MINUTES: Pentwater Lake Association

**FEBRUARY 15, 2021 6:30PM**

1. Lynne called the meeting to order at 6:35pm

2. Attendees: Lynne Cavazos, Rich Pugsley, Joe Primozich, Betty Pleva, Patrick Hooyman, Tom Walter, Dan Selahowski, Janet Strahan, Beth Provencal. Visitors present: AnnaMae Bush, John Stears and his mother, Maisy Stears. Absent: George Richey, Mike Peters, Joan Menke-Schaenzer.

3. Agenda was reviewed. Requests received to revise, adding 2 additional items: Newsletter budget and Setting up Public comment. Joe made a motion to approve the revised agenda. Betty seconded the motion. Motion carried.

4. Minutes for the November 16, 2020 meeting were reviewed. Rich moved to approve the minutes as written. Patrick seconded the motion. Motion carried.

5. Treasurers Report: George absent but had sent 3 reports to all: The PLA Weed Harvesting Report with a balance of $2,375, the PLA Checking Register: balance $2,594.52 and the PLA Savings Register: balance $11,548.73.

Discussion: Lynne noted biggest expenditures were the PLA Directory and Grand Valley water sampling cost. Joe mentioned the $400 Mechanical Harvesting money had been allocated prior to the utilization of students to assist with harvest of Frogbit. This may need to be adjusted in future to pay for their assistance. Pat pointed out the Riparian Magazine deposit is not actual income; it is taken from members annual dues who wished to subscribe and had submitted the additional fee. Also noted the large donation of $13,000 (3000/5000/5000) gifted to PLA by benefactors to aid in removal of Starry Stonewort. It was mentioned the PLIB adjusted their budget to cover Mechanical Harvesting of Frogbit and Starry Stonewort this summer.

6. Date for next Board meeting: After discussion and consensus, date adjusted to March 22 as Lynne would not be available on March 15. Will be sure to note change on website and FB page when post agenda.

7. Public Comment: Guest John Stears started conversation by stating he had not been to a PLA meeting in a couple years acknowledging not current with PLA activities. He then presented questions to PLA Board asking about getting our local school system, other PLA members and fisherman involved with the PLA regarding the care of our lake. States feels many people would like to help, to be involved – had we thought about how to do this? how to get more education out and especially get the next generation involved with Pentwater Lake as it will be theirs to care for in the future. Stated children are good at solving problems, thinks we need to involve our community, especially engaging our youth because “this is your lake, your community”.

Several members responded to John: Tom Walter said he would be willing to brainstorm John's ideas and bring back to the PLA Board. Betty Pleva responded as Education Committee chair with current efforts to do just what he is asking. She’s been in contact with Erika Fatura, Pentwater Jr/Sr HS Biology / Science Teacher. Pentwater School is a “Green School” and has a young and very involved staff. They are proactive regarding the community and lake and are willing to work with PLA on projects. The kids do the beach clean-up as part of their Community Service every year. They also assist with Mrs. Mullins Closet Project (collecting coats, clothes for the underprivileges). We can get lots of support- normally. But this past year has been very different due to the COVID pandemic. Everything has changed and it has required much effort for teachers and staff as well as the children to manage the many challenges presented. Basically, adding projects at this time has not been possible just yet, but they are willing to when able. Betty is staying in contact with Erika and will initiate when the time is right. AnnaMae commented perhaps children who need community service hours could assist with PLA Projects in the future. Betty added for perspective there are about 100 HS students, 60 MS students and K-6 about 80-90 students and of that 250-300 number, around one third of them live outside area and attend as school of choice.

**8. Committee Reports**

A. Newsletter- AnnaMae stated it has taken many hours, paper and toner to create the Newsletter. She asked if we might include the cost of 1 ream of paper and one toner in our budget. She asked that it be included in New Business after she excused herself from the meeting.

Noted the February 2021 newsletter they chose a different printer company in Hart: Pixel Grafix Studio rather than Mission Graphics in Ludington. Cost was less, it was completed within 48 hours, and Mary was helpful with layout options and good suggestions. The original quote was for 120 newsletters with all color photos even though only 2 intended when quote requested. Even in color the cost is less than prior printer. AnnaMae asked we consider the option of all color and presented cost: $1.68 each if black/white ($201.60), $1.98 if all color ($237.60). Discussion ensued and motion made by Pat to have our newsletters be printed in color with a cap of $250 total per year. Tom seconded the motion. Motion carried. Everyone agreed the newsletter is thorough, interesting and well written. Betty gave AnnaMae a big thank you on a job well done, all applauded.

B. Publicity & Facebook page– Pat submitted the Press Release to the Oceana Herald announcing this meeting and will continue to do so prior to each meeting.

Goal is to utilize PLA website and the PLA Facebook page to adhere to the purposes intended by PLA which is to effectively communicate & educate important lake information to all PLA members and Pentwater community, encouraging participation in projects and assisting in keeping PTW Lake as healthy as possible.

Facebook was not utilized much this winter as not much to post regarding Pentwater Lake health or education. Anticipate this will increase after Memorial Day when members return, and more PLA projects get rolling. Pat, Janet and Beth reported they are still in the learning curve as editors of the PLA Facebook page. When someone posts on our site, an editor must review and accept the content before the public can view the post. They ask that if someone posts or wishes to, to please contact Pat or Janet for assistance. Beth is not an editor anymore so she can view in the same format the public sees to assist from that perspective. As a committee they met twice over the winter via Zoom to discuss appropriate content to post that reflects the tone and mission of PLA. Much of what will be posted will be information that is found on the PLA website as we hope to encourage use of that, including adding links. As events occur, they will try to post pictures and articles / links to articles that pertain to PLA committee work. To date 156 people have viewed, 23 likes, 28 engagement.

C. Membership – Rich stated we have 229 PLA members. 2 New Member packets were mailed out. Currently working on creating a master email list of all PLA members. May need to obtain different software. Discussed fact can create a contact list in Outlook and use it to generate a mailing list and our Directory. He is going to investigate options such as Microsoft 365, cost, benefits. Lynne asked Rich to write up what he proposes for discussion at next meeting.

D. Water Quality – Mike Peters absent. Joe said Mike did get the Water Quality Report from Grand Valley and will present at our March meeting. Please see attached Water Quality Work Group report for the answers to 3 questions posed last meeting. (see Work Sessions below)

E. Natural Resources – Joe reports Pentwater Lake has 7-8 inches of ice at this time. Safety issues are a concern because of Lake Michigan water surging into PTW Lake causing ice to shift and break. Bubblers are also affecting ice safety. Docks without bubblers are being destroyed from the surging so this is a difficult issue. (see further discussion under New Business) Also reported white belly perch disappeared from PTW Lake first noted last year. Only yellow belly is being caught. White belly perch are still in Muskegon Lake, south. Unknown what has caused the white belly to disappear. The DNR is aware. Discussion regarding the Boom – Notified the boom will be placed in July or sooner if Frogbit growth is earlier. Anticipate removal in September. Variables are many including timing, lake surges, rain events as to the effectiveness of the boom. PLA is working with Bill Keipers, representative who oversees this. PLIB is actively involved as well.

F. Social –Lynne stated because of COVID Spring and Summer events are still tentative making it very difficult to plan anything. (See Old Business regarding Annual Meeting discussion.)

G. Website – George absent. Nothing new to report. Minutes from November 2020 were posted on website.

H. Education – Betty reported she has contacted Lucy Nature (3rd grade teacher) and Carrie Jeruzal (art teacher) at Pentwater School. It has been a great challenge as teachers' methods of teaching have changed and students' schedules have fluctuated to meet needs. In the past, police have done Water Safety Presentations to students. It’s unclear how this will be done this year. It is concerning that the water and boating safety education is on hold until figured out how to do safely. Now is not the time to initiate any new programs. Betty will remain in close contact and initiate when indicated.

Currently the students are working on creating 12”x17” posters. PLA is asked to assist with topic suggestions. For example, “Save the Lake, Watch your wake!” Lynne asked Betty to send an email with details such as number of students/posters to be done and age of students as it will take time to come up with ideas for them.

9. **OLD Business** –

1. Joan not available to discuss Google Docs or Dropbox options.
2. Updates from all 4 Work Groups: During the November PLA meeting, each Work Group was asked to prioritize the goals they had presented in December PLA meeting, clarify what help might be needed to pursue the goals, spell out how PLA members can participate in accomplishing the goals, and then present options of how to communicate to our PLA members what our smaller groups are doing.

Aquatic Vegetative Management Group: (Tom, Janet, Joe)

*see attached report*

State of the Lake Report- will be prepared in October 2021, anticipate completion in November. This report will be for entire Pentwater Community, non-board contributors as well as PLA. They need input regarding what format to use:” what are we reporting” and how to distribute: website? Newsletter to direct people to the website?

Volunteer Pathway- Need volunteers by June 2021. Unclear how many will be needed. Key area of need is in Vegetative Management but would be helpful for a Social Committee and Membership Committee in the future. Will need a Coordinator or key person as central contact for each vegetative issue. Making a year-long calendar would be helpful. COVID complicating the ability to make firm decisions.

Donation Pathway: Will need a Donation Coordinator, figure out how to donate in numerous ways – check, cash, credit card and then communicate how on our webpage and can inform this option in our Newsletter.

Water Quality: (Mike, Joe, George)

*see attached report*

Joe informed us that Water Quality has been a focus of PLA since the 1970s and Aquatic Vegetation since 1998.

Boating Safety / Water Safety: (Rich, AnnaMae, Dan)

AnnaMae sent report regarding water safety for kids- *see attached report*

Calls have been made to Tim Simon to discuss what is currently available for the children.

3 Initiatives: Bullseye Charts, Drownproofing Class and Boater Safety Training

Community Involvement / Education: (Pat, Betty, Beth)

Betty has been unable to get in touch with TIm Simon yet. Rich and Betty plan to meet with Tim together and will keep us posted. (See H. notes above for further update regarding Education)

1. Update / Discussion: Lynne reminded us the Annual Membership meeting is scheduled for June 25, 2021, if COVID allows. We will need to decide by April to have enough time to get everything done. No further action taken.

10. **NEW Business** -

1. Ice Signs - Rich reported that 2 signs were placed – one at the 90-degree launch on Longbridge Rd and one at the Village Launch. Lynne pulled a picture of the signs up for all to see. Discussion ensued regarding bubbler concerns. A local DNR officer recently spoke to a PLA member and shared some bubbler information. Bubblers do require a permit. If building a new dock, the bubbler is included in the permit. They must be attached to the dock. Dock placement is regulated. If adding a bubbler to an existing dock, one must obtain a new permit. Some bubblers are turned up too high and impede ice formation beyond the riparian's property line causing potential danger to ice fisherman and animals who are unaware.
2. Discussion of marinas on the lake – Rich explained what constitutes a “marina”- can be both multifamily use and commercial use. There are at least 10 marinas now. Concerns about overuse and visibility. Every marina requires a permit and each marina slip should be taxed. Rich unable to find tax law information. Tom added information about zoning allowances and mooring buoys – meant to be single family residential and needing a permit if rent them out.
3. Discussion of Clean Boats, Clean Waters: Clean / Drain / Dry Program. Informed started a grant application process in January to put this program together and then discussed ways/ideas to promote the program at different events in area. (i.e. t-shirts, banners, a float in parade) Dan is drafting a letter to State for review. Will need a portable power-washer. They will put a document together to present at next PLA Board meeting.
4. New Sea Tow signage and stencil for “Sober Boating” - This is a new focus. Hope to create 4-foot banners “Designate a Sober Skipper” (like a designated driver has been utilized)
5. Newsletter Budget – Discussed cost of toner and paper. Beth made a motion made to add $100/year stipend to Newsletter Budget. Betty seconded the motion. Motion carried.
6. Setting up Public Comment – tabled for next meeting.

11. **Announcements** – Joe announced this Saturday Feb 20, 2021 is the Perch Derby, part of the Pentwater Winterfest and will be covered by Michigan Outdoor TV. We expect around 80 tents depending on the weather conditions. The Awards will be presented at 4pm in parking lot behind Cenzos. We need at least 2 volunteers for this. Tom said he has canopies available and will help.

Guest: Both Maisy and John Stears thanked the PLA Association for an interesting and helpful meeting. Maisy was impressed and grateful for all our hard work.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:50pm Next meeting: March 22, 2021 at 6:30pm by ZOOM

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Provencal