



## PLWF Council Meeting Minutes

Farr Center – Onekama - 7:00 – 9:00 - Tuesday, August 28, 2012

### MEMBERS PRESENT

Mike Acton, Dan Behring, Frank English, Kathy Ervin, Alice Hendricks, Howard Hughes, Herb Lenon, Jim Mrozinski, DeeDee Miller (by phone), Mary Reed, Al Taylor, Dave Van Eerden

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by Chair Mary Reed.

The minutes of the May meeting were reviewed, corrected (Howard Hughes' name was added to "Members Present") and approved.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

Frank English gave the treasurer's report. As of 8/27/2012, there was \$94,612.00 in the PLWF Endowment; \$33,069.31 in the PLWF Annual Fund. Although Mary Reed said there were still a couple of outstanding bills, the PLWF Wetlands Fund balance is approximately \$5,400.00.

With \$13,000 in donations and expenses of \$4,800 the PLWF Annual Fund Party netted approximately \$8,000. There were 145 people in attendance. It was pointed out that people who contributed to the purchase of the Wetland property were invited to attend *gratis* and many were there. Dave Van Eerden moved that the Treasurer's report be approved; Herb Lenon seconded. Motion carried.

### NEXT SUMMER'S EVENT

Plans were briefly discussed about what kind of party should be held next summer. Howard Hughes said that there was interest in holding another "Fish Out Of Water" event. Kathy Ervin said that some thought had already been given to this idea and she would have a report to give at the October meeting at which time the Council could decide how to proceed.

### WETLANDS

Mary Reed led a discussion about the PLWF's 2012-13 Focus. Her suggestion that we concentrate on Portage Lake wetlands was agreed to. A committee was formed consisting of Al Taylor, Howard Hughes, Dave VanEerden, Dan Behring and DeeDee Miller. This committee would inventory wetlands around the lake, available wetland property for sale and prices.

- Alice Hendricks – Said the community support to purchase the wetland demonstrated people's interest in something tangible at a reasonable cost and local.
- DeeDee Miller – "Generated a lot of good will. How do we tap it further?"
- Howard Hughes – The amount we raised was a drop in the bucket compared to the amount of money available to purchase wetlands. Spoke about Ducks Unlimited's spending \$24.5 million to purchase 69,000 acres of wetlands; 60 acres in Manistee County. He volunteered

to contact Keith Teachout (DU's 2012 president) to get more information about how PLWF might benefit from DU's activities.

- Dan Behring – Wondered how far back the committee would survey. Answer: They will use the Watershed boundaries.
- Dave VanEerden – Disclosed that he is representing the seller of a 7 acre, 725' frontage wetland parcel on Portage Lake that was on the market for less than \$100,000 but that there was some need for expediency.
- Howard Hughes – Suggested that DU might be interested.
- Al Taylor – Thought the Conservancy might also be interested.

### ***HARBOR COMMISSION REPORT***

Jim Mrozinski said that the Portage Lake Channel is in dire need of dredging and infrastructure repair. Rep. Ray Franz was aware of the situation. The Port Collaborative has been actively trying to convey the urgency of the repairs required throughout the state but that the U.S. Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund's \$1 million has been put in the General Fund.

Further, he pointed out:

- The pros and cons of self-funding and concluded that it was not a good idea. Once a community self-funds they stand little chance of receiving federal funds again;
- The Army Corps of Engineers recently conducted a 'condition survey' of the Channel and reported that the depth in the center was 10". This information was received somewhat skeptically;
- Saugatuck is working create a Harbor Advocate position, someone who would be able to get the governor's ear and convince the legislature about the importance of paying attention to these structures;
- If the Channel cannot be used property around the lake would decrease 40 – 45%

Question was asked if a Special Assessment District could be formed to raise money for the Channel, especially given the condition of the piers.

### ***EXPLORE THE SHORES***

Kathy Ervin reported that there has been no further word about the grant application but that a letter from the Trust Fund was expected shortly. The letter would provide additional information about the status of our application.

### ***STATE OF THE LAKE REPORT***

Mary Reed reported that our lake manager Jennifer Jones will report at the upcoming Township meeting on the result of the Eurasian water milfoil (ewm) treatments. We treated ewm twice this summer and each time approximately 70 acres were treated. This is almost as much as the 164 acres that were treated in 2009. We had divers on the lake before and after treatment to confirm the success of the 3 different products that were used. The treatments were considered successful, but the warm winter, hot summer, clear water and low water levels have promoted growth of not only

ewm, but ALL species of weeds. All of the phragmites in the township will be treated after Labor Day and the Portage Lake State of the Lake Annual Report will be available at the end of October.

#### ***BY-LAW STATUS***

The revised by-laws were distributed. Mary urged that everyone review them as they will be voted on at the Annual Meeting in October. If anyone has suggestions, please send them to Jim Mrozinski.

#### ***NOMINATION COMMITTEE***

The following people were nominated for positions on the Watershed Council:

Mary Reed – Chair  
Herb Lennon – Vice Chair  
Frank English – Treasurer  
Kathy Ervin – Secretary

Further nominations are welcome. Elections will take place at the Annual Meeting.

#### ***ANNUAL MEETING***

The Portage Lake Watershed Forever Annual Meeting will be held on October 30<sup>th</sup> at the Farr Center.

#### ***OLD BUSINESS***

Al Taylor reported that the Zoning Commission was working to combine two sets of zoning ordinances, the Township's and the Village's.

#### ***NEW BUSINESS***

As there was none, the meeting was adjourned at 8:58-ish.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Ervin