

MINUTES: Pentwater Lake Association (PLA)
March 22, 2023 @ 6:30 PM at Park Place, 310 N. Rush St, Pentwater 49449

- 1) Called to Order @ 6:32pm by President George Richey
- 2) Roll Call: George Richey, Tom Walter, Rich Pugsley, Beth Provencal, Ross Feltes, Lynne Cavazos, Joan Menke-Schaenzer. Chairpersons: Betty Pleva, and Joe Primozich. New PLA member: Garry McKeen. Absent: Kelie Bond, Dan Selahowski, Newsletter Editor: AnnaMae Bush, Water Quality Chair: Pat Hooyman.
(Note: Earlier today, the Board received a letter of resignation from Kelie Bond.)
- 3) Approval of Agenda: Lynne made a motion to approve of Agenda as written, Rich seconded, motion carried.
- 4) Opportunity for Public Comment: Garry recently joined PLA, lives in Benona Township but very interested in Pentwater Lake, River and Watershed. Expressed interest and support for Water Quality & Watershed Group.
- 5) Approval of Board Meeting Minutes for November 21, 2022: Lynne made a motion to approve of Minutes as written, seconded by Tom. Motion carried.
Beth stated she will not be here for April meeting. Asked AnnaMae if would cover- said likely, but will let her know. Joan said she can help IF date works.
Beth added the PLA had an email inquiry in January if PLA interested in Mesothelioma Outreach re: asbestos on ships. Checked with Board officers – not appropriate. Sent email declining their services.
- 6) Treasurer's Report: – Rich (See Handout) March 2023 Financial Report reviewed. Good news that the PLIB will be covering the cost of water quality testing. Costs of Newsletter and Directory increased – printing and postage. 8 new members joined. The general fund balance is the same as this time last year.
Breakdown of report: General Fund: \$10,123.06, Harvesting: \$2,025., Youth Fishing Tournament/Rose donations: \$2,317.28. New addition of Fly Fishers International Grant of \$2,700 for a riparian survey to be done by Friends of the Pentwater River Watershed group (also see Committee report). Current TOTAL: \$17,165.34.
- 7) Next Board Meeting – Discussion and decision to change April meeting from the 17th to April 24, 2023 due to various schedule issues and need to have a quorum.

8) COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Newsletter – AnnaMae (Absent but sent email to all ahead of meeting)
George read this aloud. February Newsletter was on time. Next newsletter will be in May. Deadline for articles is Wed. April 19, 2023. Release date is Friday May 5. Request for articles discussed. Many great ideas, several folks agreed to write articles. AnnaMae had asked for input regarding the reference and use of the PLA Facebook page to put in additional information in the February issue. The idea was to decrease size of newsletter as well as utilize social media more often. Many had not noticed. Discussed importance that it is worded very clearly for people to follow. Agreed most articles need to be complete in the Newsletter as not all are FB participants.

B. Publicity – Pat (Absent but sent report to all ahead of meeting).

Notice of the March PLA meeting submitted to newspaper and online in timely manner.

(Because of date/location change – the PLA website and FB page were updated on 3.17.23 to be sure public informed.)

C. Social Media – Beth

~February 10 Women's Club presentation went well. Created handout of 5 main purposes of the PLA which was given along with the 2022 State of the Lake Report.

~Cleaned up the "Links of Interest" on PLA website. Found 4 non-functioning/obsolete website links that were updated with current links. Added 2 new links: Oceana Conservation District (which is within the WM Conservation Network but a bit buried) and Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council.

1 non-functioning site that deleted: Pentwater MI non-profit org. Discussed, agreed not needed. No one knew anything about that.

~Added a new "Fish Page" on website. It is nearly completed. It has a very simple format with pictures (and some photos) and weight/length - basic information about the top 20 fish found in Pentwater Lake. The hope is it will serve as a talking point for the Youth Fishing Tournament, especially for new fisher"kids" who may not have an experienced and knowledgeable fisherman/woman with them while fishing.

Group discussed need for accuracy – perhaps divide fishing into seasons / months and to have the pictures on main page, not have to click in, etc. Beth will email Joe, Tom, Ross, and Rich to discuss needed changes. It is a work in progress.

D. Membership – Rich

Decreased from 230 to 221. Rich noted he does not elicit new members as the Membership Chair. Need to start doing this. Recruiting is key. Noted Pat Hooyman did a great job in past. Rich to ask Pat for assistance.

Re: 2022-2023 Directory - Membership fee increase likely next year. Cannot increase membership dues this year as the new directory has the \$30/yr. form included. Need to review an increase before 2023-24 Directory released.

E. Water Quality: Pat absent. Joe reported-

Confirmed water testing costs will be covered by the PLIB budget. Approx. \$1900. Because the lake is already ice free- had to do first sample already! Occurred on March 14. Monthly sampling will begin in May. Secchi was 8 feet. Water temp: 38 degrees.

-Rich commented some lake associations measure dissolved oxygen which is another measure of the health of a lake. Mi.Corps does this. Will add this to April agenda for discussion.

Mentioned that Tim Cole is on Water Quality – maybe he would be interested in being on PLA Board? Rich/Joe will ask him.

-Rich knows a person who interested in buying the Starry Stonewort after harvest this year– needs calcium for soil.

F. Natural Resources/PLIB – Joe

This winter's lake ice lasted for 3 weeks, ending in mid-February. The Perch contest was canceled in February due to unstable ice. The water level has dropped so that the river is flowing within its banks for the first time in 3 years. One Blue Heron stayed all winter, quite unusual. Vultures noted, another sign of spring.

G. Social – Lynne

Annual Meeting- overview handout, discussed Program – Park Place is reserved, \$350. check

paid for the \$250 refundable and \$100 for use of kitchen, non-refundable. Guest Speaker. Garry McKeen has agreed to be keynote speaker. Topic will be County Parks. Betty will ask the Speech Contest participants if one of them wishes to present. Contents of folder reviewed and handout ideas. Joe agreed to announce the State of the Lake report again this year. Instead of committee reports, George as president will tell highlights as appropriate, including financial report. Election of Board members- will need to replace Kelie's term, and replace Dan Selahowski. Beth, Tom, and Lynne all returning. Joe agreed to rejoin the Board, and George will ask Pat if interested in rejoining Board. Will announce officers at this meeting. Caterer: GloriaAnn Catering reserved. Motion made to have hot dinner rather than cold dinner this year. Cost is @ \$24.50/person at this rate. Cost of dinner will need to be increased from \$20 to \$25. Cost of food is up d/t economy. Rich made a motion to provide hot meals at event and increase cost to \$25/per person. Ross seconded the motion. Motion carried.
(Social Committee members include Lynne, Caroline Denlar and Beth. Did contact Janet Strahan to see if wished to rejoin Social Committee. Was agreeable to volunteer but declined not want to be back on Board.)

H. Education - Betty

Stated the December 11, 2022 High School Speech Contest was a great success. Betty thanked everyone for support, treats. It is unclear if can do another Speech Contest with likely retirement of Rick McGrath this year. If lose Rick, may ask Erika Fatura for assistance. Instead of Speech contest, perhaps something else – poster or essay contest? Undecided. Hopes to have a PLA sponsored educational event in the Fall depending on the school 2023 schedule. Betty will keep the Board posted.

9) **CONTINUING/UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

a) Sandy Bend Engineering - Tom

Update: The Engineering and design portion, complete to 60%, has been completed By Limno Tech/Smith Group. (see handout: Pentwater River Drown River Mouth Habitat Restoration, with some design plan photos) Fallon Chabala (from WMSRDC) is waiting to hear back about the grant they applied for to help fund the restoration. PLIB may commit to assisting w/ some funding. PLA is not directly involved with project, but is continuing to follow closely due to the effect the river/watershed has on Pentwater Lake. 34 tons of sand fall into Pentwater River annually, from this bank, creating problems with sedimentation, flow, fish life and more.

b) Seminars/Conferences/Webinars - Ross

Last email 3/8/23 to all with updated list of educational opportunities. Ross shared some interesting facts learned in the March 7, 33rd GL Conference (managing fisheries and exploring islands) and the Trout Unlimited Stream Restoration Symposium, March 7 & 8 . Also attended today's Great Lakes Coastal Resiliency Study webinar. Educational opportunities are posted on PLA Facebook site in a timely manner.

c) Friends of the Pentwater River Watershed- Rich

Handout provided re: Activities of the Friends of the Pentwater River Watershed -

Completed an Annual Update for 2022 -

Held zoom call with Bob Sweet, EGLE Water Resources Division, to discuss funding for Watershed Management Plans. -

Held spring meeting last week to discuss activities for this spring summer. Representatives from AWRI were on the call and recommended creating Quality Assurance Plans for our

activities. Will need to complete the Riparian Survey. Other potential activities include: water flow monitoring, E. coli tracking, Sediment source studies, Road/Stream crossings surveys using RIVERS phone app. and Water testing below Hart Dam for weed treatment chemicals

-Crystal Valley Dam update (*see below) -

-Possible grant application opportunities -

Need for volunteers

Updates on Riparian Survey- still need \$5,000 to complete. Working on grants. Need PLA to continue to assist as sponsor, and integrate as a full committee.

Crystal Valley Dam - * Garry addressed current situation. County Commissioner Board needs to look at this, not the County Parks. Funding is more than they can meet. Remains unresolved. Privately and publicly owned. Still skirting around the issue. Pond only has 4 feet deep now, not conducive for fish life. Must replace, remove, or dredge now. It appears that cost is going to be up to a million in cost already. It was originally part of the railroad embankment. There is some history, people are sentimental. Concern if removed that the Sea Lamprey would be able to come up stream if the dam is removed. Many factors to consider.

d) Channel Dredging, Spring/Summer 2023 – Lynne

Quick update- Village got \$650,000 federal (\$200 of which Army Corp of Engineers gets) but \$450 is enough to do full dredge this May 2023. 12-14 feet. Last week the Village got another \$200,000 funding. Work Land Group. Ok to dredge early, will not affect fish. Save the Channel Group is sure this will be yearly maintenance issue. No funding. There are structural design issues, need to fix of the attenuators. Etc.

e) PLA Scholarships – Joe

Members include: Joe, Pat, Dan, Betty, Rich, and Joan. Committee did not meet over the winter. Will meet early April before the next PLA meeting. Goal to submit a revised proposal for the scholarship application. Funding for the scholarship program is being debated between donations and/or a fund-raising activity. The hope is that the Scholarship can be a stand-alone funded project like the Youth Fishing Contest. The amount of \$500 had been agreed upon in 2022. For now, the General Fund can cover the cost.

f) Boat Launch Sites- George/Lynne

90-degree washout repaired. Parking area not changed. Dock still needs repair. (Monroe launch is Weare Township, needs some repair too. Beautification needed. Oceana Community Foundation has grant opportunities. George spoke to Chris Brown about Lake St. launch – who stated will have new dock built this Spring, by May 1st.

g) Score the Shore Survey – Tom

Our score is 51 out of a possible total of 100. There is room for growth, opportunity. [See New Business 10.d regarding Pilot Program for Score the Shore Rehabilitation.]

h) Small Harbor Coalition – Lynne

Change of leadership, group is not functioning currently.

i) Coastal Resiliency Project – Lynne

Manny, Tom, and Lynne applied for a grant for a Sand Movement Study. Will meet with the Engineering firm. Need information so can work on solutions- ex. how to block or redirect sand

from channel walkway and into the channel. Hope to work with Oceana Beach Association. (Note: the grant is not under PLA 501c3 as it is a grant for a survey not for money).

j) Speakers/Topics for 2023 Annual Meeting (Park Place, June 16,2023) – George/Rich Garry McKeen from Oceana Conservation District has agreed to speak. Possible topics discussed, but will likely will be County Parks. Garry presented a brochure.

k) Google Drive Account for PLA – Rich

Rich had his niece assist with creating a handout with several “Digital Online Storage Options.” (See Handout sent via email sent 3.21.23.) Feels strongly we need the ability to store data. Beth stated this is not something she can assist with. Will need an administrator. Perhaps Rich’s niece would consider assisting? Or a board member to help, or may need to hire someone to set this up.

l) Handout Form for boat owners on boat/trailer inspection – Rich/Tom/George

Met to discuss the Clean Boats/Clean Waters (CW/CB) proposals for the 2023 season. (handout given) After discussed, agreed will do a Launch Blitz in July, but also if can get volunteers, will have table displays manned the last 2 Saturdays of July and the first 2 Saturdays of August at all 3 local launches. Already have a handout for boat owners with key points which was created last year. Will ask the DNR if they have a pavement template to paint the words: Clean, Drain, Dry. Will commit to the Homecoming Parade with a float with the theme of CW/CB. Will also have booths at other local events – i.e. Start of Summer Party, etc. Decided against placing windshield packets on any cars.

m) Wake Recommendations / Michigan Boating Laws / Lake Rules & Etiquette- Rich

Rich brought up need to put an article in the May Newsletter regarding boating etiquette, as a refresher for the season. Rich will do a write up, then bring to the PLA board for approval/comments. Tom presented a recent Boat Census (July 2022) that revealed there are 11 wake boats, 420 power boats, 73 jet skis, 47 small sailboats, 17 large sailboats and 297 paddle craft. It is a very good time to review what a buoy means, and basic wake zone information. Betty added the need to include safety regarding boating, such as life jacket use.

10) **NEW BUSINESS**

a) STEM Grant for Pentwater School Green Club with PLA Clean Boats, Clean Waters Program – Rich: Erika Fatura applied for a STEM grant to help install a boat wash station but did not get it. Will ask her to be our School Contact.

b) MLSA Annual Conference (May 5 & 6) – Kelie Bond will take the CLMP Training, but stated on her own dime since resigned. Ross would like to go, maybe ask if Tim wants to go. Motion made by Beth to pay the fee for Tim to obtain CLMP Training for the Water Quality Committee. Motion seconded by Joan. Motion carried. Ross plans on attending the MLSA Conference, but not take the CLMP Training.

c) Standing Committee for the Friends of the Pentwater River Watershed (FPRW) –Rich *Briefly, the Friends of the Pentwater River Watershed originally started out as an independent group interested in the watershed that was reporting to the PLA. As more was learned, it became obvious this needs to be a standing committee of the PLA for now. The hope is that this committee will continue to grow and eventually be a stand-alone Watershed Council. The PLA agrees to support this grass roots group under the PLA because the watershed, which includes*

both the north and south branches of the Pentwater River, can have a major impact on the health of Pentwater Lake.

3 motions ensued as listed below after lengthy discussion:

1st motion- Motion made by Rich to create a standing committee called the Friends of the Pentwater River Watershed. Ross seconded the motion. This motion was tabled until motion number 2 was completed to have the correct sequence.

2nd motion- Rich made a motion to approve the \$2700 deposit obtained by FPRW under the PLA 501c3 fiduciary role, into the PLA bank account under a separate category for the FPRW. This money is grant money from the Fly Fishers International organization to be used for a Watershed Riparian Survey. Ross seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Returned to 1st motion- Motion repeated by Rich, seconded by Ross; motion carried.

(Note - Rich will be chairperson of said committee)

3rd motion – Rich made a motion to apply for a grant from the Community Foundation for Oceana County for remainder of funds for the Watershed Riparian Survey up to \$5000 with stipulation that the paperwork be reviewed in April meeting prior to submission of grant application. Lynne seconded the motion, motion carried.

d) Pilot Program for Score the Shore Rehab-Tom

Pentwater Lake Score the Shore score is 51, out of a possible 100. There is a lot we can do to raise our score. Next step would be to apply for grant money for rehabilitation and habitat improvement of the shoreline. Thinking about various techniques that could be done to create a healthier shoreline – a demonstration project, to showcase and gain momentum within the community. The PLIB will likely support some funding for this. Eric Elgin from CLMP could assist with recommendations. The Score the Shore report should help give us an idea what our efforts should be. Then will also need to work with a Lake Manager.

- Joan stated she and her husband, Brian, is interested in vegetation along the shoreline. Mentioned that MSU has an 8-week class, through MLSP, cost \$60. It lays out the whole system and is very interesting.

Keith Edwards, Township Zoning Administrator is also working on shorelines. Ask Lynne for more information.

e) Annual Membership Dues: Discussed. Will not raise annual dues this year, but likely will need to next year.

11. Board Member Comments: George stated Kelie Bond sent a letter of resignation via email this afternoon. Email read aloud to all by George. Recruitment of additional Board Member will be pursued immediately to meet bylaw requirement of at least 9.

12) Adjournment @ 10:06pm

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Provencal
PLA Secretary