

PENTWATER LAKE ASSOCIATION MINUTES: SEPTEMBER 21, 2020

Informal ZOOM Meeting

1. **Meeting called to order** by Lynne C. at 6:35pm
2. **Roll call:** Lynne Cavazos, Joe Primozich, AnnaMae Bush, George Richey, Patrick Hooyman, Rich Pugsley, Tom Walter, Janet Strahan, Beth Provencal.
Guests: Joan Menke-Schaenzer, (email: joanms@me.com) Emily Neuman, GVSU Grad Student.
Absent: Mike Peters (ill), Betty Pleva (out of town)
3. **Agenda:** Added announcement that PLA /PLIB has applied for Boom to stop invasive weeds. Motion made by Joe P to approve, seconded by Patrick H. Agenda approved with addition.
4. **Minutes** required correction of roll call – Janet Strahan absent in August. Motion made to approve by AnnaMae B, seconded by Joe P. Minutes approved with correction.
5. **Treasurer's Report:** George R. presented report with explanations cash outflow for Fishing Tournament trophies. Membership currently 233 with 17 unpaid members (which is the average number this time of year). The decision to drop members will be made in October before the Directory goes out in November. George will email out the list of these 17 so we can contact them if neighbors to encourage them to continue in the PLA. It was mentioned that we have spent \$400 recently for weed harvest and have \$2400 more to use. May need for boom cost / new permit for EGLE. (see below)
Motion made by Pat H to approve, seconded by Rich P. Treasurer's Report approved unanimously.
6. **Next PLA Board Meeting:** Discussed possibly meeting in person at Methodist church in October. Group consensus was not yet. ZOOM meeting scheduled October 19, 2020 at 6:30pm
7. **Committee Reports:**
 - A. **Newsletter** – AnnaMae reported that the next newsletter will be early November instead of October because last one came out in August. She gave a BIG THANK YOU to everyone who submitted articles and pictures. She asked / encouraged all of us to pick a topic and submit another article, and for those who haven't yet, to please start writing! (the topic list will be resent to all as a reminder) Joan M-S brought up the US Wildlife Fisheries cannisters purpose, pesticide level monitoring and lamprey information. AnnaMae will email possible topics as a reminder.
 - B. **Publicity** –
 - Pat attended the 2020 Michigan Inland Lakes Convention via Zoom on September 18-20. For \$30 could attend any/all workshops offered. Pat said it was very convenient, the only drawback being not able to directly network with people. The Social Media and Facebook presentations were very informative. It is a very effective way to reach the public. With the pandemic, it is

also the safest way. There were very interesting presentations on Starry Stonewort. One presentation from University of Minnesota had treated their lakes but did not see any benefit. Another presentation discussed the push for natural shorelines. Pentwater Lake is 70% hard (sea walls) and 30% soft (natural). Some people have tried fake coral. Rich P mentioned some people have put stones in front of their seawall which is better for natural vegetation to grow.

- Facebook Committee: We need to regroup to discuss if we are strictly informational or do we want to have lighter posts too? Beth had posted a picture of a local wooden boat with owners aboard and it got several likes and comments. The Fishing Tournament pictures drew a great response! People like pictures, not just narratives. Pat mentioned that during the Inland Lakes presentations they noted Facebook is for the public and Twitter for politicians and reporters.

-Meeting Publicity and Minutes: We have been having “informal” PLA meetings and not advertising these since Covid pandemic started in March. This is what our website states currently:

The regular monthly board meetings for the Pentwater Lake Association (PLA) are suspended for the present time due to the COVID - 19 crisis. If PLA members have questions or concerns, please contact Lynne Cavazos, Board President by phone, email, or text. Home Phone: 231-869-5939 Email: lcavazos5939@charter.net Text: 805-705-5846

Is it time to start advertising our Zoom meetings to the general public again? We need to be open. How: Newspaper? FB site? Website? Should we post the Minutes on the PLA Website? George said it is possible to do this. All agreed need to have the Minutes approved prior to posting. A lengthy discussion ensued.

Rich P. made a motion to publicize the PLA Meetings in the newspaper(s), PLA website and add to FB as well. Pat H seconded the motion. Rich P. proposed discussion. Afterward, Tom W. then made a revised motion to prepare for larger groups that we should post the approved Minutes on the website and post the Agenda on our FB site. This is in addition to advertising in the newspapers. We may need to assign a time for Guest comments/input so the agenda would help with that. **The revised motion was approved.**

Lynne will send the Agenda for the PLA board meeting one week before the scheduled meeting so it can be posted on our PLA Facebook site. Anyone interested in attending the PLA Board meeting must contact Lynne for a ZOOM invite to the meeting.

C. -**Membership** – Rich Pugsley

Membership currently 233 with 17 unpaid members. See additional notes under Treasurer’s Report. 6 New Membership packets have been mailed. Rich added that he laminated large business cards inviting the public to join the PLA. They have been placed in 12 different locations and encouraged us to find them!

D. **Water Quality** –Mike Peters, absent

Joan M-S has been apprenticing with Rich and Joe. She is very impressed with Rich and Joes quality work and dedication.

Rich P stated they submitted samples 2 months ago and are waiting for the GVSU Water Quality Summer Report to be completed. Joe P added that the lab tech at GVSU was on leave as one of the issues. The sampling was completed in September. It will be October before we can get the final report. Water clarity was one of the values that has improved.

E. Natural Resources – Joe P.

1) EMILY NEUMAN, GVSU joined our meeting and presented her work monitoring Starry Stonewort growth over time (this summer) in Pentwater Lake. She is monitoring 6 sites total. 3 of them are: Bush's dock, Rich P. home, Mike Peters home. Emily will continue to monitor through October. So although the report is not fully completed, Emily has already found some very interesting, helpful discoveries about growth, patterns and the what seems to promote or slow the growth. The sites all have different peak dates, thickness, height. For example: At Mike P's home, he has so much native plant growth that Starry Stonewort is kept at bay. Emily has had a delay getting results from her samplings. Hopefully we will know even more in the coming months. Her presentation stimulated much conversation about planting native plants and prevention. Silver Lake did plant native plants. PLIB would do this but it must be initiated by the Lake Manager. Emily said she never went to get samples without a spotter because it is possible that her snorkel would be tangled in the weeds. This is a true danger and we noted it would be good to post some warnings for swimmers and boaters. The Minutes cannot possibly encompass the depth of discussion. We look forward to the final results from Emily and then using this information to improve Pentwater Lake situation.

2) JOE P: US Survey: There are 8 categories that are rated as "At Risk", "In Decline", or "In Crisis". PTW Lake is "At risk" in 5 of 8 categories. The 5 At Risk categories are:

1. Invasive species: Starry Stonewort, Frogbit. Of note: 5 tons of frog bit were removed in 2.5 hours out of Apache Hills channel this summer.
2. Clarity: < 10 feet
3. Fishing isn't what it used to be: losing pan fish, but we are managing this actively.
4. Phosphorus, 27/parts per billion.
5. Dissolved oxygen: game fish can't survive in depths over 20 feet during the summer months. Joe will send us this report. He was encouraged to write an article for the newsletter.

F. Social – Lynne C.

No updates due to Covid 19. All events have been canceled.

G. Website – George

Discussion regarding posting the Minutes on the website. We do need a clearer copy of last months minutes. Pat will work with Betty to obtain email copy rather than use the scanned copy. Also, George pointed out that AnnaMae is not officially on the Board anymore but is an active member of PLA as the Newsletter Editor and shared Secretary duties with Betty and Beth.

H. **Education** – Betty: Absent.

See Betty's comments regarding Educational ideas / plans under Work Group Report. Will need to choose where to begin and build on this area.

OLD BUSINESS:

Work Groups: Each Group reviewed the reports that were submitted prior to meeting. *These were emailed separately and will not be included in these minutes.*

Each group shared. After shares, it was proposed that because there are so many ideas that each group meet again and decide top 3 priorities to work on and bring back to the next meeting. When we share in October, the group may comment, discuss and final decisions will be made at that time of what to accomplish for the 2020-2021 year.

Some Examples:

Aquatic Vegetative Management: Tom/Joe/Janet: Lengthy discussion about Frogbit. EGLE unable to spray upriver this year b/c of Covid and at the end of July Brandon M used a drone to see how much invasion was occurring. It is extensive. There have been harvests x 3 now – the last one 400# removed. More to be done and organized and riparian help is needed. It is too late to spray now, they will come back in the Spring when seeds develop. This is a major project.

Water Quality: Joe P: Need to do an "Annual State of the Lake Report". It would be great to have a published report. We need a lead person for this.

Boating Safety / Water Safety: Rich mentioned can do more with the Bullseye charts.

Community Involvement / Education: Pat H: Need to create full PLA Group email and utilize to inform PLA members of workshops, etc. The PTW Magazine - could add the PLA link at the end of our articles and encourage membership.

Lynn and George created a comprehensive list of current on-going projects and events which helps keep our work in perspective. Need to have reasonable and accomplishable goals.

NEW BUSINESS:

BOOM: Tom/Joe/Rich

PILB with EGLE are intending to install a boom to stop Frogbit from invading PTW Lake. It will be on the river side of Longbridge Rd bridge. Cost is approximately \$1,000. PILB is to manage it. We have \$2400 left in our budget to assist. So far, PLA is donating \$100 for the permit. The permit is in the last stages of being cleared. There are still questions to be answered before it can be cleared. Bill Keipers is keeping Joe P posted. The Permit needs to be done asap for the boom to be most effective. This is the first in the state to try this. There is concern – will it hold, how to clear it out, no guarantee it will work. Can the harvester be used behind it? Cost for harvester is \$275/hour.

The PLA Board Members will get an email with information regarding Boom costs.
The Board will vote via Email rather than wait for the next Board meeting.

Meeting adjourned @ 9:05pm

Next meeting: OCTOBER 19, 2020 6:30pm via Zoom