

MINUTES: Pentwater Lake Association (PLA)

September 18, 2023 @ 6:30 PM at Centenary United Methodist Church, Pentwater

1. Called to order @ 6:38pm
2. Roll Call: Pat Hooyman, Tom Walter, Rich Pugsley, Beth Provencal, Lynne Cavazos, Ross Feltes, George Richey, Joe Primozich, Joan Menke-Schaenzer, and PLA Members: Tim Cole and AnnaMae Bush- Newsletter editor. Absent: Betty Pleva- Education chair.
3. Approval of Agenda: will add "Memorials" to Unfinished Business (9g) rather than under the social committee. Add under New Business (10c) "Riparian Rights in Non-inland lakes". Lynne made a motion to accept the amended agenda; Ross seconded the motion. Motion carried.
4. Opportunity for Public Comment: None
5. Approval of August Board Meeting Minutes: (sent to Board via 9.12.23 for early review.)
Corrections x 3 noted. Rich made a motion to approve the August minutes with corrections; Joan seconded the motion. Motion carried. AnnaMae suggested the Minutes be numbered for easier referencing in the future. Beth will do this.
6. Treasurer's Report: CD obtained – 7 months at 4.75 percent. Matures April 13, 2024. Interest will be @ \$240. Lynne, Pat, and Rich all signed. When CD comes due, have 10 days to choose to renew and will only require one signature. The Board will decide in April 2024 to cash it or renew.
General Fund: \$5,527.02, Harvesting: \$1,371, Fishing Tournament/Rose Donations: \$1,902.53, Friends of PTW River Watershed \$4,440, Certificate of Deposit: \$9,000. TOTAL: 22,240.55.
Treasurer report reviewed and accepted.
7. Next Board Meeting: Monday October 16, 2023 @ 6:30pm at Centenary UMC.
8. Committee Reports:
 - A. Newsletter- AnnaMae
The newsletter committee met on September 7, 2023. All four members were present: AnnaMae Bush, Lynne Cavazos, Caroline Denlar, and Joe Primozich. The focus was an evaluation of different aspects of the newsletter. There was consensus on the value of the features regularly included in the newsletter: i.e., Committee news informs members about what the PLA is doing. Calendar and events provide an accessible summary of local happenings and is easy to read. Student section promotes the Pentwater's Green School focus. Feature articles are an avenue for the educational goal of the PLA. News Bytes are fun to read and highlight Community news and events not found elsewhere. Further discussion included timing, length, and content of articles. AnnaMae added getting the whole years dates are difficult for calendar of events, frequently are changed and are distributed with incorrect information. Decision made to include just the summer / busy months. The next newsletter will go out on Friday November 3rd, 2023.
 - B. Publicity- Pat
Press release regarding September meeting submitted 9.7.23 to: Oceana Herald-Journal, Oceana Echo and Oceana County Press/online paper.
 - C. Social Media- Beth
Website: Posted July Minutes and updated date/location of September meeting. Not had time to check into IT person for website yet. Cleaned up much of the Newsletter page – working on archiving the old, and keep a rolling 5 years posted on website.

Facebook: 3 new posts between Aug 15 to Sept 12 – Winners of Youth Fishing Tournament with Master Angler (MA) info, a photo of the trophy, and copy of the PSA Boater Alert from the channel dredging. Multiple likes and shares. Needs a photo of the MA sweatshirt distributed. Rich brought this – picture obtained for PLA FB page. (see 8F below)

D. Membership- Rich

2 renewal memberships have come in since the last meeting. 40 members have not renewed. Rich will send the names to the Board to help call personally. Will send out message in the next couple of weeks.

E. Water Quality- Pat

Great team this year. Lake and River Samples taken on September 14 and delivered to GVSU Annis lab for analysis. Chlorophyll samples taken and frozen. Summer phosphorus sample taken on September 15th and frozen. Frozen samples will be taken to EGLE Grand Rapids. Continue to have high *E. coli* measurements in several areas- likely related to rain events. These have been reported to proper authorities. Waiting on the ANNIS report of the sources of these high measurements. Per Carol Feltes – the AWRI is still having trouble getting quality supplies for testing. Looking at October now for source results.

F. Natural Resources – Joe

Update on last months' discussion re: nutria. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provided a trapper for 4 days to gather any invasive nutria. No nutria was seen or trapped in the 4 work days. Continued efforts will be made during the November Trapping season.

Rich – brought one of the Master Angler sweatshirts that the winners received. Suggestion to add the PLA name/logo on the back of the sweatshirts on the next order. Photo taken for PLA Facebook post.

G. Social- Lynne

Nothing new to report.

H. Education- Betty / absent. Per Email from Betty – nothing new to report. Prior email stated she will get to Pentwater school in October to come up with new ideas for the year.

I. Watershed- Rich

The watershed list of riparian addresses is now available for both Oceana and Mason County. Have a meeting scheduled on September 21, 2023 at Annis (AWRI) at 3pm with Amanda Buday to talk about next steps on accomplishing the riparian survey. Of the 6,000 parcels in the watershed, the survey will be sent to a random sample of 800 households.

J. Scholarship- Joe

Joe echoed previous concerns re: how to build a scholarship fund so we can offer more than one scholarship. It would be great to be able to offer 2 or even 3. It was suggested we add this need / request for donations in the November newsletter.

9. Unfinished / Continuing Business:

a. Risk Assessment – Waiver of Liability Form- Rich

Tim Cole began by asking questions re: PLA vs PLIB roles especially regarding any hazards involved – differences explained by Joe. Tim is retired from insurance business with 37 years' experience. He's not an attorney therefore not able to give legal advice. Waiver form given to Tim Cole for review – stated this is a waiver for an employee, not a volunteer. PLA does not have worker's compensation coverage. Best not to employ minors (i.e. HS students) due

- to complicated process with parental approval, work permits and need for worker's comp coverage. He said we do need to add Directors and Board member coverage. Our agent Jim just retired this week – unclear who our new agent is. Tim will review the entire policy and make further recommendations. There is some money in the Weed Harvesting budget, so rather than pay volunteers, we need to decide to do something else with the \$1093 – ex. buy equipment etc. Will brainstorm ideas. Tim recommended the PLA not have any paid employees except Newsletter Editor – a non-hazardous position.
- b. Upcoming or available seminars/conferences/webinars – Ross
New email list sent to Board on 9-11-23. Mentioned he cannot attend the Septic System workshop – hopes someone will attend this. Beth will post pertinent lake/watershed opportunities on the PLA FB site. Rich will provide an update in the November meeting about what opportunities are there for PLA members to sign up for free, such as the MLSA (MI Lake & Stream Association) magazine.
 - c. IT person: re: Website page Watershed information- Beth
Contacted Mark Shotwell @ Shotwell Solutions (VM), Kellon Petzak- Computer instructor at Westshore Community College (VM) and John DiPangrazio (PTW Tennis/Pickleball Club website administrator) requesting help. So far only John responded – Beth to meet with him 9/19/23. They do not use SquareSpace – they prefer Elementor/WordPress format.
Rich- contacted an IT company in GR (listing in Trout Unlimited magazine), but they were too busy to help us. Beth said is going to contact Kathy O'Connor who is the webmaster for the Pentwater Women's Club and knows they use SquareSpace. Still need to build a new Watershed page for the PLA website – pending IT help.
 - d. Clothing strategy: Rich
Putting together an order form for the May annual meeting mailout. Colors: Royal blue with white lettering. Can mix sizes, minimum of 12 of each type required for order. Purchase cost and selling cost reviewed to include a small profit margin of \$3-5/per item. Still need to determine designs.
 - e. Speaker to the PLA Board re: understanding *E. coli* data / ramifications – Rich
Need to extend an invitation to Dr. Ryan Otter from GVSU/ANNIS Center to attend a PLA Board meeting and also ask if he would be interested in speaking to the board re: *E. coli* ramifications. Of note, there is a new Public Health Department # 10 contact – need to find out who our new contact will be as Mark Hill recently retired.
 - f. Fundraiser: Booklet for children – ideas what to do when come to Pentwater- Rich
Talked more with his daughter; she has not said no yet.
 - g. Memorials: Hooyman / Richey- Lynne Hooyman: Pat and Lynne – got together to discuss what kind of bench and plaque. George – will get back to Lynne.

10. New Business:

- A. Joan Menke-Schaenzer: Her prior concerns not addressed in August because she was not present to ask them and discuss. Asking now-
-Rules and responsibilities between PLA/PLIB – it has changed a lot in the past 2 years. Perhaps we need a subcommittee to help define them. Public needs to have education, maybe an info-graphic? Suggestion- possibly a PLIB article in every PLA Newsletter?
Joe proposed we do a comparative analysis – who covers what. Perhaps a question

every newsletter and have a statement from the PLA and one from the PLIB to help define.

–Joan wanted to discuss a possible Membership survey: TABLED – out of time

–Joan wanted to brainstorm how to recruit younger members: TABLED – out of time

B. Riparian Rights for Non-In-Land Lake: Rich

Question had been asked re: what are my rights as a Riparian? Helpful for owners to know. Riparian Magazine – which covers inland lakes – unsure what “non-inland” lakes rights are. Rich going to ask Kathy Evans about this. May need to ask attorney, Cliff Bluhm, or Oceana Co. Sheriff’s Deputy- head of marine division, Tim Simon, this question. Rich to follow up.

11. Board Member Comments:

-Beth stated AnnaMae received an email from a Lisa Garcia from “lakevillenature.org” complimenting the PLA website “Links of Interest” that she stated a group of kids in their Young Conservationist Program used for lake & stream ecology projects. Stated they were a big help. Lisa sent us a link that the PLA might find helpful. Beth investigated this via google and found it was a solicitation of sorts from a law office out in Washington State. AnnaMae emailed Lisa with additional questions, but did not receive an answer. Matter dropped at this point.

-Ross- informed PLA that Conservation Department working several issues including phragmite.

-Tom- Would like members of the Board go on for a boat ride on his pontoon to see both weed and shoreline issues. Suggested this Friday the 22nd at 11am- probably take 1 to 1.5 hrs. then have lunch afterward if wish to. He will pick up those interested at the Village Launch.

-Rich- Asked that everyone come to October meeting with 2024 summer ideas please.

-Joan- wish we could stop the meeting at 9pm. Pat said will send out a reminder to send committee reports 3 days ahead. Some additional discussion how to shorten meeting time.

12. Adjournment @ 9:36pm

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Provencal, PLA Secretary