

**Present:** Kathy Ervin, Mary Reed, Alice Hendricks, Frank English, Mike Acton, Grant Poole, Jim Simons, Lee LaFleur, Chris Eiler.

**1. Welcome** - Called to order by Chair Kathy Ervin at 7:00pm. Chris Eiler, fish biologist from LRBOI, was introduced. Kathy reviewed minutes of the February 23, 2010 meeting. Mary Reed offered several changes which were approved. Frank English moved and Jim Simons seconded that the minutes be approved as corrected. Motion carried.

**2. Treasurer Report** – Treasurer Frank English reviewed Annual fund balance at \$14731.83. This is the same as last month. Jim Simons moved and Alice Hendricks seconded that the financial report be accepted. Motion carried. Mike Acton reported that the endowment fund oversight board has not met, but will meet before the next meeting.

**3. Committee reports -**

■ **Invasive species committee** - Mary Reed gave an update:

- ▶ **Cornell Report** - The samples sent for testing for the species of phragmites confirmed that the phragmites that was treated was the non-native invasive species, not the native phragmites.
- ▶ **Storm Drains** - These are scheduled to be sampled on Friday, March 26th by the lake manager Jennifer Jones from Lakeside Environmental Inc. and staff. The county drain commissioner, Bob Blackmore from the Village and the invasive species committee will also be present. This should have been done last spring but conditions were not right. Boring samples were discussed; suggestion was made to contact Jack Bales for his advice should the topic be raised again.
- ▶ **Algae alert** - Increased amounts of algae have been found in the Great Lakes and information from [www.greatlakes.org](http://www.greatlakes.org) publication was distributed.
- ▶ **Spring Newsletter** - The Lake Manager, Jennifer Jones of Lakeshore Environmental Inc is developing a "spring newsletter" that will be distributed as an insert in the May PLA Newsletter. It will contain an

update on what riparians should do this spring with the phragmites and the approximate dates for the treatment of the invasives and the monitoring they will do of the lake this year.

- ▶ **Portage Lake Management Study Plan 2009** - The complete, updated report will soon be posted on the Onekama website.

#### 4. Old Business

■ **Explore The Shores Grant** - Kathy Ervin reported that we received 31.8 points out of 36 for the application we submitted. The Alliance of Economic Services (AES) will submit a grant to the Michigan Coastal Management Program for funding. The funds will be used to provide site design and preliminary engineering to determine which of the eleven Onekama Village and Township parks have the greatest potential to meet community needs and to provide access, education and stewardship opportunities. AES will welcome letters of support from the community.

**Stewardship Initiative** - Kathy Ervin reported that the first meeting with the school staff was held on 2/24/10. Second meeting April 3rd. Kathy distributed a draft of a survey that will be submitted to Gina Hagen for approval. The purpose of the survey is to produce a thorough and complete record of water-related lessons, projects and other classroom activities which focus on or use *water* as the primary teaching medium. The survey is expected to be done in May.

**State of the Watershed Plan** – Kathy is working on condensing the information and will give a summary on the things we have accomplished at the next meeting.

**Display Board at the Boat Launches:** – The **Watershed Information Boxes** at the boat launches was discussed. There will not be information pamphlet boxes and the exact name for the sign will be decided at a later date. The initial donation for the sign was from the Don Burkel family to the PLA for the lake. Mary Reed attended the March Onekama Village Council meeting and presented the exact options for the location and the design of the sign. It was approved. The village board is interested in replacing their board near the bathhouse and asks if we would also check on a price for them. Tim Morley and Mary will continue to work on this project. Jim Simons confirmed that we have approval from Al Elzinga, DNR representative for placing a sign at the DNR boat launch. Jim will work with him for the exact location. We will continue to work with Alice Hendricks on the village park sign.

**Sustain Our Great Lakes Grant** - Kathy Ervin reported that the grant for

\$201,640 from the National Fish and Wildlife was not approved however we will be able to use this information for future grant applications. Laura Heintzelman will follow up. Suggestion was made that a personal invitation to our fundraiser in July should be sent to key people in the DNR and to other grant decision makers.

**Master Plan - Kathy** Ervin reported that she read our letter of support at the Onekama Village Council meeting. The Master plan was approved by the village.

## **5. New Business:**

**2010 Proposed Budget** - Frank English distributed the proposed budget for 2010. This was prepared by the budget committee (Kathy Ervin, Mike Acton, Frank English and Eric Beeman.) Consensus was to approve this budget.

**Asian Carp** - Kathy Ervin report that Nancy Behring sent information that Mark Breederland from the Michigan Sea Grant Program will be speaking about the Asian Carp problem in the Great Lakes at the next League of Women Voters meeting. Meeting will be held on April 8th in the West Shore Hospital Community Room. Everyone is invited.

**Onekama Village Park:** Alice Hendricks reported that the several pieces of old playground equipment were removed and new equipment will be ordered. The Village has budgeted \$5,000 for new equipment.

## **Public Comment:**

**Walleye fishing report** - Chris Eiler, a fish biologist from the Little River Tribe has just completed a 5 year study of the walleye in Portage Lake. The study should be finalized in May and he will obtain us a copy of the report. Study was from 2005-2009 and the final report will be sent to the state. They are also working with the DNR on a program to mark the fish that are stocked so they can tell which fish are stocked and which fish are native.

**Next Meeting** - April 27th, 7PM at the Farr Center

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Mary Reed  
Acting Secretary