

PLWF Council Meeting Minutes

Farr Center, Onekama - 7:00 – 9:00 - Tuesday, August 27, 2013

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mary Reed, Herb Lenon, Jamie Meister, Dan Behring, Al Taylor, Dave VanEerden, Alice Hendricks, Kathy Ervin

GUESTS: Bob Gezon (White Lake Dock & Dredge), Tim Ervin (AES), Rob Carson (Manistee Planner Kristen Sheffield (Manistee County Aquatic Species Specialist); many members of the public.

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 by Chair Mary Reed who also welcomed guests.
2. Frank English moved that the agenda be approved; Kathy Ervin seconded. Motion passed.
3. Minutes of the June 25th meeting were distributed and approved.
4. **Treasurer's Report** – Frank English reported that balances for watershed funds had remained largely unchanged since the previous month. Mary added that the fundraiser generated \$13,515.00 with a net of \$9,784. Jim Mrozinski moved that the organization's 2013 budget be amended to reflect fundraiser results; Herb Lenon seconded. Motion passed.
5. **Portage Point Inn Presentation** - In his introduction of Bob Gezon, Tim Ervin briefly explained what had been done to date to lay the groundwork for revitalizing Portage Point Inn, emphasizing efforts to keep everyone informed. Bob Gezon then spoke at some length and, among other remarks, made the following points:
 - a. His plan is conceptual in nature and subject to change.
 - b. Because the infrastructure for the Inn is inadequate, proceeding depends on extending Onekama's sewage system to handle anticipated increase in use.
 - c. As work is undertaken on the sewer system, the plan includes dealing with road and utility issues including developing a bike/pedestrian trail to handle increased traffic.
 - d. Development along the Portage Lake waterfront will provide areas for swimming, resort boating, limited charter boat access, pleasure and charter boat operations, and a public access dock. Reflecting public comments, designs for these areas have undergone revisions.
 - e. Meetings with the Condominium Association have been ongoing with further discussions planned. Concern is to create a sustainable revenue stream.
 - f. The project has to be properly capitalized and a Master Plan is absolutely

required.

In response to questions, Mr. Gezon said that an enlarged marina would be designed such that it would not impact the local fishery; that fish cleaning and pump out facilities would be provided; that he was committed to 'green design' and using materials that would not threaten the quality of the lake; that perhaps a 'no wake' policy should be implemented; that waterfront structures would help to *stabilize* not increase accretion.

He described the goal as producing a "Four Star Casual" resort with high-end amenities and hopes to preserve the historical nature of the Inn. (The Grand Hotel's 'Little Sister').

Al Taylor suggested that further information could be posted on the PLA website.

Mr. Gezon's said that, to go forward, Federal, State, County, Township, Village, and Condo Association will have to be in agreement.

6. **Manistee County Portage Boat Washing Program** – Rob Carson talked briefly about the need to educate the public about how important it is to clean boats to control aquatic and invasive species. Kristen Sheffield described the progress she has made thus far demonstrating the high power portable boat washer.

Brief Recess. Reconvened at 8:30.

7. Committee Reports

- a. Wetlands Committee – no report
- b. Membership Committee – no report
- c. Nominating Committee – Mary named Jamie Meister and Frank English.
- d. Parks & Recreation – Mary said she had been forwarding material to Tom Gerhardt for the updating of the 5 year Parks & Rec Plan.
- e. Harbor Commission – Jim reported that dredging is expected to begin the 1st two weeks of September. Suggested that a thank you letter be directed to officials who have been instrumental in getting this vital work done.
- f. Explore the Shores – Should have final drawings from Christy Summers around Labor Day. Question about the status of the Langland Grant.

8. New Business –

- a. Mary named Al chair of the website committee.

- b. Annual Meeting is scheduled for October 29th
- c. Watershed will have a presence at the Fall Festival.
- d. Watershed will again decorate a Christmas Tree for “Christmas in Onekama” on November 23.
- e. Resolution of Support – After some discussion, the Council approved a resolution in support of a plan to restore Portage Point Inn. (See Attached)

9. **Public Comment** - There was none.

10. **Meeting Adjourned.** Next Meeting – September 24, 2013, Farr Center