

PLWF Council Meeting Minutes

Portage Lake Covenant Bible Camp - 7:00 – 9:00 - Tuesday, May 28, 2013

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dan Behring, Frank English, Kathy Ervin, Alice Hendricks, Howard Hughes, Herb Lenon, Jamie Meister, DeeDee Miller (phone), Jim Mrozinski, Mary Reed, Al Taylor, Dave VanEerden

Guest: Chuck Reed

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chair Mary Reed.
2. **Agenda** – The Agenda was approved with no additions. Mary announced that Howard Hughes was stepping down as a council member after participating since the inception of the watershed plan. He assured members that he will continue to support the watershed and all its activities. He will be sorely missed. Howard’s successor, Jamie Meister, was welcomed.
3. **Minutes** – The Minutes of the March meeting were approved as corrected. (Behring moved; Taylor seconded).
4. **Treasurer’s Report** - Frank English reported that fund balances were the same as last month with a minor uptick:
 - PLWF Annual Fund - \$27,227.60
 - Endowment Fund - \$108,817.47
 - Wetlands Fund - \$5,196.25

Question from Howard related to the use of the wetland funds resulted in discussion and clarification:

Funds will be used to erect a sign.

PLWF Wetlands committee is exploring ways to preserve and protect wetlands.

The Wetland Committee (Dave VanEerden, Al Taylor, Howard Hughes, and Herb Lenon) will re-convene. Mary will schedule the meeting.

Because we have purchased a wetland, Al suggested development a management plan for it use.

MCCF (Laura Heintzelman) should be contacted re: establishment of another fund.

Howard moved to approve Treasurer’s report; Ervin seconded. Motion passed.

Mary requested reimbursement of \$849.92 for expenses incurred on behalf of PLWF. Jim Mrozinski moved, Howard Hughes seconded. Motion passed.

Mary requested approval to purchase a display board for use in PLWF education outreach. Ervin moved; Behring seconded. Motion passed.

5. **Annual Fundraiser** – Ervin reported that, with the exception of finalizing the location and caterer, all arrangements had been made.
6. **2013 Calendar** – Mary reviewed dates for opportunities to present information about the watershed. They include the Portage Lake Garden Club, the Portage Point Resort Corporation, and Concerts in the Park.

7. Committee Reports

Invasive Species Monitoring – Chuck Reed demonstrated the benefits of the *ciBoBase* equipment recently purchased which will accurately map contours of the lake and weed density. Our lake management group has the same equipment so will be able to coordinate and analyze bio volume over time. Council members expressed their appreciation for Chuck’s presentation. Herb will be giving a full report next month.

Wetlands Committee Update – Onekama Township will be asked to approve “Eagles View Wetlands/A Community Preserve” as the name of the wetland property at their June meeting.

Explore the Shores - Grant monies have not been received but expectation is that the work will begin in the Fall. Engineering specifications have been taken care of; the tennis courts will be removed and probably seeded; beach clean-up and the construction of the Peron steps are priorities.

8. **Harbor Commission** - Jim Mrozinski provided information on the status of getting the Channel dredged. He said that while the channel is usable and deeper than was originally thought, dredging is still vital. Hopes that it will occur before the 4th of July. Also said that the north wall of the channel is in danger of collapse and that the cost of repairing the infrastructure will be approximately \$6 million.

9. Updates

Mary shared information about the Northern Michigan IS Network and said that the Benzie Watershed Coalition (which has 43 members) is meeting tomorrow (May 29th).

10. New Business

11. Old Business

Committee Structure – Dan Behring’s recommendation about establishing a committee structure that mirrors the primary goals of the PLWF generated considerable discussion: “What is the watershed all about?” “What is the purpose of the endowment?” “What is the responsibility of the PLA vs. PLWF?” “How can we better communicate with the community, i.e. treatment schedule for invasives?”

Membership Committee - By-laws will be reviewed re: any inconsistencies with recommendations. Report will be made at June meeting.

12. Adjourn - The meeting was adjourned at 9:06. (Mrozinski moved; Howard seconded. Motion passed.)

The next PLWF Council meeting will be on June 25, 2013 at 7:00 at the Farr Center in Onekama.

Respectfully submitted, K. Ervin, Secretary