

MINUTES: Pentwater Lake Association (PLA)

September 19, 2022

- 1) Call to order: Meeting called to order @ 6:32pm by Board President, George Richey @ Centenary United Methodist Church (UMC).
- 2) Roll Call: PLA Board members: George Richey, Tom Walter, Rich Pugsley, Beth Provencal, Kelie Bond, Ross Feltes, Lynne Cavazos, Joan Menke-Schaenzer, Dan Selahowski- for presentation only. PLA Members/Committee Chairs: AnnaMae Bush, Betty Pleva. Absent: Joe Primozich, Pat Hooyman.
- 3) Approval of Agenda: Additions: None. Motion made by Lynne to accept agenda as written, seconded by Rich. Motion carried.
- 4) Public Comment: Dan Selahowski – came on behalf of Pentwater School Bond Committee, gave a 10-minute presentation. Handed out an informational pamphlet: “Building Community; Honoring Tradition”. It explains the 2 proposals and the choice of voting for 1, 2, both or none. 15 more children are enrolled this year. There have been no improvements since 2003. There are leaks, cracks and plumbing failing. There is no actual track to speak of, it is uneven, with rocks, grass and gravel on it, and is simply not conducive to practicing on or public use. He informed us that even if Pentwater School were ever to close, our community would still to have to pay school taxes to whatever new district our area would be annexed to. The Bond Committee agreed the last bond asking was too big – the new choices are much more reasonable. It is scaled back to meet basic needs. The millage proposal remains on the lowest end of mills. It will add old millage cost to current millage cost. Dan encouraged folks to take the tour, read about what is being asked and make an educated decision. He thanked the PLA Board for their time.
- 5) Approval of Board Meeting Minutes: Aug 15, 2022 PLA Minutes reviewed. No additions or corrections noted. Motion made by Joan to approve as written, Kelie seconded the motion. Motion carried. Beth will post on PLA Website within the week. Beth sent Caroline Denlar a thank you note on behalf of the PLA for her help with the Strawberry Shortcake Social as she organized all the Volunteers again this year.
- 6) Treasurer’s Report: Rich reviewed the September 2022 PLA Financial Report, which was sent to all PLA Board members via email prior to meeting. Totals include: General Funds: \$14,553.56. Harvesting: \$2,025 and Rose Donations/Youth Fishing Tournament: \$2,317.28. Total: \$18,895.84. Rich noted a couple major bills are coming up in next few months. This includes the PLA 501C Registration, as well as Waterfront Alliance and Michigan Lake & Streams memberships. Water quality costs at GVSU Annis Center bill will come in the Spring. At the Pentwater Lake Improvement Board (PLIB) November meeting, PLA members will propose PLIB return to covering the cost. Good chance they will pick this up. Good boost from the Strawberry Shortcake Social this year. Two PLA members bought the left-over supplies of ice cream and water. Beth made a motion to approve the Treasurer’s report as written, Tom seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- 7) Next Board Meeting: The 3rd Monday in October is Oct 17, 2022. Lynne informed us this is the same night as “Meet the Candidates” event to be held at Park Place at 6pm. This will be the School Board/Township candidates only. Pentwater Service Club is sponsoring it. (Note: this does not include

any State candidates). Discussion and decision for next meeting was tabled until end of meeting. See Board comments.

8) COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. **Newsletter:** On 9.15.22 AnnaMae emailed the PLA Board the next Newsletter schedule which included the deadlines for article submission: October 15th, and final date for distribution: October 31st.
-Regarding use of MS Publisher: She reported has not able to get ahold of IT person at school yet. She did contact Carol Feltes, who was not experienced w/ Publisher after all and was unable to get ahold of her friend who might help. But did order a book on Amazon for \$12.00 about how to use MS Publisher. Lynne suggested she also contact Mark Shotwell who is a great tech person at Pentwater Township Office. AnnaMae stated she would try the book first, but if needs more assistance, is willing to make an appointment with Mr. Shotwell. If there is a cost associated with that, AnnaMae can bring to the PLA Board to discuss PLA covering that cost.

-Article discussion ensued including content and timing of various articles. There was discussion whether some of the article content should also be shared on the PLA Facebook page to include a wider audience. AnnaMae and Beth will discuss this.

B. **Publicity:** Pat Hooyman was absent, but emailed the PLA Board that notification of press releases to both Oceana Herald-Journal and Oceana Press.com were done in a timely manner.

-Regarding the Pentwater Homecoming Parade – Pat wrote what a great job the PLA Homecoming Committee did and that he'd heard several positive comments from the community.

C. **PLA Social Media:** Beth reported-

a) **Website:** - Cost of PLA Website Domain remains \$20. But annual cost of website has increased from \$144 to \$168 next renewal in March. She believes this is first increase since the PLA Website was launched in March of 2018. Proof of increase given to Rich/Treasurer via email.

- The approved August PLA Minutes and date of September meeting were posted on August 18, 2022.

- Will not look for a website class until after October.

b) **Facebook (FB) Page:** 4 posts since last meeting; posted educational opportunities twice, Youth Fishing Tournament results and some youth tournament photos.

D. **Membership:** Rich stated currently there are 41 unpaid memberships/renewals and 202 paid. It's that time of year to do a final reminder. Renewals must be paid by end of October to be in the PLA Directory. Rich will send a final email request as well as send the PLA Board a list and have members contact those they know directly too. The PLA Directory will be completed in December 2022.

E. **Water Quality:** Pat Hooyman absent but sent report via email. Final samples of 2021-22 season gathered. Samples were taken to Muskegon by Carol Feltes and to Grand Rapids by Tim Cole. Samples were gathered by Tim, Kelie and Rich. Plan is for a team/committee meeting before next season to discuss lessons learned and next year's activities. There was some confusion about what day/date to take the water sample to GR and Tim went on a day the contact person wasn't working but luckily was able to submit with a different person. Kelie spoke to Tim to organize /consolidate the information. Kellie will email us this information.

-Ross added that he attended the Michigan Inland Lakes Convention: Protecting Lakes Today for Tomorrow on September 14-16, 2022. One speaker emphasized the value of long-term data collection;

that perspective of changes is important. Ross also watched the Mi.Corp: Michigan Clean Water Corps YouTube video and noted the documentation of depth contours, and stated this might be beneficial information for the PLA/PLIB to collect also. The information gathered and documented are tracking the natural processes of lake changes.

F. **Natural Resources:** Joe Primozich: Youth Fishing Tournament: Most surprising thing is there were no Smallmouth Bass this year. Cost of trophies was \$140, paid out of Youth Fishing Tournament funds.

G. **Social:** Lynne: nothing new to report or discuss.

H. **Education:** Betty Pleva re: November Speech Contest. Currently trying to cement a date from Rick McGrath (Speech class teacher). It will be a required class project for Pentwater High School Speech Class. Betty spoke to Barb Siok @ Park Place re: reservation. It's a nice setting and need to reserve as soon as date decided. Possible dates are November 15, 21, 28 or 29, maybe into December. Kids need adequate time to prepare. We do not know Park Place availability – may need to change to other venue if not available. Decision made to keep it local to Pentwater HS, grades 9-12 this time. Expenses should be less by keeping it local. Still have the \$300 (total) winner certificates: 1st prize \$125.00, 2nd prize \$100 and 3rd prize \$75. (See January/February PLA Minutes 2022) Will need 4-5 judges and use a rubric format. Of the 4 judges – need a PLA Board member, a professional, a community member and an educator. (Kelie Bond and Claudia Hodan-Ressel were suggested) Will keep the same topic discussed last year: “Keepers of the Lake”. If use Park Place as venue, will have a refundable deposit, but no other cost. Questions: Do we want to do snacks? Cookies, punch? Small waters? Depending on number of speakers – may need intermission? More discussion/decisions in October meeting.

9) **UNFINISHED/CONTINUING BUSINESS:** (Old Business)

a) Grant Updates – Tom gave the WMSRDC (West MI Shoreline Regional Development Commission) update on Big Sandy Bend engineering and design contract. It is moving along, slow but sure. Had one meeting with LIMINOTECH/Smith Group and an interdisciplinary team via Zoom. The team Zoom meeting included EGLE, J Wesley (MDNR Fisheries), Archeologist, engineers, the tribe etc. it was a large group of specialists. Three alternatives were discussed and eliminated from further consideration. They were the alternatives of no action, slope the entire bank back and relocate the river away from the bank. Another alternative that was discussed but needed more work was using root wads with logs along with ballast rock and a possible soil lift to create a “2-year flood plain.” More work needs to be done to refine that option as heavy equipment access and channel width reduction are issues to be addressed. The meeting ended with progress being made without a decision. Next meeting Oct 13 @ 9:30am. This engineering and design project is being done with grant money. This is an effort to stop the large amount of sand entering into the river and prematurely aging the marsh that is unable to function as an estuary due to Longbridge Road. The next meeting will refine the alternative on the table. Progress is being made. WMSRDC has applied for an implementation grant.

b) Upcoming or available seminars/conferences/webinars - Ross emailed current/updated list to PLA Board for review prior to meeting. Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership (www.shorelinepartnership.org) offers an interesting short video series: including a lake planner tool, recommended plants to preserve a natural shoreline. They also offer their newsletter free online. -Ross attended the Michigan Inland Lakes Convention: Protecting Lakes Today for Tomorrow– which had 45 presentations and 350 attendees, all online. It included information regarding Michigan, Wisconsin,

Minnesota lakes. The speakers addressed several issues of concern to the PLA, such as invasive species, natural shorelines, fisheries, and watershed management. Ross will email the link to the PLA Board.

-Beth asked Ross to assist with the wording of the educational opportunities on the PLA Facebook page posts to draw interest from both PLA Members and the general public.

c) Update from Friends of the Pentwater River Watershed: Rich reported the next meeting is scheduled for 9/20/22 at 6:30pm @ Centenary UMC. All are welcome. Activities include:

1. Zoom call w/ Amanda Buday re: Riparian Survey. She is a rural sociologist.
2. Continue to work with Susie Knoll from Conservation District.
3. Dave Peterson – told Rich about a possible grant opportunity for \$3000 for watershed work.
4. Regarding road crossing – planning to start conversation with Road Commission and EGLE, especially 104th Ave. on the North Branch.

-Crystal Valley Dam: that is still in flux. Ross said re: the need for a solution, thinks it would be helpful for the community be shown other stream shoreline restoration projects to show the beauty of what it could be. They continue to follow closely as what is decided will affect the Pentwater River.

-MDNR (Michigan Department of Natural Resources) Fish Survey: Rich wondering how to share with the information with the PLA Membership. Will table this to the October meeting: Question if this information needs to be added to a PLA Newsletter. Rich will talk to AnnaMae.

d) Channel dredging – Spring/Summer 2023: Lynne

(also see New Business re: Small Harbor Coalition and Costal Resilience Project activities)

Dave Bluhm is Chair of “Friends of the Pentwater Channel”. Lynne has been attending that meeting. Will be early on the list related to fish spawning. The next dredge in Spring or early summer 2023 will be a full dredge of 12 feet. Those funds are already secured via the state: \$650,000.

There will be a new 5-year plan for the Pentwater Lake Improvement Board. The community will need to be informed and have input regarding this 5-year plan. Before dredging money will be added to the plan a survey to the taxed citizens may be done. Michelle Martin will be sending information and a public meeting must occur before any tax decisions are made.

There has been discussion regarding what else can be done such as clean out the attenuators (the rocks at the end of the channel). Betty said maybe the state could start charging an additional amount of boat tags. (See below: Small Harbor Coalition discussion)

e) PLA Scholarships- Joe Primozich: absent. Wants to offer Pentwater HS students college scholarships. Most Pentwater organizations do offer scholarships and the PLA needs to consider doing this as well. There is not a Counselor to assist in school. This PLA subcommittee will meet and bring requests to the PLA Board before scholarships due next spring.

f) Boat & Trailer Wash Site – Rich - Pentwater Convenience Center. Nothing new. Noted – the Pentwater Village Master Plan may add a boat cleaning station to the Village Launch.

g) Village Boat Launch – Rich - Condition of launch/cost sharing of repairs with the Pentwater Sportfishing Association (PSA) was raised. But Pentwater Village did short term fix and possibility Pentwater Village is going to replace the docks in 2023.

h) Score the Shore survey results/update - Tom

Data sent in. Tom will be able to glean more information and do a series article for the PLA Newsletter. Tom may create a PowerPoint presentation that can be posted on the PLA FB page. Will discuss with AnnaMae before PLA FB post.

i) PLA Thank you notes- Beth

The cost of custom thank you notes was \$60 for 25, and \$112 for 50. The PLA does not require many thank you notes, maybe 1-3 per year. This is not enough to warrant the expense. Beth did order a rubber stamp with the PLA logo (anchor) and royal blue ink pad for \$39.95. She also bought blue thank you notes that can be used for the PLA and her own personal use. Showed the PLA Board both the stamp and cards. There was agreement that they are professional and appropriate to represent the PLA. Beth declines any money for cards or stamp. She will donate and pass on the rubber stamp to next Secretary for PLA use when her term is complete.

10) **NEW BUSINESS:** Lynne

a) Small Harbor Coalition (SHC): Pentwater Township hosted a meeting. Maureen Murphy, Glen Beavis and Lynne met with key people from Onekama. Chuck May has worked on the SHC for years and will be a great contact and resource. Chuck was clear about the fact that SHC must come together as a cohesive group and support funding for all. There is 9.7 billion in the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund. SHC has requested a resolution from both the Village and the Township. We may do a joint resolution or separate resolutions. Need to do a letter of support. Contact information would be both Township and Village. Need to be unified. "The squeaky wheel gets the grease; The MI Army Corp of Engineers needs us to squeak". (NOTE: to learn more about the Harbor Maintenance Tax and Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund – please utilize the internet.) Glen Beavis took notes. Lynne will email these notes to PLA Board.

b) Coastal Resiliency Project (CRP): Lynne, Tom & Manny Valdez- DNR Officer at Charles Mears State Park, are now working with the CRP. This is a national/international organization and includes the USA and Canada. They meet on Zoom. Lynne and Tom have found it very interesting working with Manny and also the Oceana Beach Association (OBA) south of the south pier/channel wall. Sand movement is constant, and Pentwater needs something more effective to contain and control the sand from going into the channel and on the pier. There is now huge pile on south side – a new dune, the fences are completely buried. Can we place fences more strategically? Proposal sent to the CRP. They are looking at it now, having their engineers to do a sand movement study. It was a positive response. Had great conversation. Need data to make decisions. Need more environmentally smart? Call it "Sand Dune rehabilitation". Await a November meeting to see if feasible project for them. Bass Lake goes out with shovels. Maybe add Bass Lake to the study?

c) Speaker/Topic for 2023 Annual Meeting- George

Need to think about a potential speaker in back of our minds. Possibly Michigan DNR biologist, Mark Tonello from MDNR Fisheries Division.

11) Board Member Comments -

George: regarding next years' Annual Meeting, he still has trinkets. Rich has pens/pads – but the web address wrong. Stickers they stick to the outside. Need inside stickers. Will need to order supplies.

Rich: Longbridge bridge – fishing platform closed – why? Per Lynne: Both DNR and Road Commission noted the support beams are corroding and not safe. Will need divers to help evaluate, then present a proposal. The Township is responsible for the cost. Perfect for Great Lakes Fisheries Trust. Unknown timeline for the repair. There is concern because of high use in November. Get word out! Beth can post something on the PLA FB page, will work with Lynne what to post.

Lynne: re: Longbridge Launch / 90 Degree launch – both edges of the drive need repair due to erosion. Both Pentwater Township and the Oceana Road Commission will pay for this fix. November busy for steelhead. Pull out launch in December normally.

NEXT MEETING: After discussion, decision to change to TUESDAY October 18 not Monday October 17, will remain @ 6:30pm. George to confirm church availability and email all. Beth will post on PLA website.

12) Adjournment @ 8:47 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Provencal
PLA Secretary