

MINUTES: Pentwater Lake Association (PLA)

August 15, 2022

- 1) Call to order: Meeting called to order @ 6:30pm by Board President, George Richey @Centenary United Methodist Church (UMC).
- 2) Roll Call: George Richey, Tom Walter, Rich Pugsley, Beth Provencal, Kelie Bond, Ross Feltes, Lynne Cavazos, Joan Menke-Schaenzer, Dan Selahowski (but had to leave early).  
PLA Members: AnnaMae Bush, Newsletter Editor, Ken Konyha, and Paul Slotsema.
- 3) Approval of Agenda: Additions: Beth requested adding purchase of PLA Thank you notes under new business. George requested adding a Board resignation under new business. Motion made by Lynne to accept agenda with addition, seconded by Rich. All approved, motion passed.
- 4) Public Comment: PLA Member and guest, Paul Slotsema came to discuss possibility of sharing cost for a new hose and reel at the Village/Lake St. Launch with the Pentwater Junior Sailing Program. (Paul and his wife, Pam, run the Jr Sailing Program.) The hose is in disrepair, as is the plumbing. He wondered if the hose could be used to wash aquatic invasive species from boats at the launch and would therefore benefit both organizations to invest. The hose is located on the west side of the building and if used to wash, would require a longer hose. After discussion, it was agreed that would not be an appropriate place to wash boats as it is too near the actual launch. Paul understood reasoning and thanked the Board for their time and consideration. He also informed the PLA Board that the Pavilion was constructed by members of the Pentwater Artisan Center, Gene Davidson and friends, several years ago for the Junior Sailing Program. Pentwater Village has insurance on the building and upkeep of plumbing & water utility bill. Partnering opportunities with the Jr Sailing Program remains open to discussion. The hose is stored for the season since the Sailing Program classes are completed for 2022.
- 5) Approval of Board Meeting Minutes: July 18, 2022 Minutes reviewed. 4 corrections noted. Lynne made a motion to accept minutes with corrections, Joan seconded the motion. All approved, motion passed.  
-Also reviewed the June Annual Meeting Minutes. 4 corrections noted. Will approve the June minutes in the next annual meeting in 2023 per bylaws.  
-Beth added ADOBE Acrobat was successfully canceled.
- 6) Treasurer's Report: Rich reviewed the August 2022 PLA Financial Report, which was sent to all PLA Board members via email prior to meeting. Totals include: General Fund: \$11,259.27, Harvesting: \$2,025.00 and Youth Fishing Tournament/Dave Rose Donations: \$2,457.28. Total: \$15,741.55. (see Social Committee, section G, for costs/profit from the Strawberry Shortcake Social- not yet tallied into this report) Beth made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report, Ross seconded the motion. All approved, motion passed.
- 7) Next Board Meeting: SEPTEMBER 19, 2022 @ 6:30PM @ Centenary UMC.

8) **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**A. NEWLETTER:** AnnaMae reported she was able to use MS Publisher which is a different program for her. It took longer due to the learning curve, but was able to do all functions needed. She has 2 people she knows who use Publisher and may call for any additional tips to help her. Will not need a college class at this time. She thanked all the contributors of articles, stating how helpful it is to have so much great information. She moved the Pentwater Green Club to the back of the newsletter and it highlights it much better. 120 newsletters were printed, costs are up due to the economy.

**B. PUBLICITY:** Pat absent

-Pat had emailed the PLA Board the confirmation of meeting notice placement in both Oceana Herald-Journal and Oceana County Press.com in timely manner.

-Joan reported the first ever PLA Float was ready for the Homecoming Parade, and despite a very rainy day and uncertainty of the parade being called off, it actually happened! There was a fair-sized crowd who was cheering and some chanted "Clean Boat, Clean Water"! in response to the banners. Tom drove the truck and Lynne and Marcia Walter rode on the pontoon boat, waving. Communication was difficult and not all PLA members realized the parade wasn't fully canceled. The trinkets intended to be given out didn't make it to the float in time, so will keep them for next year.

Radio station WMOM: 102.7 created a video which is available on youtube.com.

- PTW Articles/timing: Lynne has a list of articles the PLA submits yearly. It was suggested need to make a chart with outline of these articles with timeframes for all to have, and then brainstorm more relevant articles for the future. It would help with readiness as the timeline the PTW Magazine uses is variable. Will add this timeframe to the agenda in the Spring.

George commended Lynne, Tom, Rich, Joe, etc. on doing a great job writing and thanked them for all their hard work.

**C. WEBSITE:** Beth reported 23 Youth Fishing Tournament pictures have been posted so far. The children's smiles are adorable. Updated all PLA Committee chairs, current Minutes and latest Newsletter. George requested separating the Minutes into years per block. Will probably do that every 2 years. Currently duplicating the same format as previously started. Stated it would be beneficial for her to take a class in the Fall on use of the website as still has much to learn.

**FACEBOOK (FB) PAGE:** Beth posted educational opportunities, Youth Fishing Tournament info, before and after information and pictures of the Strawberry Shortcake Social and then a big Thank you to all the PLA members who participated that night. There are many "likes" and a few comments.

**D. MEMBERSHIP:** Rich stated current membership is at 241 (households). 42 remain unpaid. A September reminder letter will be mailed.

**E. WATER QUALITY:** Pat absent, but had emailed an updated schedule on 8/8/22. Still need a driver for September 15<sup>th</sup>. Kelie offered to drive the samples in to Muskegon.

Rich requested use of another person's boat, as he has out of town company that day. He will work on finding a substitute.

- F. NATURAL RESOURCES:** Joe absent. Tom stated the salmon are starting to run. He caught a 27# salmon in about 40ft of water in front of the channel this morning! The DNR have been seen out and about.
- G. SOCIAL:** Lynne reported the results of the 2022 Strawberry Shortcake Social which was held Thursday August 11<sup>th</sup>. First and foremost, we sold out! And we made \$1,697.46 profit this year which was much needed after last year! It was a perfect day, almost all the volunteers came, and were able to cover the ones who didn't make it. Lynne had emailed a report prior to meeting with total expenses, recommendations for next year. The Board reviewed this report line by line, and will use next year for guidance. Lynne thanked Rich for providing all the tables. Beth will send Caroline Denlar a thank you note for her job organizing all the volunteers. In addition, John Faas bought the extra ice cream and Beth bought the extra water.
- H. EDUCATION:** Betty Pleva was absent but sent an email update to the PLA Board regarding the Speech Contest for all to review. Betty spoke with Rick McGrath, the Pentwater High School (PHS) English/Speech teacher, who requested the contest be held in November 2022 rather than October to give students time to prepare. Betty had numerous points/suggestions to be discussed, i.e. topic- still "Keepers of the Lake"?, what students to include: this year from PHS only, location, and fact will need to reserve ahead of time, etc. Betty added she will be unavailable from August 17 to September 13, but will be there for the Sept 19<sup>th</sup> PLA meeting.

## **9. UNFINISHED/CONTINUING BUSINESS:**

### a) Grant Updates -

Update on Sandy Bend Engineering Project: Tom stated the engineering phase is taking a long time. There is nothing to report because it is not done yet. They meet next August 25, 2022, which is being done via zoom as a virtual meeting. Hopefully will have something to report at September PLA meeting. Fallon Chabala, Environmental Program Director at West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission (WMSRDC), notified Rich of some upcoming grant opportunities with a September 6<sup>th</sup> deadline. It is not likely anything would be finalized by that timeline. The National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is funding the study phase of this project.

b) Upcoming or available seminars/conferences/webinars - Ross continues to update the educational opportunity list. Beth is posting the information on each a couple weeks ahead on the PLA FB page. Ross explained several of the webinars' purpose and pertinence to the PLA mission.

c) Update from Friends of the Pentwater River Watershed – (3 aspects to share)

1. Riparian Survey: Rich reported they have to design the survey and will work on getting a grant to help fund it.

2. Crystal Valley Dam: Ken provided a written summary of the July 19, 2022 Crystal Valley Township meeting regarding the engineering report on the status of the Crystal Valley Dam. It included costs to rehabilitate versus replace versus remove the dam. The obvious answer was removal is the needed action. Township residents not in agreement. The information will be presented to the Oceana County Commission on August 11, 2022. A decision by the county is expected by the end of 2022.

3. Rich informed all the findings of the fish survey which was very good. Mark Tonello described it as literally one of the best stream surveys I've ever been on. The river completely flies under the radar, yet it has wild trout, steelhead, and salmon populations that rival or beat many of the more well-known streams.

d) Channel dredging – Lynne stated the dredging was finally completed. It took a long time due to inclement weather conditions - too many waves and turbulence at the end of the pier. The bid came in for the job itself, not by time required, luckily. This was a partial dredge. A full dredge used to be done every year until about 2011. Funding from the Federal Government became a problem and so the last full dredge was 2019. The next full dredge is due in the spring or early summer of 2023. A full dredge includes dredging the entire channel to a depth of 12 -14 feet. Dave Bluhm is still the chair of Friends of the PTW Channel. The Friends of the PTW Coalition will be meeting the last week of August with the “Small Harbor Coalition” which includes 7 to 9 other non-commercial harbors like Pentwater. It has been highly recommended that the small harbors along Lake Michigan collaborate in requesting funds for dredging.

e) PLA Scholarships- Joe absent. Did not discuss. It is an early Spring matter. Topic tabled for September meeting.

f) Newsletter Editor raise: In the May 2022 mtg needed to clarify whether raise from \$150 to \$175 per newsletter included supply cost. It was verified this does NOT include supplies. A general discussion ensued regarding need for raise. It is currently taking over 40 hours' time to complete the task. There was a question about whether the time required might decrease as AnnaMae's learning curve gets better. All agreed the quality of the PLA Newsletter is exceptional. Motion made by Lynne to increase pay from \$150 to \$175 per Newsletter, Beth seconded the motion; 1 opposed and 7 approved, motion passed by majority vote.

g) Village Boat Launch/Pentwater Jr Sailing Program - Water hose and reel: matter covered in Public Comment section – see notes. (It was discussed earlier as Mr. Slotsema had to leave the meeting early for prior obligation.)

h) Boat & Trailer Wash Site – Rich made a request to Brian, son of the owner of the Pentwater Convenience Center, to ask if they would be interested in constructing a boat washing area.

Brian told Rich he will ask his Dad and get back to him. Rich told him he would assist with obtaining a permit for it if interested. (PLA secretary does not have full names to include here)

j) Launch Blitz handouts: Beth emailed the PLA Board members a copy of a “KEY MESSAGES” handout she used at last launch blitz in July. It is an easy read, specific to Pentwater Lake and all agree it would be good to use for next year. Beth and Rich have it saved to use next summer.

k) Score the Shore: Tom reported the survey has been completed and he will submit to MiCorp before the October 30, 2022 deadline for data entry and forms submission. It will provide some interesting data and is available to all by website. The survey uses a “point system”- 0 to 100 for rating each of three items along the shore. After counting structures (buildings and docks) scores are collected for the Littoral Zone, Riparian Zone and Erosion Control. Our Littoral Zone score ranged between 68.5 to 74.7 averaging 55.65. Our Riparian Zone score ranged between 0 and 100 with the average being 42.25. Erosion Control ranged between 33.4 and 100 averaging 54.23. The three scores are tallied by section and averaged. The total score ranged between 29.5 and 89.53 with the average being 50.71. The data is very interesting, revealing some opportunities and I anticipate more discussion after the results are tallied. Results will be available at: <https://micorps.net>, then click individual lake reports, scroll down to Oceana County, then click on Pentwater Lake for the latest data. (The last report available is 2018) Results for all lakes, with data collected, are available there now.

l) Pentwater Lake Boat Census: Out of curiosity and interest, Tom did a “Boat Census” on July 27, 2022, as an informal count of numbers of several categories of boats. These included: power boats, large sailboats, small sailboats, jet skis, kayak/SUP/canoe, row boat, wake boat, transient boats and commercial vessels. He also counted Village buoy moorings and Township buoy moorings. The count was done from the water side, by boat. The largest counts included 420 power boats and 297 kayak/SUP/canoes. This information is interesting to know and documents how our lake is being used. It will show what use is declining and what may be expanding. It is also useful in regard to the potential transference of aquatic invasive species (AIS) and ways to educate folks regarding the importance of washing boats when moving from one body of water to another.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. George stated he received a formal letter of resignation from the Board from Mike Peters and forwarded it to all Board Members. Mike wishes to and does remain an active PLA Member. The Board minimum quota required remains intact at 9. No further discussion required.
2. Notecards- Beth brought up topic of the need for Thank You cards from time to time. She provided examples of the only current thank you postcards the PLA has used for the Dave Rose Youth Fishing Tournament donations. It is a 3”x6” card with a picture of a smiling child holding a fish on one side and ~for the Love of the Lake~ and PLA website on the address side. It is perfect for this purpose, but not professional enough for use as

a general thank you note such as a guest speaker at the PLA annual meeting. She showed a notecard the Pentwater Service Club uses. It is 5.5 x 4.25" with the logo and website printed on it. She made a request to the Board to obtain a bid from Pixel Graphics to bring back for discussion at the September meeting. All agreed.

11) Board Member Comments: No additional comments

12) Adjournment: @ 9:09pm

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Provencal  
PLA Secretary