



## PLWF Council Meeting

Farr Center – Onekama - 7:00 – 9:15 - Tuesday, June 28, 2011

### Members present:

Kathy Ervin, Mark Tonello (DNR), Alice Hendricks, Howard Hughes, Herb Lenon, Dee Dee Miller, Denny Blue, Mary Reed, Jim Simons, Al Taylor,

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by Chairwoman Kathy Ervin. The minutes of the April meeting were reviewed and approved with minor clarifications. Alice Hendricks moved minutes be approved as clarified, seconded by Herb Lenon, minutes approved

### TREASURER'S REPORT

Kathy Ervin gave the treasurer's report for Treasurer Frank English. She reported that:

Endowment fund balance remains at \$87,146.19

Annual fund balance is \$15,404.81 with expenses outstanding for the Fund Raiser

Howard Hughes asked for and received clarification of how the annual fund is funded and how it is used. There was also a question of how much do we need to have in the Endowment Fund before we can use some of the money. Kathy will check and let us know.

Al Taylor moved to approve the report and Jim Simons seconded. Report approved

### ENDOWMENT FUND

Mike Acton was not present to give us an update on the progress of the endowment fund initiative.

### LAKE PROGRES REPORT

Mary Reed reported that the lake was surveyed for phragmites and ewm on June 7th. Less than 5 acres of ewm were found at this time. Since we had a cold spring, the survey will be repeated the week of July 4th. Herb Lenon and Chuck Reed participated in the first survey. Herb noted that they found many native plants now growing in the areas that previously had ewm. He also noted that very little ewm was found in the channel.

### OLD BUSINESS

### COMMUNITY PARKS PROJECT

The committee working on building universal access to the lake through our parks has been working diligently since April. This initiative is being funded with funds through Michigan Coastal Zone Program as part of the Explore the Shores program the firm of Beckett & Raeder was selected to work with the committee to produce site designs and preliminary

engineering concepts. The firm toured the parks in May with members of the leadership team. On June 8th a prioritization meeting was held with the leadership team. On July 14, Beckett and Raeder will come back to us with their design. July 28th there will be a public meeting to present their ideas to the community. On July 29th possible "fundlers" will be coming to Onekama and we will give them a tour and point out the "opportunities" we have to offer. There were 22 parks and access points reviewed. 7 parks were prioritized - Village, Langland, Glen, North Point, Farr Center, Zosel, and the newly acquired wetlands. In addition to the goal of universal access other goals are to improve signage and have a "system" of parks. They will study all the parks and present a report that addresses needed renovation, ways to link the parks and ways to promote our parks and community. Part of the charge to Beckett & Raeder is also to explore potential funding sources. The goal is to have a final report to the community by mid September. You may go to the Onekama website to get more information or log on directly to [www.bria2.com/blog/index.php/onekamaparks](http://www.bria2.com/blog/index.php/onekamaparks).

## **ANNUAL FUNDRAISER**

Dee Dee Miller reported that the 4th Annual Fundraiser that will be held July 9 from 5 to 7 PM at the Canfield House. It will be hosted by Jane and Paul Mueller. Dee Dee expressed concern that they sent out 1700 invitations and have currently received only a few rsvps... (Consensus was that people wait to the last minute to RSVP.) Dee Dee suggested that after the event, we look to other formats for this event in the future. She is still looking for more volunteers to help with set up on the day of the event. This is the last year she will chair this event and suggests we take a year off and then look at other options. Kathy Ervin will be the speaker this year and she will review all that the watershed has accomplished, stimulated and supported during the past year.

## **BY-LAW REVISION**

The committee has not been able to meet prior to this meeting.

## **H2O EXPO**

Al Taylor and Mary Reed gave a brief update on the plans for this event. Our goal is to educate the community about the watershed and increase community awareness of what they can do to protect it. A large tent will be erected in the park and we will have information and speakers on subjects such as shoreline landscaping, storm water control, fishing displays and reports, invasive species, clean lakes/clean boats, septic systems, etc. There will be prizes awarded for the Sooper Yooper Art Contest, a bicycle ride, and other events to add to the activities of Onekama Days. All people who attend and register will have the opportunity to win a kayak. Lots of ideas have not yet been finalized. A sign up sheet was passed around for volunteers to sign up to work.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **FISHERIES REPORT**

Howard Hughes reviewed his subcommittee's recommendations after reviewing the Portage Lake 2009 Fishery report. (See attached report) The subcommittee is comprised of

Howard Hughes, Herb Lenon, Jim Simons and Dave VanEerden. After discussion, it was moved by Mary Reed that these recommendations be accepted. Motion was seconded by Herb Lenon and motion was approved. The report will be a part of the H2O Expo and Al Taylor will do posters, Howard Hughes will provide fish mounts of fish caught in our lake to have on display.

Mark Tonello then reviewed the high points of the 2009 Portage Lake Fisheries Report. Mark started with complimenting Heather L. Seites for the outstanding work she did in compiling the data and writing the report. She collected 10 years of useful information. Summary of the report is that Portage Lake is still very healthy and we need to continue to maintain the healthy fish communities. Mark reviewed the stocking of walleyes. Goal is to stock 53,000 annually. No walleyes were stocked anywhere in Michigan in 2007 because of the threat of VHS. From 2007 to 2011 they only stocked in lakes with no outlet or in lakes with access to Lake Michigan. Now in 2011 they are sure the fish they raise are VHS free so they are now playing catch up to stock lakes. Portage Lake will not be stocked this year, but probably will be in 2012. Mark feels that missing one year of stocking should not affect our walleye population. Mason Co Walleye Association provided ponds in Ludington to raise the DNR fish. Carter Cole is the President of this organization and should be contacted to see if they need financial or volunteer help from interested people in Onekama. Coho is the one fish that gets cut if there are budget cuts. They were stocked in 2010 and 2011. He also discussed stocking of Chinook salmon, brown trout. Brown trout stocking has been moved to Arcadia Lake. Mark also discussed the importance of wetlands protection and the issues with outlet 6 east of the DNR ramp. Dee Dee Miller ask about the safety of eating Portage Lake fish and Mark stated that we do not have any advisory above what the Michigan Department of Community Health has on their website. Mark hopes that another survey of Portage Lake will be done in 10 years. The Portage Lake Watershed Forever will send a letter to Todd Kalish (DNR Supervisor for Mark and Heather) noting the outstanding work that they did on this report.

## **HARBOR COMMISSION**

Denny Blue reported for Jim Mrozinski on the **Michigan Port Collaborative** which helps ports on the water to develop healthy economies. This was formed in 2007 by Governor Granholm to focus on Michigan. It is tied to the Pure Michigan campaign as our small harbors and ports are "Michigan's Front Door". Some ports haven't developed and the goal is to help communities with small harbors to promote their area. Onekama Township and Village have passed resolutions to support this. These 3 documents will be submitted by the Harbor Commission to the Port Coalition Steering Commission to assist us in getting funding in the future:

1. Michigan Port Collaborative Community/Regional Asset Inventory.
2. M-22 Economic Development Strategy
3. Regional Supplement to the Economic Development Strategy  
(Region goes from Manistee River to M115 North)

The Port Coalition is made up of 60 members out of 110 ports in Michigan. Some ports have been making significant improvements even in these difficult times. Denny noted that we have a great many "planning groups and perhaps not enough "implementation groups". Discussion followed. Many good things have happened here such as development of a Master Plan, but there's very little to "see and do" in Onekama. Al Taylor pointed out the

need for high speed internet. DDAs in other areas have made things happen. The fishing community and the M22 way finding system can contribute to our economic development. Board members are asked to send comments to Jim Mrozinski.

## **WELL TESTING**

Mary Fairgrieve sent a letter to the board (attached) expressing her concerns about the safety of our ground water. She has done extensive research which she shared in her letter. Because of the number of oil and gas wells in Onekama, she and several of her neighbors had their wells tested for 76 different organics. This was done by Grand Traverse Analytical LLC for \$160 each. Mary pointed out that we need to pro actively protect our watershed from pollution by the energy production process in our vicinity.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Alice Hendricks pointed out the many great things that have recently been accomplished in Onekama, such as the Joint Master Plan and Planning Commission, M-22 Initiative, Exploration of consolation of the Village and Township, Community Parks Project

Meeting adjourned at 8:39 PM

Next meeting is August 30th at 7:00 PM in Farr Center

Respectfully Submitted  
Mary Reed  
Secretary Pro tem