

## **PLWF Council Meeting Minutes**

Portage Lake Covenant Bible Camp - 7:00 – 9:00 - Tuesday, February 26, 2013

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Kathy Ervin, Herb Lenon, Jim Mrozinski, Jon Phillips, Mary Reed, Al Taylor, Dave Van Eerden

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chair Mary Reed.
2. **Agenda** – The Agenda was approved with the addition of several items to “New Business”
3. **Minutes** – The Minutes of the January 29<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved. (Mrozinski moved, Taylor seconded, motion passed.)

### **4. Financial Reports**

**Treasurer** - In Frank English’s absence, Mary reported that there had been no change in PLWF account balances aside since the last meeting.

**2013 Proposed Budget – Budget was passed. Vote included those who indicated approval via e-mail.**

5. **Membership** – Council members discussed a membership proposal that included six levels levels of participation. Conclusion was to reduce the number to 3 levels and to establish a mid-range membership fee. Kathy suggested that we table a decision on this matter until the next meeting pending a response from the Manistee County Community Organization.
6. **Annual Fundraiser** - No further information at this time.
7. **Harbor Commission Report** - Jim Mrozinski reported that he was assured that the Portage Lake harbor would be dredged this year and would be 100% funded to the tune of \$200,000. He added that the infrastructure issues would also be addressed, if not this year than the next. In addition, he was assured that the DNR boat launch would be dredged, too, although the work schedule is uncertain – 2013 or 2014.

### **8. Committee Reports**

**Wetlands** – Nothing new to report. The committee is pursuing information about deed restrictions from the Township. Al wondered if the Conservancy could help bundle properties and pointed out that the Arcadia model included beach protection in their plan. No action taken.

**State of the Lake** – Mary reported that four Companies were interviewed to replace Lakeshore Environmental, Inc. and that a contract has been signed with Professional Lake Management.. The selection team is confident that their work would be more useful and timelier. Herb, meanwhile, has been compiling data that has been collected since 1973 about Portage Lake. This data will allow him to identify trends and provide longitudinal information. He did, however make several observations about the state of the lake:

- ▶ The oxygen level at the bottom of the lake (-0) has been the same since 1991.
- ▶ In 1991, the Eurasian milfoil was the most abundant plant in the lake; this is not a new problem.
- ▶ Portage Lake has many advantages not shared by other Michigan watersheds: it has an outlet to one of the Great Lakes and it is fed by 27 streams.

As all of his work, thus far, has been handwritten, we agreed that getting a person to input the data would be helpful; this will likely happen when Herb returns from vacation.

**Parks & Recreation Tree Committee** – Jon Phillips said that 95% of the trees planted last year at North Point Park didn't survive due **to drought**. As soon as nurseries open this spring more trees will be purchased. Everyone who helps with the tree planting – an extremely well-attended community event – will receive a seedling to plant. Based on our passage of the 2013-2014 budget, PLWF will be contributing \$500 toward the purchase of trees.

**Explore the Shores** – Jon Phillips reported that Beckett & Raeder have been selected to oversee the Village Park project and that a new manager has been named. The Leadership Team will work closely with Jami Klomp (AES) to keep this project moving forward.

## 9. New Business

**July 6<sup>th</sup> Concert in the Park** - "Cousin Curtis", a Cajun Blues band whose leader hails from Traverse City, has offered to hold a free concert on July 6<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) in the park to benefit the Watershed (or another local cause). Al said he has reserved the park and the school (in case of rain) but that he'd gotten chastised by a Village Council member for making the arrangements without the Council's approval. Jim Mrozinski offered use of the marina instead. Village Council will decide at their March meeting and we will consider having an "educational booth" at the event. Mary said that further research is needed re: our liability insurance.

**Meeting Schedule** – The Council decided to schedule monthly PLWF meetings on the last Tuesday of the month.

**Invasive Species Committee** – Mary requested that the name of the committee be changed as it does not reflect the scope of its activities and suggested "**Lake Management Committee**" instead. Jim Mrozinski thought that there could be some confusion with the by-

laws of the Harbor Commission as they, too, deal with the condition of the lake. Kathy offered to compare the by-laws and report at the next meeting if there is an issue.

**Outreach Suggestion** – Al Taylor remarked that attendance at the Lion’s Club breakfast and the Girl Scout Dinners is impressive. He suggested that we investigate ‘hosting’ such an event which would give the watershed an educational opportunity and, as an added inducement, split the proceeds.

**10. Adjourn** - The meeting was adjourned at 8:37.

**The next PLWF Council meeting will be on March 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00.**

Respectfully submitted, K. Ervin, Secretary