

MINUTES: Pentwater Lake Association (PLA)

March 21, 2022

1) Called to Order @ 6:30pm @ Centenary United Methodist Church (UMC)

2) Roll Call: Pat Hooyman, Tom Walter, Rich Pugsley, Beth Provencal, Dan Selahowski, Ross Feltes, Janet Strahan, Joan Menke-Schaenzer, George Richey & Kelie Bond. PLA Members: Lynne Cavazos – Social Chair. Guests: Tom Roose, new PLA member and Garry McKeen- Vice Chair of Oceana Conservation District and Chairperson of Parks & Recreation Commission - Oceana County.

3) Approval of Agenda: No changes. Motion made by Ross to accept the agenda; seconded by Joan. All approved, motion passed.

4) Public Comment:

Per Garry McKeen- he lives in Mears at Little Point Sable w/ his wife Julie. He is very active in Oceana County Park planning and Oceana Conservation, including watershed activities. Stated he is curious about working together, perhaps creating an Association of Lake Associations? He is knowledgeable about Stony Creek Dam removal. There are common interests, resources and the sharing of these would benefit all.

Per Tom Roose – he lives in Apache Hills and is asking for information about Pentwater Channel dredging situation, lake levels and aquatic invasive species (AIS). These will be addressed in Committee Reports below.

5) Approval of Minutes: February 21, 2022 Minutes reviewed. Motion made by Kelie to approve as written, seconded by Rich. All approved, motion passed.

Beth requested Bio's on all PLA Board Members for the Secretary Book for reference. Rich will email some that he gathered for the Watershed Group.

6) Treasurer Report – Rich Added 2 new members, added another fishing tournament donation. Several expected payments coming up- Speech Contest, Annual Meeting, etc.

General Fund: \$9,785.22

Harvesting: \$2,025.00

Youth Fishing Tournament: \$2,432.77.

Current balance: \$14,242.99

7) Next Board Meeting – April 18, 2022 @ 6:30pm at Centenary UMC

8) Committee Reports -

A. NEWSLETTER: AnnaMae Bush absent. Lynne reported next issue will be out in May. AnnaMae is requesting articles to be emailed to her.

B. PUBLICITY: Pat is now sending email press releases separately to each entity and it's working well. Brought up having a PLA Float in the Homecoming Parade in August. Discussed need for a pontoon boat, handouts, attire. All agree it is a great idea and will further discuss and plan. Also stated he will be doing a PLA presentation to the Pentwater Service Club (PSC) on May 19th. Discussed doing a PowerPoint, and having pictures (can get from AnnaMae). Will get input from Rich, George and Joe, and plans to bring

PLA membership applications. It is a half hour timeframe and a great opportunity to share what PLA is all about.

C. PLA WEBSITE / PLA FACEBOOK SITE– Janet Strahan regretfully announced she needs to resign from the PLA Board for personal reasons. She will write a formal letter of resignation. She added she will continue to volunteer for events. This is sad news, but all understood. Beth reported November Minutes were posted on the website and added Kelie Bond as interim Board member until can be voted in formally at the Annual Meeting. There have been 4 new FaceBook posts in the last month: Pat H airplane video, Speech Contest video, Ross’s “List of Opportunities”, and the Ludington Daily News article about updated fire extinguisher regulation. Unfortunately, no one got a picture of the Tundra Swan to post.

D. MEMBERSHIP: Rich stated we have 232 households, which is over 400 PLA members. He received one renewal and added one new member since last report.

E. WATER QUALITY: Kelie plans to meet with Mike Peters separately. We have data from 1974 to now. Pat has collected it and is in process of scanning all the documents. The first round of Phosphorus testing will begin before April 10th. Rich will assist Kelie in his boat. We have a 2000 State of the Lake report which was done professionally and paid for by the PLA. Also have the 1997 DEQ Resource Report which has a lot of watershed history in it.

F. NATURAL RESOURCES: Joe Primozich absent. Rich reported sightings of Sand Hill Cranes, Tundra Swan, and Otters. Our 2021 weed harvesting permit is good for 5 years, so will not have to reapply this year.

Tom (Walter) addressed AIS questions for Tom Roose (Tom R) – that EGLE bought the boom, with water levels low, it would impede navigation – refused to install this year. Did herbicide treatments instead. Discussed Harvesting- the need for education of riparians to know what is native and what is invasive and options to keep dock areas and launch sites as clear as possible. When we do the Score the Shore Project, it will be a good time to educate. Discussed possible workshops in the future, display at the Annual Meeting and perhaps the Fish Cleaning Station. The PLA Website is also a good resource to utilize. It was an in-depth discussion and Tom R thanked us for the information.

G. SOCIAL: Lynne stated that decisions for the Annual Meeting June 17, 2022 at Park Place will have to be made soon. Caroline Denlar assists with the Annual Meeting to support the work of the Social Committee. Janet and Beth are to assist Lynne this year and will meet separately. Park Place is reserved and paid for. Lynne asked that we think about creating short Committee Reports to present. Rich asked to include a Watershed report too. Need to put folders together which will include Annual Treasurer’s report, June 2021 Minutes, flyers, pamphlets, conference information and the annual calendar card. Pat states he has numerous Shoreline Magazines to add. Election of new board members will occur. Asked if Joe, Rich and Pat wish to renew their positions for another 3-year term. If not will need new members. Kelie will be voted in for her 3-year term. We have a speaker: John Beard. He declines the stipend but does need lodging x 1 night. It will be an in-person meeting only. Need to increase the charge from \$15 to \$20 per person with increased cost of food. Discussed and agreed to have Antler Bar boxed dinners and Green Isaacs dessert boxes. Invitations will be sent in April with the newly created Membership envelope. Tom and Rich will work on a display – probably use much of last years’ display which was very informative. Also voted yes to have Door Prizes which PLA purchases. It was suggested having name tags

and a “Mixing Game” again this year to help people get to know one another. Lynne, Janet and Beth will meet in next couple weeks.

H. EDUCATION: re: Oceana School Speech Project. Betty Pleva – absent. She called Pat who reported only one student (Brandon Macher) applied. We are canceling Park Place and judges. Brandon will present his speech to his English class instead. He will win the first-place award of \$125. May ask him to speak at the Annual Meeting also. To be discussed further. Dan has a photo of Brandon to be posted on our PLA FB site after he completes his presentation. Dan will email to Beth. Timing was an issue this year. Next year will plan to do it in the Fall and with only Pentwater and Hart schools, not all of Oceana County.

9) Unfinished/ Continuing Business:

a) Grant Updates- Rich reported

- West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission (WMSRDC) update on Sandy Bend Funding: Our grant request was turned down by the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). There is a second round of funding. It will stay on the list for next year. Will continue to work with Fallon Chabala, the Environmental Program Manager @ WMSRDC.

Garry McKeen mentioned the Coastal States Organization (CSO) is a US non-profit organization out of Washington, DC, that can be utilized as a Design Firm to make watershed plans. Then having a plan, will apply for Grants well prepared. Garry suggested considering applying for a grant request for numerous area lakes – the bigger the grant, the more can be done for area lakeshores. Collaboration could be key as mentioned above – An Association of Lake Associations.

CSO works in collaboration with federal, regional, academic and nonprofit partners to develop innovative methods, scientific data and tools to: research and analyze coastal hazards and vulnerabilities; research and evaluate best-available design and engineering science to protect and adapt shorelines to ever-changing conditions; assess and share the science and best management practices for coastal resilience; conduct legal analysis and policy research to advance coastal management practice; and unify the efforts of the public and private sectors so that homes, jobs, recreational areas, and natural resources are all protected from the threats facing our coasts. (taken from CSO website)

-Kelsey Brockelman MSU Extension re: Clean Boats, Clean Waters (CB/CW) Grant: Informed Rich that there is a second opportunity through the Great Lakes Commission to apply for a grant this year. The deadline for this one is April 15, 2022 and requires 3 stipulations to support it, one of which is an “CB/CW Event” that must occur between July 1 and July 10. Rich will study the RFP (Request for Quote) some more and decide if it would be feasible for us.

b) Upcoming or available seminars/conferences/webinars: Ross created a current list and emailed to PLA board members for review. It was also posted on the PLA Facebook site on 3.15.22. Ross agreed to keep the list updated. Beth suggested posting each current event individually a few weeks before as a reminder. There are many educational opportunities for the general public in addition to PLA members.

c) Consolidated water quality historical data project: Ongoing. Covered under Water Quality 8F. Need to decide where is best to store the data, ex: Google.docs? Will do homework on this.

d) Outreach to other Lake Associations: Ongoing outreach, will continue gathering contacts. Garry encouraged ongoing connection with Susie Knoll at the Oceana Conservation District (OCD). Mentioned Michelle Martin at the Oceana Drain Commission also a good connection.

e) Update from Pentwater Watershed Council: Rich shared minutes of their last meeting. They have met with Susie Knoll from OCD and learned a lot. Ross and Rich went to the office to see the available documents, and found great information including detailed maps and slides from the 1999 South Branch of Pentwater River work. They will be meeting with Michelle Martin on March 31st for a few hours next. One possible action plan is a survey asking residents for concerns and input. They will be meeting with additional people next month and then work on action plans. They will continue to report back to PLA Board monthly.

f) Channel dredging – Pat and Lynne provided an update on the Citizens Committee meeting they attended on March 16 (meeting by invite) and led by Dave Bluhm. It normally is the Army Corp of Engineers responsibility as mentioned but passed up in favor of other projects this year. It is now a citizen’s issue physically and economically at this point. It was noted that 5 years ago Pentwater “passed a hat” to pay for it. There needs to be a proper assessment of how much dirt/sand to move and possible ways to move it. Cost is estimated to be between \$150,000-\$250,000. This is a yearly issue. Concern is high and efforts to find solutions are in motion. The PLA will continue to go to the meetings and participate as appropriate.

Pat drafted a PLA letter to send to State and Federal elected officials to send on behalf of the entire PLA membership. The letter was reviewed, approved and sent to Representative William Huizenga, Senator Debbie Stabenow, Senator Gary Peters, and U.S. Representative for MI 4th Congressional district, John Moolenaar. This letter will be posted on PLA FB site. An email “blast” will be sent to PLA membership to inform and to remind to write individual letters as well requesting funding for this project.

10) **New Business**

a) Restart of shoreline watch group: Proposal to have a May newsletter article to encourage volunteer residents to be more observant about what is happening in/on Pentwater Lake. They could report to a coordinator who would take necessary actions and provide a summary for future newsletter articles. Education is needed for all riparians and residents, and fisherman to help identify native versus invasive species, as well as wild life spotted. The hope is that residents will report their findings to the PLA/PLIB and then be given the information of what they can do, and what should not be done, to help keep our waters healthy. The goal is also to involve the PLA Membership to become actively involved with the health and care of Pentwater Lake. Tom wrote an article and we will repost on FB in June regarding identifying different species.

b) Update on Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) issues: Lynne is working on issues regarding the Septic System on the South side of the Lake and will work with Chris Brown on township residents on the North Side of the lake who are part of the Village Sewer System. Reporting to the PLA is to communicate anything that will affect Pentwater Lake quality. Tom W. reminded us we do not have an E. coli issue in Pentwater Lake.

It was an interesting discussion. The sewer system works well 9 months of the year but during summer tourist surge, capacity is an issue both in Pentwater and Silver Lake. Pentwater Village owns the WWTP.

Solutions are actively being worked on. It was noted that owners with sump pumps are not supposed to hook to the septic system. They are to drain elsewhere. Solutions will be different on the north side of the lake versus the south side. Tom R. had questions that were answered and he verbalized gratitude for the information.

c) Mentoring for PLA Youth Fishing Tournament: The fishing tournament (held June 15 to August 15) is a prime opportunity for education of children, through parents, grandparents, friends and family whose children participate. By asking the children questions like: "Why do you like to fish here and not there?" "Why do you think you can catch big fish in certain spots?" "Why do we let some fish go?" we can open up conversation about invasive species and healthy habitat. Discussed possibility of Workshops with DNR assistance, perhaps work with Tim Simons in conjunction with his Safety Day (June 18), holding a Seminar? Will form a group that includes Joe Primozich to decide what to do this year. There is much to be learned and passed on to our youth.

11) Board Member Comments:

Janet informed us of her resignation. She will continue to volunteer on the Social Committee this year. She will write a formal letter to the Board.

Garry and Tom R, guests, complimented the entire board of their knowledge, ability to work together to problem solve and cohesiveness. They thanked the Board for their openness to their input.

Garry added comment to remind anyone/everyone not to cut trees after April 15th. Oak Wilt can kill a tree in 30 days! There are findings of Beech Bark Disease and other diseases on Hemlocks brought in by firewood likely. Also, issues with Phragmites and Japanese Silk Grass that is an issue with low water levels. Rich and Pat took Garry's contact information and will continue to collaborate in the future.

12) Adjournment @ 9:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Provencal
PLA Secretary