

Portage Lake Watershed Forever **DRAFT #1**
Council Meeting - May 26, 2015 - Farr Center, Onekama

Present: Dan Behring, Gail Drake, Kathy Ervin, Herb Lenon, Jim Mrozinski, Mary Reed, Jim Simons, Al Taylor,

Absent: Bee Capper, Frank English, Jeneanne Fitzgerald, Braden Hagen, Alice Hendricks, Jamie Meister, Susan Spencer

Agenda Item	Discussion
CALL TO ORDER	Mary called the meeting to order at 7:00.
AGENDA	Al requested that Langland Park be added to the agenda.
MINUTES	
FINANCIAL REPORT	■ Financial - In Frank's absence, mary gave the financial report. The AES report that she cited generated a request from Dan that we be provided with more detailed information about disbursements. He also offered to put together a matrix illustrating what he believes is pertinent information.
STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE	■ In Braden's absence, we briefly discussed his performance and expressed some reservations about the outcome of his participation. We will follow-up to get more details about his presentation to the lower grades and the paper he was to do for Nicki Torrey. Meanwhile, as he will not be available next year, another student volunteer should be sought.
COMMITTEE REPORTS	■ Education - Dan reported that two education seminars will be scheduled for late June and early August. Topics are The Value of Wetlands and Shoreline Practices. He is working to find presenters and will reserve the Farr Center when commitments have been secured. Al suggested that all education seminar handouts, etc., be saved in PDF format and posted on our website.

- **Fundraiser** - Plans are moving ahead and benches are arriving. Volunteers will be needed for various tasks and will be contacted. Invitations should go out mid-June.

- **Water Quality & Environmental Monitoring** - Mary reported that the spring survey and first treatment are scheduled for mid-June but depend on the weather. Information about treatments is posted on our website as soon as dates is decided.

- **Wetlands & Critical Lands** - The next meeting of the committee is planned for June 2 at 7:00 at the Township Hall. Several community members have been invited (Frank English, Marilyn Acker, Ted Arens, Beth McCarthy, Helen Mathieu) as well as Chris Sullivan from the Conservancy. Said that Davide Meister may attend to provide some ideas about funding. Focus is on the eastern end of the lake (Eastern Crescent).

- **Storm Drains** - Mary requested \$200 to purchase labels for the storm drains. As an expenditure of this amount does not require council approval, Mary bringing this to the attention of the council was a formality. However her request was approved.

- **Administrative Assistant** - Mary reported that we are entering into a contractual agreement with AES to handle employment formalities and legalities. Mentioned that we had two viable candidates and should have a person hired by the next meeting.

- **Shoreline Protection - Riparian Overlay** - Mary said that she had e-mailed information to council members and asked that we schedule a workshop to discuss our recommendations. Jim S. and Frank are our go-to people in this effort.

SUMMARY OF MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

- Mary provided information about the meetings and workshops she had attended during the month. She will e-mail the details to council members.

NEW BUSINESS

- It was announced that a special meeting will be held to discuss potential sewer around the lake. A consultant is expected to present options for consideration. Date of the meeting to be announced

- **Onekama Days** - In view of the paperwork required by the state to hold a raffle (don't ask) we decided to have a drawing for the kayak instead. Will have the kayak, a volunteer(s), and tickets for people to fill out. Kathy will design so that we capture details re: name, address, email, etc. to add to our mailing lists.
- **No Wake Zone Hearing** - Was well attended. A recommendation will be made to the township board.
- **Watershed Coalition Presentation** - Mary said that the coalition will make a presentation to the County Board of Commissioners to provide education about wetlands, watersheds, and the progress that has been made in the county to protect and maintain these resources.
- **Swimmers Itch** - Brief discussion about swimmers' itch in Northern Michigan. Council members reflected that there had not been reports of swimmers' itch in Portage Lake in some time and that the Department of Public Health should be notified in the event that any incidents occur.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Goals & Potential Partners** - Topic evolved into a lengthy discussion about the condition of the channel and the need for the community to a) be informed and b) contact the Army Corps of Engineers. Jim Mrozinski and Jim Simons urged action. Jim M. called for a meeting to draft a letter to include with summer Tax Bills.
- **Watershed Banner / Wetland Sign** - Pending.

ADJOURN

- Meeting was adjourned at 8:40.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, June 30, 15

Decision/Recommendation/Action

Approved as amended.

Al moved; Jim M. seconded. Approved

Jim moved that we accept the financial report;
Al amended the motion to indicate questions
raised. Report approved.

Work session w/be scheduled.

