

Portage Lake Watershed Forever
Council Meeting - January 31, 2017 - Farr Center, Onekama

Present: Frank English, Ted Lawrence, Jim Simons, Kayla Knoll, Susan Halloran, Pat Lawrence, Mary Reed, Al Taylor, Kathy Ervin

Absent: Jamie Meister, Bee Capper, Jim Mrozinski

Agenda Item	Discussion	Decision/Recommendation/Action
CALL TO ORDER	Al Taylor called the meeting to order at 7:00	
AGENDA	Taylor added "Conflict of Interest" under New Business.	Agenda approved.
MINUTES	Minutes were approved with the addition of Jamie Meister being present at the November 29th meeting.	English moved; Lawrence seconded. Approved as amended
FINANCIAL REPORT	<p>■ Jim Simons, Council Treasurer, reported fund balances as follows: Endowment: \$145,695.83; Annual: \$43,661.54; Wetlands: \$6,113.19. He distributed a final 2016 Expenditure report as well as a proposed budget for 2017. The proposed budget will be approved at the next meeting. Council members were encouraged to contact Simons with comments or changes to his draft. We confirmed understanding that funds could be moved from category to category as needed with Council approval.</p> <p>Mary Reed noted two additional expenditures: Increase in subscriptions to the quarterly Riparian Magazine amounting to \$144; Contribution to the publication of the Watershed Partnership Newsletter between \$75 - \$200. Discussion ensued about distinguishing among/between various newsletters on our website and the need to separate PLWF's articles from other organizations' publications. Further discussion about using e-mail addresses to distribute PLWF's articles by including a note explaining that e-mail addresses would be shared with organizations with like interest. Addressees may opt out, otherwise their tacit approval is assumed.</p>	Mary Reed moved to accept the Treasurer's report; Sue Halloran seconded. Approved.
COMMITTEE REPORTS	<p>■ Nominating Committee - No report</p> <p>■ Education & Outreach Committee - Mary Reed shared copies of the Watershed Partnership December newsletter.</p> <p>■ Membership - Pat Lawrence, Membership Chair, suggested that PLWF's membership initiative be changed from its current calendar year to May through April. Council members concurred. Lawrence also questioned the range of dues we have and proposed eliminating all but General Membership (\$30) and Lifetime Membership (\$500) while keeping "Other" as a option on the membership form.</p> <p>■ Fundraising - No report</p>	Membership Initiative was approved. Frank English moved to support the change in membership dues; Jim Simons seconded. Approved.

- NEW BUSINESS**

 - **Water Quality and Environmental Monitoring** - Mary Reed said was a meeting with the Brie (Lake Manager) during which the plan for 2017 was reviewed. Herb "Hot Off The Presses" Lenon distributed a synopsis of Portage Lake's 2016 status. The report is available on the watershed website. Mary Reed also said that she would be presenting an 8-year report on the State of the Lake at the Township meeting next week (Tues).

Frank moved; Jim Simons seconded. Approved. Mary Reed will scan Herb Lennon's report and send it to Council members as well as having it posted on our website.
 - **Conflict of Interest** - Ted Lawrence briefly explained 'conflict of interest' and pointed out that this issue was covered in PLWF's By-Laws (Article IV, Section 4.05) thus eliminating the need for council members to sign a "conflict of interest" form. Pat Lawrence also noted that she and Ted have been married for 47 years, not 45 years as Ted stated.
 - **Council Member Profiles** - Al Taylor introduced the topic of council member profiles being listed on the webpage as he felt such information provides credence to the organization. Discussion ensued with the outcome being that the e-mail addresses of two members of the Executive Committee (Al Taylor and Mary Reed) would be listed for public comment and/or questions.
- OLD BUSINESS**

 - **Watershed Plan UPDATE** - Mary Reed distributed a list incorporating tasks and timeframes related to the 10 year update of the plan. Pointed out that all members of the council are likely to be involved and that successful completion of the project required full support.
 - **Swimmers' Itch** - FYI: Mary Reed said that expenses we incurred during this project would likely be reimbursed.
 - **Benzie County Conservation District (BCCD) Request** - Mary Reed shared a letter from the BCCD asking for a 120 hour commitment from us to assist with their portable boat wash project. Discussion about the worthiness of such an effort w/ Kayla Kroll pointing out that it serves as an educational tool and reminder about the importance of keeping invasives out of lakes. Conclusion: We will commit 60 hours providing that the portable boat washing takes place on Portage.

Al Taylor will respond in writing to the BCCD.
 - **Watershed Website** - Mary Reed will be meeting with MS Creative to update our website. Topics include: New Officers and e-mails; Brochure; Manistee Watershed Partnership Newsletter; Watershed Articles from the PLA Newsletter; Convenience of paying dues on line through the Manistee County Communication Foundation website; CiBioBase, Crowd Hydrology updates; Swimmers' Itch; Rain Garden, and other topics.
 - **Updates:**

 - Stewardship Initiative - Information is on line
 - Great Lakes Clean Community Network (GLCCN) - Information is on line
 - 100 Women Who Care - Activity to begin again in the Spring
 - Manistee Conservation District (MCD) - Kayla Kroll announced that their annual meeting is scheduled for next Thursday at 6:30 at Camp Tosebo. Pie will be served. Speaker Topic: Septic Science. All are welcome. She also provided an excellent report on the Fall Lower Manistee River Monitoring Program which will be posted.
 - LRBOI - No report
- PUBLIC COMMENT**

None
- ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38-ish

Kathy Ervin moved; Ted Lawrence seconded. Meeting Adjourned.

NEXT MEETING: February 28, 2017