

**Portage Lake Watershed Forever**  
**Council Meeting - August 25, 2015 - Farr Center, Onekama**

**Present:** Mary Reed, Kathy Ervin, Alice Hendricks, Jim Simons, Herb Lenon, Jim Mrozinski, Dan Behring, Jamie Meister, Gail Drake, Bee C

**Absent:** Frank English, Susan Spencer

Agenda Item	Discussion
<b>CALL TO ORDER</b>	Mary called the meeting to order at 7:00.
<b>AGENDA</b>	Kathy requested that "Meeting Time" be added to the agenda.
<b>MINUTES</b>	There were two versions of the minutes, both submitted by summer intern Jennifer Scholl. Kathy moved; Jim M. seconded that both be approved.
<b>CHAIR'S REPORT</b>	<p><i>Watershed Collaborative</i> - Mary said that the group felt it imperative that local elected officials be informed about local watershed efforts. The County Commissioners demurred, apparently not convinced of the need. Further efforts will be made to make a presentation to them..</p> <p><i>MDEQ Grant</i> - Update on the status of the grant given.</p> <p><i>Intern Update</i> - Jennifer Scholl will mail her report and Mary will share with Council Members. One of her recommendations was that we get a Web Master to maintain our website. Mary will write a letter of appreciation to her.</p> <p><i>Onekama Days</i> - Mary reported that she and Dan marched in the Onekama Days Parade promoting Clean Boats, Clean Water. Suggestion was made that marchers wear t-shirts identifying them as members of the Council. Mary said that the Kayak Drawing was successful won by Lisa Pepera. Six pages of signatures were collected on a petition to Save the Channel.</p>
<b>COMMITTEE REPORTS</b>	<p><b>Financial</b> - Fund balances are as follows: PLWF Annual Fund - \$36,020.86; Endowment Fund - \$127,232.15; Wetlands Fund - \$5,946.88. One hundred-sixteen people donated to the Annual Fund.</p> <p><b>Fundraiser</b> - The event garnered nearly \$20,000 but all bills have not yet been received so the final results are not available.</p> <p><b>Education</b> - See attached. Brief discussion of Water Wise presentations; time of the sessions (5 - 7) was deemed OK. . Noted that table tents used to draw attention to the crisis with the channel were effective.</p>

**Save the Channel** - Jim Mrozinski spoke about the work that the Harbor Commission has been doing to draw attention to the dire condition of the Portage Lake Channel. Much discussion ensued: urge community to send letters; economic consequences if channel isn't repaired; Senator Stabenow's remark that she is 'dedicated to doing something to help'; community meeting scheduled for September 17th. Recommended that an update be provided to the community re: current status.

**Storm Drains** - Bee Capper reported that labeling the storm drains is underway but more remain to be marked.

**Invasive Species** - Mary spoke about the ciBiobase; time consuming to plot lake; little help; benefits uncertain; we will re-evaluate its use to see if it would be helpful in the future. Dan said that we didn't use the data; Herb responded that it would help identify long term trends. Some felt it was a duplication of the Lake Manager's efforts.

- **Water Quality & Environmental Monitoring** - Mary reported that the spring survey and first treatment are scheduled for mid-June but depend on the weather. Information about treatments is posted on our website as soon as dates is decided. Mary said that phragmites treatment is scheduled between Sept. 10 - 17th depending on the weather. Purple loosestrife is spreading; might be treated with beetles. Spot treatment wherever Eurasian water milfoil appears. Alice questioned the scope of the treatment area - "around the lake" or "in and around the lake". Clarification: "in and around".

- **Wetlands & Critical Lands** - Focus is on the eastern end of the lake (Eastern Crescent) of Portage. Conversations re: options with four landowners.

#### NEW BUSINESS

- **Nominating Committee** - Jim S., Jamie M. and Susan Spencer agreed to serve on the committee. Will have the slate ready by our October meeting.

#### OLD BUSINESS

- **By Laws** - Mary will send them out again for review and comment. They will be discussed at our October meeting; need to be voted on in November.

- **Riparian Overlay** - Discussion about the need of the PLWF Council to support the Planning Commission's Riparian Overlay recommendations.

#### ADJOURN

- Meeting was adjourned at 8:40.

Upper

Decision/Recommendation/Action

Approved as amended.

Approved

Financial Report was approved.

