

Portage Lake Watershed Forever
Council Meeting - February 24, 2015 - Farr Center, Onekama

Present: Bee Capper, Herb Lenon, Jamie Meister, Al Taylor, Jim Simons, Frank English, Mary Reed, Kathy Ervin, Braden Hagen

Absent: Susan Spencer, Dan Behring, Jim Mrozinski, Gail Drake, Alice Hendricks

Guests: Al Diggins, Jeneanne Fitzgerald

Agenda Item	Discussion
CALL TO ORDER	Mary called the meeting to order at 7:05 and welcomed Braden Hagen, Onekama Consolidate Schools representative.
AGENDA	No changes.
MINUTES	Minutes were approved.
FINANCIAL REPORT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="548 760 1623 857">■ Financial - Treasurer Frank English provided current information about fund balances and distributed report. <i>See attached.</i> Al suggested adding "Endowment" to next month's council meeting. The 2015Budget was reviewed and, following a correction, passed.. Al requested that \$300 be added to Education expenses to help defray PLA's newsletter costs. Expenditure will be included in the Education line item. Funds to cover website costs were added to "Operating Expenses".
STUDENT REP. PRESENTATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="548 1060 1623 1341">■ Braden Hagen, the newest student representative on the Council, answered several questions about himself. His involvement - which constitutes an independent study - will earn credits toward high school graduation. He provided 'in-service' information about how council members could access MISIN (Midwestern Invasive Species Information Network). This app allows users to identify and pinpoint the location of invasives for MISIN. Jeneanne Fitzgerald, who attended the meeting, volunteered to oversee Braden's activities and flesh out an appropriate plan of activities. Mary Reed and Kathy Ervin are also involved. Bee Capper will write a news letter article about Braden.

WEBSITE UPDATE

- Mary reported that the watershed's revised website is on line and can be accessed at portagelakewatershed.com OR onekama.info/watershed OR through the PLA's facebook page. She will make sure that the PLWF is invoiced for MS Creative services. Also asked for feedback from Council members. Frank suggested that Braden review the site and provide feedback about its effectiveness. We will send out an announcement that the website is "live". Mary will ask Tom Gerhardt for the membership of the Summer Resort Corp so they can also be notified.

RETREAT FOLLOW-UP

- Broad discussion about results of the retreat. Specific focus on top priorities and where implementation responsibilities reside, primarily with Committee chairs. *Ad hoc* committees may be appointed as necessary. Jim Simons and Frank English agreed to serve as a committee to review Riparian Ordinances; Al Taylor is doing research on the subject. Kathy Ervin will begin work toward identifying and meeting with relevant entities/partners whose responsibilities are congruent with PLWF's.

It was agreed that the Executive Committee develop an Administrative Assistant job description and follow-through with filling the position.

Council members were asked to review the 2015 Timeline/Calendar (attached) and provide further details of events or activities.

COMMITTEES

- **Education** - No report.
- **Fundraiser** - Ongoing committee meetings. No formal report.
- **Water Quality and Environmental Monitoring** - **Several** copies of the 2014 Watershed Report were available for review. Talked briefly about critical properties; Al said that the Conservancy will help this project.
- **Wetlands & Critical Lands** -Herb moved that we provide the Riparian Magazine to all members. His motion was amended to all Council members; KE seconded. Agreed to revisit subscription to members next year.
- **Nomination Committee** - No report
- **Membership** - announced that a Mailing List Party is being held at her home on March 3 at 1:00 to compile, edit, correct, update, and otherwise fine tune the PLWF membership/ mailing list. It is free of charge and all are welcome. NOTE: We have no intention of publishing a membership book. None.

- **By-Laws Committee** - Committee has met. By-laws not reviewed. No action taken by the Council.
- **Publicity** - Bee Capper has volunteered to handle news articles, etc., for which we are all grateful.
- **Winter Festival** - Jamie Meister reported on Onekama's Winter Fest and urged Council members to attend. Kathy Ervin volunteered to bring soup for the "Soup Cook-off" representing the PLWF.

NEW BUSINESS

- Al Taylor gave an update on the Township Parks & Recreation initiative to install a universally accessible Kayak (and Canoe) Launch at the DNR site. Part of Blue Water Trails initiative.

OLD BUSINESS

- Mary reviewed Council meeting dates.
- Mary said that the Great Lakes Clean Community Networks will go live in the next couple of months. Briefly mentioned the ciBioBase program.
- Kathy will review past minutes to determine if the PLWF Council committed \$5,000 to the Langland Park "Explore the Shores" grant match.
- Jeneanne Fitzgerald suggested that the watershed support a spring beach/road ends clean up. Said that her family has raked two public access sites annually and thought it would be a good community activity. Support from the council. It was suggested that Jeneanne check with the Road Commission for further information; they may pick up the trash.

ADJOURN

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:50.

NEXT MEETING

MARCH 31, 2015 7:00 Farr Center

Decision/Recommendation/Action

Approved.

Jim Simons moved; Bee Capper seconded.

Approved.

Herb Lenon moved, Jim Simons seconded.

Approved.

Jamie Meister moved re: PLA newsletter; Bee Capper seconded. Passed. Herb Lenon moved passage of budget; Al Taylor seconded. Passed.

Mary will assure that MS Creative invoices the watershed, not PLA. She will contact Summer Resort Corp about getting its mailing list. Braden will review website/provide feedback.

Al Diggins requested that he be sent the model. Riparian Ordinance and Partnership outcomes to be reported on at the next meeting.

Herb moved re: Riparian Magazine; Kathy Ervin seconded. Passed. Mary will follow-up.

