

MINUTES: Pentwater Lake Association (PLA)

November 21, 2022

- 1) Meeting was called to order 6:35pm by Vice President Tom Walter @ Centenary United Methodist Church (UMC).
- 2) Roll Call: PRESENT – Board members Tom Walter, Rich Pugsley, Lynne Cavazos, Joan Menke-Schaenzer, Kelie Bond, Ross Feltes, and Committee chairs AnnaMae Bush, Joe Primozich, Pat Hooyman, Betty Pleva. ABSENT: George Richey, Dan Selahowski and Beth Provencal. No guests.
- 3) Approval of agenda: Motion made by Lynne to accept the agenda as written, seconded by Joan. Motion carried.
- 4) Public comment: None.
- 5) Approval of October 18 Board meeting minutes. Motion made by Joan to accept the October Minutes, seconded by Rich. Motion carried.
- 6) Treasurer’s Report from Rich. See attached copy. General fund total \$15,545.94; harvesting fund total \$2,025.00; Rose donations for youth fishing contest \$2,317.28. GRAND TOTAL \$19,888.22. The Pentwater Lake Improvement Board (PLIB) agreed to pay cost of water testing this year and may decide to include the annual cost for testing in their 5-year plan. This would free up a large portion of our funds for other purposes. The major expense in December will be for the directory printing. Caroline Denlar is checking into Pixel Grafix costs and a few other printers.
- 7) Next Board Meeting: Motion made by Ross and seconded by Rich to cancel meetings December through February. Next meeting to be March 20, 2023 unless business comes up that can’t be handled by email. Motion carried. Work on our annual meeting should continue through the break. Rich will contact Mark Tonello (Fisheries Biologist, MI DNR) to confirm he will speak at the June 16, 2023 Annual Board meeting.
- 8) **COMMITTEE Reports.**
 - A. Newsletter – AnnaMae. Next issue should come out first week of February before the Winter Festival. There were a few issues with the printer regarding how to print the November newsletter, but it got worked out.
 - B. Publicity – Pat. Got announcement of November meeting in both OHJ and Oceana Press.com
 - C. Social Media – Beth sent report with AnnaMae. The PLA website has been updated with September Board Minutes, November Newsletter and next meeting information. The PLA Facebook page had four posts since last meeting – a reminder about how to dispose of leaves, Village calendar additions from the Chamber, Speech Contest information (cookies needed), and Mich. EGLE 50th anniversary Clean Water Act with video links attached.
 - D. Membership – Rich. Currently 221 member listings in the directory; 11 dues payments have come in since last meeting, including two new members (Van Hamm and Bernier). Twenty-three members are still unpaid. December 1 is the deadline for payments, to facilitate printing of the new directory.

E. Water Quality – Pat. SECCHI readings for water clarity in the deepest spot on the lake were taken weekly through the summer and entered on the MICorp website. Pat is our contact person for MICorp. See the attached printed summary of the Annis report for 2022. The team for 2023 consists of Kelie, Carol (Feltas), Rich, Pat and Tim Cole. Joe will substitute when needed.

Rich said there is a group of MSU students looking to develop organic fertilizer who want to collect and pay for our harvest of Starry Stonewort this season.

F. Natural Resources – Joe. Steelhead fishing has started in Pentwater Lake. Fish are being caught in boats trolling and off the bridge with spawn bags. Tundra (Whistler) swans have flown over our lake since November 15. We should keep an eye out for an evening chance to see a flock land to rest on our lake overnight.

G. Social – Lynne, June 2023 Annual Meeting. Need discussion about the cost to cover food, program, printing materials, etc. This decision will be on the March agenda.

H. Education – Betty gave an update on the High School Speech Contest on December 11, from 1-4pm, at Park Place. See her attached handouts. Topics, sources, prizes same as last time. Expecting 8-9 contestants. Printing costs for participant and winner certificates to be about \$45-50. She asked Board members to come, help set up and take down, and bring cookies.

9) Unfinished/Continuing Business

A. Grant updates – Tom – Sandy Bend Engineering Team. No update. On December 2 the engineering team and DNR folks will be talking together about how to avoid over-engineering.

B. Upcoming educational opportunities. See Ross's email or go to the MSU website.

C. Friends of the Pentwater River Watershed – Rich. Fly Fishers International provided funding for a Riparian Survey. Meeting on November 10 discussed content of the new survey, reviewed the 2000 survey, and brainstormed objectives for new one. Still working with O.C Road Commission about road crossings. Ross secured info from the South Branch watershed from past years. Gary McKeen wants to join the watershed team. The Crystal Valley Dam vote was postponed to December. The next meeting will be a ZOOM call on December 6 with Amanda Buday.

D. Dredging next year – Lynne. See Small Harbor Coalition below for preventative measures. November 30 the Army Corp of Engineers will meet 10am at Park Place.

E. PLA Scholarships – Joe. Need to establish framework: How many? How much \$? Before we can ask members for donations to it.

F. Boat and Trailer Wash Site - Kelie contacted the Pentwater Convenience Center owners. No interest there at all. We will take it off the agenda until there is enough education and background info to recommend it.

G. Boat Launch Sites – Lynne – the dock has not yet been removed from the township launch at the 90-degree turn on Longbridge, nor has erosion repair been completed.

H. Score the Shore Survey – Tom. No new info. How do we improve our score? No need for more data. Just brainstorming for funding, engineering, and ideas how to soften/reclaim hard seawalls. Will take time. Maybe a strategic 5-year plan is reasonable to reclaim a percentage each year. Get some good modeling in order to encourage riparians and replicate ideas.

I. Small Harbor Coalition -Lynne. Working on getting contact persons in all small harbors between Benton Harbor/St Jo to Pentwater and being able to pass a resolution.

J. Coastal Resiliency Project – Lynne. Nothing to report.

K. Program for annual meeting June 16, 2023. Nothing new to report.

L. Google Drive Account for PLA – Rich. Nothing new to report.

10) New Business

A. Wake Boat Recommendations/Michigan Boating Laws. Put something in the May Newsletter.

B. Clean Boats/Clean Waters education. Suggestion to replace one weekend blitz with education for several weekends with a handout specific to Pentwater Lake. Apply for a grant for sustained education.

Tom suggested that education about the damage done to the health of the lake by putting leaves in the lake instead of disposing of them in the dump would be worthy of our educational efforts.

11) Motion to adjourn made by Lynne, seconded by Ross, motion carried. Adjourned at 9:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,

AnnaMae Bush for Beth Provencal, Secretary