direct the flow of river. They are having pond issues. FPRW will need to talk to Bob Sweet regarding funding. Our old plan does not qualify for funding. Need to find out new parameters. There is great need everywhere, they will keep applying for funding/grants to help improve the Watershed situation.

d) Channel Dredging – Spring/Summer 2023 Lynne-

Next meeting 10/19/23. Focus likely will be on the Small Harbor Coalition efforts.

e) PLA Scholarships Joe

As discussed in prior PLA meeting – we have an intent to start a PLA Scholarship program for Pentwater HS students. The amount discussed was for \$500. A PLA Scholarship Committee was formed and includes Joe and Betty, but will need one more. AnnaMae also volunteered to help. Would need a proctor. By the new year, the Board will need to make a motion. George verbalized the need to review the PLA bylaws to be sure there is no conflict. Joe stated it would be for Education, which is in our Mission Statement.

Lynne asked AnnaMae how the Women's Club does their scholarship program. AnnaMae responded- it starts w/ creating an application. Their committee meets with each child who applies. They also check w/ school regarding financial needs of child, need to consider need of child before granting. It's not the same amount yearly at Women's Club. As this committee grows, the PLA can borrow ideas / processes to use. Question asked: Should we ask Betty put an article in the Women's Club February Newsletter – if interested, perhaps, they would donate to the PLA Scholarship Fund? AnnaMae stated the best contact at Women's Club would be Karen Monton. Her email is: karenmonton@gmail.com.

f) Boat & Trailer Wash Site – Rich

Nothing new from the Pentwater Convenience Center (PCC). The State of Michigan held a webinar

regarding boat wash. Cost is \$70,000 to \$140,000. May need a certain size sewer system to accommodate. The State is not funding installation, but will fund signage. This would be important to direct folks to the PCC Boat Wash if this occurs. Signage would be helpful regardless, as reminders to inspect boats.

Tom began a brainstorming discussion: What if we go to the Village Boat Launch every Saturday to the area most invasive species noted? Students from the Pentwater School Green Club could help too! Maybe have PLA do one weekend, PSA one weekend, PLIB another weekend? Could pair students' w/ adults each weekend. Could ask DNR to be there at different Saturdays. Do our own inspections. Could ask our Marine officer - Laud Hartman to participate. Should we create a note or a form to notify the boat owner that they have weeds/invasive species on their boat? It certainly would raise awareness. Is there a form already made out? Maybe share with other Lake Associations? Will add to the agenda to continue discussion.

Rich- There is new funding opportunity for Clean Boats, Clean Waters efforts. Need to get together with Garry McKeen to help coordinate other small lake systems for next year's grant application. It is due by Dec 2, 2022.

g) Village Boat Launch – re: Condition of launch/cost sharing of repairs with the PSA. There is no need to cost share yet. According to the Village Plan, the repairs are scheduled to occur in Spring 2023. George volunteered to ask Chris or Laude if/when it is scheduled and what's actually to be repaired.

Longbridge Road Launch: (the 90-degree launch). The Pentwater Township is responsible for this and will be repairing the washout on both sides of the launch. It is in bad shape. However, the dock will not be removed until December 1, 2022 due to fishing season.

h) Score the Shore Survey - Tom

Data completed, submitted. Await analysis. Due date was Oct 15th. Unsure how will be notified of results.

Joe- belongs to the Pentwater Lake Improvement Board (PLIB) and stated Pentwater Lake shoreline is 83% seawall- considered a "hard" shoreline. This is not good for lake life- need natural habitat for fish to survive. The (PLIB) goal is to soften shore if possible and have green zones on shoreline. Need to minimize fertilizer loads. When weed harvest is done, it not only removes the weeds but also removes phosphate at the same time. Lower phosphate levels help reduce a blue/green algae bloom which is toxic. Last bloom 2010 on Pentwater Lake. Temperature of lake and fertility affect the bloom. Harvest is important! For recreational purposes AND Phosphates!

Tom- there is an absence of wood in our lake. Shoreline buffer zone – vacant lots are mowed rather than allowed to grow naturally. IF got a small grant maybe could offer riparian's incentives to get rock or wood, a natural habitat/vegetation in front of seawalls. Many things that can be done. Brainstorming and will present options. The State of Michigan does recognize it's a huge issue.

i) Small Harbor Coalition (SHC): Lynne

Meeting tomorrow 10/19/22 @ 10am to discuss goals. First goal is to have Pentwater Township and Village unite to have strong voice at Federal level. Second goal, assigned Maureen be the township representative, and assign a village representative to be on the SHC.

j) Coastal Resiliency Project: Lynne

A sand survey is very appropriate. There is an inordinate amount of sand blowing into the channel this year. Need additional information of sand movement to make a plan of action. The DNR officer, Manny Valdez, reported Charles Mears State Park ran out of stakes for the sand fences this year, awaiting delivery. The sand flowing into the channel is the most he's ever witnessed.

k) Speaker/Topic for 2023 Annual Meeting: Suggested have students from the Pentwater Green Club make a small presentation regarding Pentwater Lake, like Brandon Macher did last year as the Speech Contest winner. It was agreed to ask Mark Tonello, a Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) Fisheries Biologist to be the Keynote Speaker. Rich volunteered to ask Mark. The date of the Annual Meeting will be June 16, 2023 or if that date is already booked – then June 23, 2023.

l) Longbridge Bridge- Lynne stated it remains in need of repair. Above water inspection will be done this Fall, but have to wait until Spring for full inspection- below and above. The cost is approximately \$5000 for the inspection alone.

10) **NEW BUSINESS**

a) Google Drive Account for PLA – Rich

Ross asked Rich to ask about creating a google drive account to share documents, slides, sheets to add Watershed information to the PLA website. Ross had noted the fact that Pat has all PLA historical water quality data in a google drive account. It is not attached to the PLA website at this time. Further discussion will be needed to decide that. Beth checked with Claudia Ressel-Hodan regarding the google drive topic prior to this meeting. It is complicated and difficult to add to a website. She recommended it be a separate google drive account with access granted to persons who need the information. Claudia added it would require an email address with someone to monitor it. After discussion, decided this is not a good idea to add to the website. The FPRW will continue to discuss ways to store their Minutes and information. It is not part of the PLA so will not be added at this time.

Do we need a separate email for the PLA? After discussion, decided no. There have been issues with the PLA Presidents email for years (hacking). And with biannual changing of officers and board members, it was thought to just update the names, phone numbers and emails of each for more direct contact rather than one person assigned to forward questions, issues. It is a good idea for the PLA president to have a whole new email because of above issues. "President" must be a trigger word, as phishing has been occurring for a few years now.

11) Board Member Comments:

Rich received an email from Chris Conroy regarding Science/Technology/Engineering/Mathematics (STEM) Grants for nonprofit organizations. She said Erika Fatura (Green Club/Teacher) has an opportunity to get a STEM grant for the Pentwater School Green Club, perhaps PLA could join in for the Clean Boats, Clean Waters Program? Rich will report at next meeting what Chris is proposing.

12) Adjournment @ 9:07pm

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Provencal / PLA Secretary