

MINUTES: Pentwater Lake Association (PLA)

November 20, 2023 @ 6:30 PM at Centenary United Methodist Church, Pentwater

1) Call to Order @ 6:30pm

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

3) Approval of Agenda: Additions: Rich requested to add Police Safety pup program donation request and Pentwater Visitor Guide ad to New Business. Motion made Beth to accept revised agenda, seconded by Lynne. Motion carried.

4) Opportunity for Public Comment: None

5) Approval of Minutes: October 16, 2023 minutes reviewed. Corrections per Ross noted. Motion made by Joan to accept corrected minutes; Ross seconded the motion. Motion carried.

6) Treasurer Report: Rich- November Financial Report reviewed (see handout) Current fund balances – General: \$8,090.94*, Harvest: \$121.00*, Fishing Tournament: \$152.53*, Watershed: \$4,440.00, CD \$9,000. [*Note- CD funds a combination of the 3 starred categories.] Added the CD allocation by account. Interest: \$72.71. TOTAL: \$ 21,804.47. Memorials: Hooyman/Richey. Report accepted as written.

7) Next Board Meeting – No meeting traditionally in Dec/Jan/Feb. Next meeting will be MARCH 18, 2024 @ 6:30pm at Centenary UMC. In case of an emergency, requiring a decision or motion, the president will call a Zoom meeting with a Board quorum present for voting.

8) **Committee Reports:**

A. Newsletter – AnnaMae

-The November issue was distributed on schedule, included 12 pages, and used some articles from other publications with credits. February issue will be focused on Pentwater WinterFest, also information about the new PLA scholarship program and AnnaMae hopes to interview the new Shoreline Manager Chris Pierce and include that as well. The deadline for submitting articles is January 17, 2024, goes to the printer on January 25 and distribution target February 1-3.

-There is a new magazine called “Traditions” starting in November, covering Oceana, Mason, and northern Muskegon counties. Hope to submit some articles regarding the PLA in this, just as the PLA has done for years in the PTW magazine. Also hopes to get more PLA information in the Oceana Echo. If you don’t receive a copy in the mail, Traditions magazine can be found at the library or at the Post Office.

B. Publicity - Pat

-Board Meeting Announcement Press Release sent to Oceana Herald Journal, Oceana County Press and Oceana Echo.

-Discussed the idea of a photo Newsletter with AnnaMae and Rich. Decided not a good idea for a newsletter. See New Business: 10 c. regarding possible holiday or New Year’s photo opportunity.

-Followed up on joining Michigan Shoreland Stewards Association (MSSA). Stated the PLA is already doing the activities they recommend. Joining will give us a website presence with them and recommends we join (note -there may be a fee for this). Pat will fill out the information needed to

complete a page for us on their website. Pat agrees to be the MSSA website contact for this, maintaining all updates and correspondence.

C. Social Media - Beth

Website- Completed the Watershed page. Posted September minutes, November meeting info & November Newsletter. Facebook Page- Posted 2 educational opportunities. Page "Overview Per Dashboard" – in Last 28 days: Followers: 946. post reach 1,326, post engagement 215, new likes There were 4 shares from the pontoon excursion to see AIS and examine the shoreline. Saw additional positive responses to the September posts re: Master Angler shirts.

D. Membership- Rich

10 membership dues paid, one new member. 2 riparian dues paid. Still have 20 members who have not renewed. Total membership for 2024: 206. (Note: can get Riparian magazine electronically if you belong to MLSA, as you need a password) Board members continue to reach out to the outstanding renewals.

E. Water Quality – Pat

- Collected the last oxygen/temperature profile in October on Joe's boat and entered all profiles into the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program (CLMP) website. What we learned: fisheries are interested in the oxygen results and may help increase their interest in Pentwater Lake. Will look at these levels again next year. Prior readings have been considered typical. 8 readings this past year. Need to train more people to do this. Last reading mid-October. We are reporting this data to MiCorp.
- Will get the E. coli source report from Brian at AWRI – should be available by now. Will set up a Zoom meeting to discuss findings. (Lynne has a Zoom account to use). The report will be shared with the PLIB. Pat will do this and hopes to create a PowerPoint to be able to report results to the membership.
- Returned oxygen meter to Eric Elgin of CLMP.
- Contacted Dr Ryan Otter of GVSU Annis (AWRI) and sent him our newsletter. He is interested in knowing more about PLA, is excited to find ways to help and will review the newsletter and reach out with any specific questions. He would be happy to join an upcoming board meeting to introduce himself and discuss how AWRI can help as well as give the PLA Board a tour of the AWRI. Eric Elgin also a possibility to be a speaker in the future.
- Speaker to the PLA Board re: Understanding E. coli data / ramifications: Ryan Otter was asked to make a recommendation. May need to be a Zoom meeting, perhaps with Molly Ripka from EGLE.

F. Natural Resources- Joe

- *The King Salmon run was later than normal and was followed by a small number of Coho Salmon going up river at the end of October. The steelhead run is going well, 20-24" sizes caught, approximately 2-year-old fish. % of clipped fish is higher. Much better steelhead fishing this year.
- *Trapping season started on November 1st. If you have a nuisance animal you need removed from your property, you can search out your own trapping method and remove the critter. If you need help, you can contact Everett Horton in Pentwater. [* Reports posted on the PLA FB page.]
- Observations: 3 otters seen playing, seen next to swans in big bayou. They live upriver. Probably 3 pups. Tracks seen in various areas of Pentwater Lake. Leaches noted by Rich. A loon too! No further nutria sightings nor any trapped.
- Harvesting Fund – Tom and Joe discussed best ways to utilize the \$1371 left in the Harvest Fund account. Thinking of buying equipment for riparians to use and start a "Weed Tools Loaner Program." They suggest the PLA purchase 3 tools to help riparians manage their own shoreline. These include: an ice sled for vegetation, a rake called the "rakezilla" (most expensive @ \$193) and a weed cutter or shear @ \$165. No permit is required for homeowner to remove. Contact for use will be Tom and Joe. Site to

store equipment -TBD. This will be only for use in Pentwater Lake. Riparians can hire their own help to do weed removal in swimming areas or navigating recreational activity. The homeowner will be required to sign a waiver that the PLA is not responsible for any injuries such as muscle pulls. Photos passed around for all to see. Rich suggested maybe consider a “muck rake” and gloves. Will consider depending on response to the 3 items mentioned. MOTION: Rich made a motion that Joe/Tom purchase one sled, one rake and one weed cutter/shear with anticipated total cost of \$450, with a maximum amount of up to \$600. Lynne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

G. Social – Lynne

-Caroline/Lynne/Rich working on Directory for 2024, final copy will be mailed out in January 2024.

Agreed to include late renewal members.

- Joe and Lynne made a recommendation for a speaker for the Annual Meeting: Chris Pierce – the new Lake Manager at the PLIB. Great way for the community to meet him. His background: river hydrologist with 18 years’ experience. Worked for the Conservation Resource Alliance: Fife Lake.

-Proposed the date for the 2024 Annual Meeting to be JUNE 21, with an alternate date of June 14 if Park Place is booked for the 21st. (If neither date works, will need a Zoom meeting to discuss.) Lynne will make reservations. Rich will pay deposit from General Fund for PLA.

H. Education- Betty Absent. No report.

AnnaMae – suggested if we wish to expand our PLA educational outreach to continue to include the schools but also increase/add the community more. Ideas brought forth: maybe offer educational opportunities with coffee and a meeting? Maybe do a survey to see if/what the membership has as interests? Maybe do pontoon tours for the membership, local folks? Seminar? Zoom offering? AnnaMae will put an article in the February newsletter to give folks an opportunity to respond. We could bring up educational interests at the annual meeting. Could introduce it as a new initiative – an “educational summer.” There are many people in the area to use as resources for education. (also see Scholarship Committee notes re: school involvement). Note- Rich stated the kids from logo contest have not cashed their award checks yet. Rich will f/u with Betty to contact them to do so.

I. Watershed Committee- Rich

-Survey: Thank you to board members who attended the Watershed Survey “dry run” on November 2nd. Received input and incorporated changes accordingly. After discussion, the PLA logo was not used, instead a new “Friends” logo was created by a WGVU student. (Most of the PLA Board was at this meeting for this decision.) The press release and sample surveys were given to the 3 papers (Herald, Echo, Daily News), the clerks for Mason and Oceana counties for review in the Commissioners meetings, the city of Hart, the Village of Pentwater and all the affected townships. Introduction letters mailed out November 13 and the survey is scheduled to be sent out November 27th.

- WMSRDC is working to submit a grant request for the beach sand movement project and Sandy Bend combined. A support letter requested and both PLA and PLIB sent letters of support. Lynne and Manny continue to wait for a grant submitted through the Coastal Resiliency Project. (Beach area north and south of the Pentwater Channel.

-FYI: The Schrems WM Trout Unlimited Chapter has 2 events soon. Dec 5th is the holiday party and January 23, 2024 is the annual banquet. – Trout Unlimited is installing “DIY” (do it yourself), self-contained stations to measure water flow and temperature. One will likely go in the N. Branch of Pentwater River.

J. Scholarship Committee- Joe/George

5 of the 7 committee members met November 13th to discuss naming, funding, administration of the scholarship, eligibility, and created a proposed application form. Email sent to Board members on November 14th with the details of the discussion. An application was created -see handout. Reviewed and agreed with one correction to use the form presented. Joe made a motion to have the PLA set up scholarship funding under the umbrella established by the Scholarship committee and fund scholarships at a minimum of \$500/year beginning in 2024. George seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Initial funding includes money donated by board members in Suzanne Richey's memory and money donated by George. Re: future funding - George plans to donate \$2500 each year for the first two years for a scholarship in memory of his wife. It will be named the "Mary Suzanne Richey Memorial Scholarship". The purpose of this scholarship is to support post high school education (degree or certification program) that promotes clean water sources here and in the world. A committee liaison will be the contact for county high schools. Betty Pleva volunteered to handle that responsibility for this year. Funds will be sent directly to educational institutions upon completion of first semester/term. Rich input: regarding the article in the February newsletter... would like to request people consider donating to this new endeavor. [A future goal could be to establish a \$10,000 endowment scholarship. That would require much "homework" and discussion before it could become a reality.]

9) **Unfinished/ Continuing Business:**

a) Upcoming or available seminars/conferences/webinars - Ross Feltes List: Ross requests we change the name of his list to: "Notices of Events and Online Resources" to better represent the intent and content of the list. All agreed. Many events on this list address topics such as native plants, AIS, healthy shorelines, and other environmental issues. The MLSA November newsletter lead story was wake boats. Michigan Chapter, North American Lake Management Society is holding a workshop at MSU Dec 1 – the workshop will be about wake boats. Ross stated the recent Conservation newsletter had a very interesting article re: shoreline. He listened to a recording re: Starry Stonewort and there was nothing new to learn. He mentioned there will be a presentation at Pentwater Centenary Church on Nov 30th on the geology of the Big Sable River watershed hosted by Sable Dunes Audubon Society.

b) Tim Cole report on PLA insurance status- Tim: presented handouts with areas highlighted on the PLA insurance policy. Reviewed this line by line and made suggestions to add a list of all events covered under special events and suggested we review it yearly. The policy is with Lighthouse Group and our current agent is based out of Holland and has been difficult to contact. May need to review annually in March when plans are formulated and activity begins again.

c) Clothing strategy - Rich Nothing new. Will have details/information for March 18, 2024 meeting.

d) Membership Survey/recruiting younger members - Joan suggested we consider combining the mentioned educational interest with a membership survey – maybe a Monkey Survey type survey. Something formal. Gave some examples of questions to collect answers. Perhaps do this in the spring when folks return. Joan volunteered to create the survey and bring back to April meeting. Will put a "heads up" note in the Feb newsletter – coming soon. A survey would help us focus.

Re: increasing younger members to the PLA: need to think about what could offer young people, swim program? Educational programs can be created. Maybe ask Ericka Fatura's help with recruiting younger people. Should we create a PLA fact sheet as a handout to help show why the PLA is worth joining?

e) A book (Booklet) for Children ~ what to do when they come to Pentwater. Talked to Barb @ Storybook re: Diane Bakker's' book- with local photos. Cyndi Callogg wrote a book about a mouse in Pentwater. Coloring book – Pat Hooyman's daughter made a coloring book for kids. See if she has ideas about doing a Pentwater coloring book. Rich stated he needs to make an outline. Will discuss in March meeting.

10) New Business

a) Review of PLIB 5-year plan – Joe gave a brief overview of the 5-year plan. The plan is on the PLIB website. Need a summary that can put in the PLA newsletter. Wording is important for understanding. Need to share what has been done and next goals/focus of the PLIB. Good for education in the future. The PLIB has hired a new Shoreline Manager, Chris Pierce. He has a lot of experience with shorelines. He will oversee the new Shoreline Management part of the 5-year plan.

b) MiCorps Annual Conference- Tom

Tom handed out the "PTW Lake Aquatic Plant Control Program 2023 Activity Summary" published by the Lake Manager, Progressive A&E for the PLIB. It has aquatic plant (native and invasive) presence and absence survey data for 2021-2023. AIS Starry stonewort, Eurasian milfoil and Curly-leaf pondweed are known to be present. The information in this report was not new information to the PLA.

From the MiCorp meeting – he had 2 big takeaways: 1) the lake data we collect is important to DNR Fisheries and EGLE. 70% of data they use comes from volunteer data collection. Our large water sampling team is the envy of everyone there that only has a small team and 2) a presentation about E. coli by Molly Ripke, EGLE E. coli Coordinator, was given at the session. Learned E. coli is ubiquitous in our environment. Spikes in E. coli events from rain events are normal and expected. High levels occurring on a regular basis show the problem spots but finding out cause is tricky. He also mentioned an article by EGLE – regarding their state's total maximum daily load (TMDL) program. Can submit a request form for information to be presented in person or via Zoom. It is costly to sample for E. coli that meet's state standards. Standard measurements include using a 3-sample geometric mean technique and sampling 6 times in the same place and same way within 30 days. Neither the PLA or the PLIB has planned for that. Tom recommended everyone reading the TMDL document ahead of any E. coli presentation. PTW Village Creek was the only spot where there was a high reading during low rainfall that could affect swimmers at Charlie's Marina. It tested as non-human in origin. Questions to ask ourselves: Are we wasting our time? What is the meaning of our data collection – why are we doing it and how to best use the information obtained. We are looking to see if there is a panic button to push... Go to the EGLE website for more information. Tom will send an email with links to better educate ourselves.

c) Photo newsletter versus holiday greeting – Rich and AnnaMae discussed, wished to modify suggestion of an extra photo newsletter to change this to a 2024 Happy New Year greeting on the PLA Facebook (FB) page. It would include local wildlife and lake photos with captions beneath each one. Rich will send an email to all PLA members with a link to the FB page that would open the greeting. It will have a teaser photo on the FB page. Beth will contact Stan Rokita for the photo of ice balls in the channel last winter to include. Rich saw it and said it is fantastic. This greeting will be to wish everyone a Happy 2024.

d) Police Safety Pup Program: request for \$65 to \$750 donation – Rich Found a flyer in the PLA PO Box with a request for support, discussed. Found not appropriate for PLA fund use. Declined.

e) Pentwater Visitor Guide – Rich Asked if we should pay for ad space in the Visitor Guide. Discussed. We are already noted in the service section – no need to do ad space.

11) Board Member Comments: Pat – regarding the City/Village issue- is there a position we the PLA should take regarding encouraging cooperation of governing bodies as stated in our bylaws? Think about this. How do we promote governmental cohesiveness and cooperation? Pat may address this in the next Presidents Letter in the February newsletter.

Note: Tom will be reimbursed \$75 for his attendance of the 2023 Annual MiCorps Conference, held October 20th.

12) Adjourned @ 9:48pm

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Provencal
PLA Secretary