

Present: Kathy Ervin, Mary Reed, Alice Hendricks, Frank English, Mike Acton, Herb Lenon, Eric Beeman, Tim Morley, Grant Poole, George Punches, Jim Simons, Dee Dee Miller

1. Welcome - Called to order by President Kathy Ervin at 7:00pm. Kathy reviewed and the committee approved the January 2010 meeting minutes. Kathy requested an update to mention proposed letter of support to Joint Master Plan.

2. Treasurer Report – Treasurer Frank English reviewed Annual fund balance at \$14731.83. Mike Acton, chair of endowment fund, reported the there would be no grants from endowment fund in 2010 as fund did not reach targeted 5% return in 2009. The endowment fund oversight board will meet next week, consisting of Mike Acton, David Meister, David Combs, Bob Evans, Lee LaFleur and Dick Tomlinson.

3. Master Plan – Kathy Ervin introduced a non-political letter of support to the Joint Master Plan team. She thanked the Joint Master Plan team for incorporating elements of the watershed plan. Board unanimously agreed to the letter of support.

4. Asian Carp - Kathy Ervin drafted letter to President Obama expressing concern over Asian Carp. Rep. Hoekstra, Senator Stabenow and Senator Levin will be copied. Dee Dee Miller questioned if we could get a coalition of watershed groups to support the letter. Frank English requested the Asian Carp topic be added to the watershed website.

5. 2010 Cocktail Party – Dee Dee Miller shared the theme may be a nostalgia tour with historical pictures and stories of Portage Lake. Mike Acton confirmed he is securing liquor license. Dee Dee also has reserved large tent and will need help addressing invitees. Dee Dee is considering inviting those from the large PLWF mailing list.

6. Explore the Shores Application – Kathy Ervin stated an announcement was pending on which projects would receive grants. A single application was submitted from the Onekama area.

7. Stewardship Initiative - Kathy Ervin reported first meeting with school staff is to occur 2/24/10 at 3:30pm at school. Gina Hagen, Bob Evans, Kevin Hughes, Kathy Ervin and Jim Hunter to attend.

8. State of the Watershed Plan – Herb Lenon reviewed draft status report. Some modifications were needed prior to distribution. Dee Dee Miller suggested we may want to hire professional marketing assistance to ensure a cohesive message is maintained in all our watershed communications, including this status report as an example.

9. Education and Outreach Committee – Dee Dee Miller to research list of recommended products that are “safe” for Portage Lake. This information will be included in an update to the Homeowners Packet from 2009. Kathy Ervin also reviewed potential education forums for summer 2010. Ideas included pontoon ride to review invasive species or fish broil at end of year in village park. Video programs are an additional possibility.

10. Grant Committee – Kathy Ervin discussed need for a Grant Committee. Some discussion followed on whether this was needed yet. Frank English agreed to document procedure to for awarding grants. The grant committee idea will be revisited once the watershed has spendable endowment funds again. Mike Acton suggested a long term budget for the annual fund and endowment funds be developed for next meeting.

11. Watershed Information Boxes at Boat Launches – Village approved concept at village park per Alice Hendricks. Tim Morley presented options from several vendors that included lockable doors and boxes at both village park and the DNR launch. Tim and Mary Reed will attend village council meeting with specific part numbers and recommendation for implementation at village park. Motion to budget \$2000 passed, no dissent. Tim Morley is designated project manager and will own budget. DNR followup on sign installation necessary. Jim Simons will confirm information box plan with Al Elzinger, DNR representative covering Orchard Beach & Tippy Dam areas.

12. Next Meeting - The next meeting will be held March 23rd, 2010 7:00-9:00pm at the Farr Center.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Eric Beeman

PLWF Secretary