

MINUTES: Pentwater Lake Association (PLA)
August 21, 2023 @ 6:30 PM at Centenary United Methodist Church, Pentwater

1. Called to order @ 6:33pm
2. Roll Call: present – Tom Walter, Rich Pugsley, Beth Provencal, Lynne Cavazos, Ross Feltes, George Richey, and PLA Members: Betty Pleva, Kelie Bond. Absent: Pat Hooyman, Joe Primozich, Joan Menke-Schaenzer, Newsletter Editor- AnnaMae Bush
3. Approval of Agenda: Beth requested addition to unfinished business: I.T. person for website. Lynne made a motion to accept agenda w/ addition, Ross seconded the motion. Motion carried.
4. Opportunity for Public Comment: Kelie Bond stated she has question re: riparian rights. She found a mooring buoy on her property/in lake. Asked what do I do about this? Has options- can get buoy # (if no # not legal) and report on the EGLE website or can report to Sheriff Laude Hartrum. Mooring balls must be on own property. Must have permit and a review by neighbors before being placed. Kelie thanked the Board for this information.
5. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes: Reviewed July 17, 2023 Meeting Minutes. First Beth informed Board that she removed the Motion information re: Treasurer report as a motion is not required for those. George and Ross noted 2 minor typos. Lynne made a motion to accept Minutes with corrections, George seconded the motion. Motion carried. Beth will post corrected Minutes on PLA website.
6. Treasurer Report: Rich emailed July Financial report and had copies available. Reviewed line by line. Current totals include: General fund: \$14,338.54, Harvesting: \$2,025, Youth Fishing Tournament/Rose Donations: \$2,191.53 and Friends of PTW River Watershed: \$4,440. TOTAL: \$22,995.07. (NOTE: NO Motion is required for Treasurer report.) During review it was noted 3 Pentwater students worked on weed harvesting this year and were paid around \$400. (Hopefully can hire students every summer.) Rich stated will need to vote on sweatshirts for Youth Fishing Tournament under unfinished business tonight. Report accepted as written and discussed.
7. Next Board meeting: September 18, 2023 @ 6:30pm. Beth will post information on PLA Website and a reminder on PLA Facebook (FB) site.
Joe asked (via email) for consideration to change meetings to a different day (has a conflict) Per George - we can change location to Park Place. Unable to decide with key people absent. Will table for discussion at Sept 18th meeting. George will check with Claudia about availability of Park Place for the future.
8. Committee Reports:
 - A) Newsletter – AnnaMae
-August Newsletter released. -Garry McKeen borrowed an article re: dunes and the shoreline for the Little Sable Weekly News Bulletin from the PLA Newsletter, with prior permission. He sent a thank you to the PLA for this. -Thinking about doing an evaluation on the newsletter with committee members for suggestions to improve or change.
 - B) Publicity- Pat
-Press release of the next PLA Board meeting sent to Oceana Herald and Oceana County Press on August 2, 2023. -Float in the Homecoming Parade and Strawberry Social gave us good visibility in Homecoming.
 - C) Social Media – Beth (July 18- Aug 14)
Website: Added May Minutes, Aug. newsletter, date/location next PLA meeting, 19 Youth

Fishing Tournament photos with fish details by category, and the annual Treasurer's report. Facebook: 7 new posts added: Starry Stonewort harvest, strawberry shortcake social, homecoming parade. And information from Facebook "Professional Dashboard" with outreach data.

D) Membership – Rich

8 renewal memberships since July meeting. Currently 185 paid members and 42 old members not renewed. This is not unusual. Will contact folks individually in September.

E) Water Quality – Pat

- The team members are Rich Pugsley, Tim Cole, Joe Primozich, Kelie Bond, Tom Walter, Pat Hooyman, Carol Feltes, Beth Provencal, and Rob Landis.

-The PLA collected Village Creek and North Branch River water samples on July 13, July 17, and August 17 and delivered to GVSU Annis lab for analysis. Chlorophyll samples frozen. *E. coli* measurements made in several areas. High counts in village creek. Rich will report on *E. coli* results at the September PLA board meeting. Most recent 8/17 testing was day after heavy storm and *E. coli* results are ≥ 2420 . (maximum measurable amount per equipment used). The rain affected the sample totals. Annis can do further testing to do Source Tracking to look for presence of human, pig, cow or ruminant (wildlife) markers. Results are expected in October. Cost: covered by PLIB and is part of their Quality Assurance Project Plan. The PLA assists with collections. Tom suggested may need to have a speaker come discuss *E.coli* concerns with the PLA Board for better understanding of data. The PLA will continue to assist the PLIB to help with preservation and health of Pentwater Lake & River.

F) Natural Resources – Joe

-Youth Fishing Tournament Results: 80 participants, 12 categories of fish caught for first place winners. 3 Master Angler (MA) fish caught – Bowfin/Dogfish over 27" in length. All the winners got a trophy. Rich went ahead and ordered Master Angler sweatshirts for the 3 MA winners. They will arrive around September 1, 2023. Agreement had been reached regarding purchase of clothing for the DNR patch including price discussed, but exact article had not been decided in July. The PLA Board will need vote about this tonight. (please see 9.d below)

-PLIB new 5-year plan: PLA attendance at PLIB meeting. The PLIB is moving forward w/ that plan. November meeting for final approval. Noted that chemical use in Pentwater Lake was down to 6%. (maximum recommended should not exceed 15%). Score the Shore was interjected into discussion.

-Harvest update: First/only 45 loads, 90,000 #s removed over 5 days. Starry Stonewort is substantially declining. But may need a second harvest. Will do an AVAS survey 8/22/23 and possible treatment. Discuss w/ Rick Buteyn (current) Lake Manager for the PLIB as to what constitutes need for harvest.

-Nutria: Diane Baker got photo of the tail but DNR require carcass- live trap if possible. This will be very difficult. Attempts are being made.

-Filamentous Algae (article)- this is an increasing issue, will need to pay attention as it will likely continue with climate change. Rich wrote an article to put in newsletter to educate members.

-Eagle spotting: 1 set of adults, 1 – 1 yr old w/ white head & 2 immatures @ 5 mo. old.

-Bass Tournament – Will send request to Mark Tonello to restrict to one lake. Joe will email this request to Mark when sends him the PLA Youth Fishing Tournament results.

G) Social- Lynne

-August: Homecoming- Strawberry Shortcake Social (SSS) report handout. (& had been emailed 1 week prior) Everything considerably more expensive. Did not sell out. Walk around sales to crowd helped immensely. May need to consider doing this or having a stand up the hill next year. May need to change amounts of water, biscuits. Total profit: \$1,533.43. Last year made more but less expensive products. Huge PR- makes the effort worth it. Will get even more creative next year. Yacht Club excellent job. Ideas: Satellite table at top of the Green? local delivery to nearby restaurants? Like a "door dash"?

-Homecoming FLOAT: Saturday August 12 participated in the Homecoming Parade with a float and handed out beads and candy. It was great fun! Rich got pictures for the CW/CB grant requirement. Lucky had a great day for it this year.

-Pentwater Magazine articles- Tom and Lynne are writing/submitting articles. There is a new editor this year; so far using the same schedule as prior editor.

-Memorial: Pat Hooyman & wife Diana are sailing. Not decided prior to trip. Topic tabled.

H) Education – Betty Pleva - absent

PLA Logo Contest winners were listed in an article the PLA Newsletter (pg. 14) The article was also utilized as part of the Clean Drain Dry article sent to the state to put in their newsletter.

I) Watershed Committee – Rich

-Update on GVSU survey – contract signed; 50% payment made. Anticipate survey to be done this fall. Need volunteers to help.

-Completed watershed tour with 3 members Trout Unlimited; follow up in process. Created document of 17 dams in the watershed.

-Attended Aug 9th Road Commission meeting and informed them of the road/stream crossing survey. May increase signage at launches.

-Update regarding Hart Lake chemical treatments and Crystal Valley Dam repair status. Also, informed PLA new tools out for monitoring New Zealand Mud Snails and Didymo algae.

J) Scholarship Program – Joe: absent. Committee has not met yet for the 2024 year. Tabled topic. Note: Scholarship committee members include- Joe Primozich, Betty Pleva, Joan Schanzezer, Rich Pugsley, Pat Hooyman and AnnaMae Bush.

9. Unfinished / Continuing Business:

- a) Seminars/Conferences/Webinars – Ross sent an email on Aug 2, 2023 with updated educational opportunities. "Why aren't people cleaning their boats?" – basically don't see a need. Posts are staggered on PLA Facebook site, timing the posts for folks to have time to register. Not all opportunities are posted – only those pertaining to lake, river and/or watershed. Need to have more information on Purple Loosestrife. Have beetles ever been introduced? Ross asked. Does not eliminate this AIS and it takes a long time to be effective, but it helps native have a chance to grow. And the growth and beetles must be monitored closely.
- b) Homecoming Parade Float – Tom We had one! It was great. Tom/Lynne rode, Rich, Beth, Ross, Marcia & Camille (Tom & Marcia's granddaughter) walked. Need more candy next year. Thankful for the donation from the TerHaars for stickers and candy. Photos taken, and one will be sent to the State for C/D/D report.

- c) Clothing strategy – Rich proposed going with royal blue w/ white lettering which would include PLA anchor logo with “for the Love of the Lake”. Would include the clothing order form in the May mailing for the Annual Meeting stating orders would need to be returned by June 1st and plan would be to hand out the clothing at the Annual Meeting mid-June. (see handout for item/cost/selling price) Vendor would be Windrift in Shelby. Will be reviewed and tabled for next PLA meeting.
- d) Master Angler: Rich made a motion to supply hooded sweatshirts for all MA winners who participate in the Youth Fishing Tournament. Cost is \$25 each and will be funded out of the Tournament/ Rose Fund. The minimum order is 12 – so must approve \$300. Lynne seconded it. Motion passed. Order submitted was for 3 small, 6 medium and 3 large.
- e) Watershed survey contract status – Rich stated have signed the contract and 50% payment made to GVSU. Need help still to identify riparians, farmers, and key people involved. Will need help to complete the survey and hope to start this fall.
- f) Bass tournament – Rich stated Joe will send email to Mark Tonello on bass tournaments being restricted to one lake when he sends him the Youth Fishing Tournament report
- g) Website: Need Informational Technology (IT) help for adding Watershed Committee information. Beth stated it is beyond her ability and time to do this. Suggestions made to contact Westshore Community College to see if any interest. Can send email out to ask PLA members, call Mark Shotwell IT person at the Township office, Ron & Jan Gooding do the Pentwater Pickleball site and may be of assistance. Cost would be negotiable and can come out of the Watershed budget. Beth will make some calls to see if can find assistance.

10. New Business

- a) Joan: emailed questions re: need for increased communication within the PLA membership and possible ways to do this: suggestions included a Membership survey, a newsletter article re: PLIB/PLA roles; also, how can we recruit younger members, perhaps increased contact with Pentwater School Green Club. Noting the average age of Pentwater residents is 66. Joan absent – will table discussion to next meeting.
- b) CD possibilities – Rich presented a handout: great opportunity to make money by purchase of CDs from Huntington Bank. Interest ranges from 4.2% to 5.25% depending on time frame. Rich made a motion to deposit \$9,000 for 7 months at 4.75%. The money would come out of the Fishing Tournament fund \$1500, Weed Management fund \$1500, and General Fund \$6000. Accrued interest would then be prorated for return to proper fund. Doing this now is best when need for funds is at the lowest time of year. George seconded motion. Motion carried. This will require Rich, Lynne and Pat to all sign paperwork required.
- c) Liability waiver form – Question arose regarding need for a Waiver document for PLA volunteers doing work that is paid for by the PLIB. Specifically – Water Quality, Harvesting, and paid any volunteers. Would not be needed for all volunteer activity, just high-risk activity. Tim Cole could help do a risk assessment to determine risk exposure. Tabled for further discussion, include as first topic.
- d) White Lake septic workshop feedback – Rich attended a White Lake Septic Homeowner Workshop on Aug 17, 2023 thanks to Tom’s email informing of the opportunity. Mike Eslick from the Muskegon Health Department was the speaker. Discussed Septic System inspections. All counties have a septic standard code but the State of MI does not have a

code. Maps available that are filed since the 60s. Can obtain a copy of your septic field. Cost for inspection: \$150.

- e) Directory Cover – Photo of ice balls Stan Rokita is great, should we use for the Directory cover next year? Discussed- not good to have a winter photo on front - maybe on the back cover. Need a summer photo of Pentwater Lake on front cover. All agreed would like the Board to have input on next years' cover photo.

11. Board Member comments:

Ross: stated Oceana Conservation District (OCD), Sky Harsh, Stewardship Coordinator, OCD, told him she had received some funding to work on invasive plants. This might include Pentwater. She specifically discussed *Phragmites* and Japanese knotweed. The funding for this effort is limited and he does not know if those are the only species she is managing. He told her of the recent PLA communications about purple loosestrife and related to her where he'd seen purple loosestrife, Japanese knotweed, and *Phragmites* here. Ross suggested Joe Primozich is probably aware of the presence of these invasive species elsewhere around Pentwater.

Rich: Annis - met Ryan Otter – new Executive Program Manager. Ross and Rich introduced Dr. Otter to the Pentwater River Watershed efforts.

Rich: Had a fundraiser idea to create a "Grandparents Idea Book"- what to do when your grandchildren visit. Said his daughters might help with this. Board discussed the need for all visitors- not just grandchildren, but a book what to do when young visitors come to Pentwater. Tabled for now, getting late.

12. Adjournment @ 9:17pm

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Provencal, PLA Secretary