

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

Present: Bee Capper, Jamie Meister, Al Taylor, Frank English, Mary Reed, Kathy Ervin, Braden Hagen, Susan Spencer, Alice Hendricks, Jin

Absent: Dan Behring, Gail Drake, Jim Simons, Herb Lenon

Guests: Laura Heintzelman

Agenda Item	Discussion
CALL TO ORDER	Mary called the meeting to order at 7:00 and welcomed Laura Heintzelman, Manistee County Community Foundation Executive Director
AGENDA	Addition to consider/review donation to Langland Park
MINUTES	Minutes were approved.
FINANCIAL REPORT	■ Financial - Treasurer Frank English provided current information about fund balances and distributed report.
STUDENT REP. PRESENTATION	■ Braden Hagen said that he had met with Jeneanne Fitzgerald about his project; he has measured several stream depths and is working on a presentation to give to elementary school science classes about Salmon in the Classroom.
COMMITTEES	■ Education - No report. ■ Fundraiser - Jamie Meister distributed update on the Annual Fundraiser plans. ■ Publicity - Article about Bradon appeared in March 3rd edition of the News Advocate; article submitted to the PLA newsletter; ad taken in the OCS 2015 Yearbook. ■ Water Quality & Environmental Monitoring - Portage Lake will be part of a Eurasian water milfoil study but there was not current action to report.

- **Wetlands & Critical Lands** - Al reported that the area under study runs from East Street to the M-22 Grill. The intent is to gather property information and assessed values. The Grand Traverse Conservancy will assist in the project; their EPA approved plan may allow us to seek funding. The strategy is expected to be completed within 3-4 weeks although the project itself is a long term one (10 years) and may cost around \$1 million.

SPECIAL REPORT

- **Endowment** - Laura Heintzelman, Executive Director of the Manistee County Community Foundation (MCCF) reviewed the history, investment policies, and purpose of the PLWF endowment fund:

Was established with a donation of \$20,000 from Mike Acton to provide flexible and permanent resources to protect the quality, beauty and use of Portage Lake and to ensure the implementation of the watershed plan. It is a council-advised plan. That is, how endowment funds are used is determined by members of the watershed council.

Al suggested that we create talking points to use with potential donors. Further discussion resulted in a committee being formed (Laura, Al, Kathy) to explore development of a capital campaign to grow the endowment. Laura said that an appropriate use for funds currently available would be to spend them on something visible to 'share the news' about watershed successes/activities. She said that approved meeting minutes would be enough to authorize such an expenditure.

GOALS

- **Potential Partners** - In follow-up to a retreat assignment, Kathy displayed a matrix listing watershed plan listing potential partners/shared/overlapping roles which she had e-mailed to Council members. Intent is to determine what tasks/goals listed in the watershed plan are being undertaken by other organizations and to see where our paths cross.

SCHEDULE/TIMELINE

- **2015** - Mary reviewed watershed commitments, activities.

Onkama Days - Question is how are we going to participate. Roz Jaffee needs information in May. One suggestion was to hold a raffle (kayak?). Local family is willing to donate a sailboat to PLWF to use as we see fit. Jim M. will give us an opinion about the condition of the boat. General opinion was to politely decline.

Arbor Days - May 9th at North Point Park. PLWF will have a display, handouts, and free trees. Motion was made to contribute \$300 to Arbor Day activities.

Watershed Banner & Wetland Sign - Kathy reported that she met with Tom Amor to get information and cost estimates. Will provide quote to Parks & Recreation re: wetland sign; banner ideas being considered. "Make today a watershed day." . . .

REPORTS

Harbor Commission - Jim Mrozinski reported that a letter was sent in January to the ACE regarding the perilous condition of the channel walls. Have been in contact with Senator Cray and Beneckek. Said also that rip current warning signs are ready to be installed.

Discussion about posting No Wake Zone signs. While hard to enforce, if the township is willing to establish an ordinance, the Harbor Commission will help.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Michigan Lakes & Streams** (MLS) is holding their annual meeting on May 3-4 at Boyne Highlands.

- **Road Ends/Beach Clean-up** - In partnership with the PLA and Manistee Conservation District, we will participate in helping to clean up beaches and road ends. Will provide plastic bags and treats. Volunteers should meet at the Village Park at 10:00. Bring gloves.

- **Storm Drain Signs** - Determined that the project would be held in the fall. Would have to get approval of the Village Council to mark drains along village streets. PLWF will provide paint and stencils. Bee suggested it would be a good project for grandkids. Frank motioned that we support the Garden Club's overseeing the activity. Mary will contact Rod Carlson to get help in mapping locations.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Langland Park Donation** - Council confirmed our commitment to contribute a total of \$5,000 in matching funds to the Langland Park project. Frank offered an amendment to use \$4000 from the Endowment Fund for this purpose.

ADJOURN

- Meeting was adjourned at +- 8:50.

NEXT MEETING

April 28, 2015 at 7:00 in the Farr Center

n Mrozinski

Decision/Recommendation/Action

Approved.

Jim Simons moved; Bee Capper seconded.

Approved.

No discussion. Ervin moved acceptance;

Capper 2nd; approved. See attached

Attached

Committee: Al Taylor, Kathy Ervin, Laura Heintzelman

Council members are to report findings at subsequent meetings.

Jim Mrozinski 2nd, passed.

PLWF is responsible for putting up both the
PLA and watershed banners this year.

Village approval needed to mark streets in
village. Susan seconded Frank's motion;
approved.

Al moved; Kathy 2nd. Passed Frank moved
re: \$4000 endowment funds; Al 2nd; passed.