



# PLWF Council Meeting Minutes

Portage Lake Covenant Bible Camp - 7:00 – 9:00 - Tuesday, October 30, 2012

## MEMBERS PRESENT

Dan Behring, Frank English, Kathy Ervin, Alice Hendricks, Howard Hughes, Herb Lenon, Jon Phillips, Mary Reed, Jim Simons, Al Taylor, Dave VanEerden

## GUESTS

Wayne Farber – Executive Director, Little Eden  
Laura Heintzelman – Executive Director, Manistee County Community Foundation

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM by Chair Mary Reed.

The agenda was approved as amended.

The minutes of the August meeting were approved as corrected.

## TREASURER’S REPORT

Frank English reported January vs. current balances. See attached for details.

<i>Annual Fund:</i>	\$26,126.79	\$33,215.33
<i>Endowment Fund:</i>	\$93,116.74	\$103,168.81

NOTE: The increase in the Endowment Fund is due to investment performance as well as \$1315 in contributions.

<i>Wetlands Fund:</i>	\$44,305	\$5,436
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NOTE: The current balance reflects purchase of wetland property.

Laura Heintzelman reported that the PLWF Endowment had reached an amount that would permit the Council to allocate approximately \$3,500. This figure was determined by calculating 4% of the fund’s average balance above \$100,000 over a 4 year period ending September 30<sup>th</sup>.

Al Taylor’s observation that the Council can determine how the money is spent to implement the watershed plan was confirmed by Laura.

Laura also pointed out that Michigan law no longer allows tax credits for donations to endowments but that they are deductible on federal tax returns. She distributed a matrix which provides an overview of PLWF funds and accounts.

Al wondered if the purpose of a fund could be changed. Laura responded that it was difficult to do so starting a new fund would be better. She said that the PLWF endowment was

established as broadly as possible to address the goals and objectives of the plan and went on, in answer to a question from Dave VanEerden, that the ultimate purpose of the distribution formula was to protect the principle of the fund.

*Mary paused proceedings to introduce Wayne Farber, newly hired executive director of Little Eden Camp. Mr. Farber follows Junior Kauffman who retired in October after five years at the camp.*

Dan moved that the Treasurer's report be accepted; Alice seconded. Motion passed.

## **WETLANDS COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Mary said that the four meetings held by the Wetlands Committee since August have been focused primarily on defining all options for preserving and protecting wetland property. They met with representatives of the Grand Traverse Conservancy who helped "*expand the way we are looking at things*". The conservancy's position is that it is critical to preserve and protect areas beyond a watershed's obvious boundaries. Further discussion:

Al - The Conservancy found the PLWF Plan "impressive"; they were interested in finding out how Onekama managed to create the Special Assessment District (SAD) to raise funds for invasive species mitigation.

Dan – Geological Information System (GIS) maps obtained through the county have been invaluable in identifying wetland locations and owners. Showing connections and possible consolidations will aid in developing long range acquisition plans and funding opportunities.

Howard – Ducks Unlimited is interested primarily in large areas and restoration projects. They referred us to the Conservancy.

The Wetlands Committee is made up of Al Taylor, Howard Hughes, Dan Behring, David VanEerden and DeeDee Miller. (Mary Reed serves as secretary).

## **HARBOR COMMISSION**

In Jim Mrozinski's absence, Jim Simons reported that Harbor Commission members met with elected officials to visit the channel and view its untenable condition. Another such visit is planned with state Senator Darwin Boehr, and DNR Director Keith Creagh in the hope that their influence can shake loose funds from the \$6 billion-plus Federal Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund for dredging and repair.

NOTE: If you want a quick overview, go to (See <http://www.ramphmtf.org/>)

Frank encouraged members of the council to walk the South Pier to see the amount of erosion that has taken place. He said that wave action is washing land away on the other side of the sidewalk.

Kudos were given to Chuck May and Denny Blue for the dedication and hard work they've invested in this issue and their involvement in the Michigan Port Collaborative.

Discussion:

Al – PLA website gets 2,000-plus hits to the Fishing Report site.

Frank – A \$3 increase in Michigan boat registrations would pay for channel dredging.

### **EXPLORE THE SHORES**

Kathy Ervin said that announcement of grant awards from the Fisheries Trust Fund would not be made until the Trust Fund Directors' meeting in December. She reported that a letter from the grant administrator offering suggestions to enhance our proposal was summarily handled and that there is optimism that we will receive some funding.

### **STATE OF THE LAKE**

Mary distributed an "Overview and Summary" of Portage Lake Management Activities 2012" from Lakeshore Environmental, Inc. which briefly listed deliverables to date. Their annual report will be unveiled on November 19<sup>th</sup>. Some discussion followed related to extension of the Special Assessment District. The SAD will expire next year and methods will need to be explored to continue providing funds for invasive species control and water monitoring.

Herb said that Stephanie Ogren (LRBOI) provided a profile of Portage Lake that indicated oxygen content at the bottom of the lake was *zero*. This condition produces release of phosphates which are the main nutrient for plant growth.

There appears to be a difference between the water quality monitoring data obtained by the Tribe and the lake management company. The committee will clarify with the lake manager at their next meeting on November 17th.

### **REVISED BYLAWS**

After months of diligent attention, the revised PLWF Bylaws were approved with the following friendly amendments:

**Section 6.04** – Changed *Council members* to *Officers*

Kathy moved; Dan seconded: motion approved.

**Article IV Council Membership** – Addition to opening statement:

*“The PLWF Council shall be self-perpetuating with staggered three-year terms for groups of four members. Council member terms are unlimited.”*

Frank moved; Herb seconded: motion approved.

**Article VIII – Indemnity of Officers** - changed title to *“Indemity of Council Members and Officers”* and revised statement to read:

*“Council members and officers will be indemnified when made party to a proceeding when acting on behalf of the Council against liability incurred to the fullest extent permitted by law.”*

Motion approved.

**Section 10.02 – Disbursements** – Changed amendment to read: *“No obligations or expenses shall be incurred and no monies in excess of \$200 shall be appropriated without prior approval of the Board. Special expenditures of \$200 or less can be approved by the President or Treasurer without Board approval..”*

Dan moved; Alice seconded: motion approved.

Motion was made to accept the revised by-laws as amended. Motion passed.

Discussion:

Al – The Council should think about getting insurance. PLA has annual premium of \$750.

Laura – Might want to check to see how other Watersheds handle this issue.

Mary volunteered to check; Kathy will confer with Pam Evans.

## **OFFICER ELECTION**

Hearing no further nominations from the floor, the slate of officers proposed at the August council meeting was elected. Officers for 2013 are: Chair – Mary Reed; Vice-Chair – Herb Lennon; Treasurer – Frank English; Secretary – Kathy Ervin. Life is good.

## **2013 ANNUAL FUNDRAISER**

Kathy Ervin proposed that in lieu of our traditional Cocktail Party we reprise the 2007 “Fish Out of Water” Event. Rationale is that such a ‘happening’ will broaden community involvement, raise funds, generate interest and enthusiasm, and provide an extended focus. She will provide a report at our next meeting at which time the Council will decide on which course to take.

### **MANISTEE WATERSHED COALITION**

Laura and Mary proposed that PLWF participate in discussions to explore creating a county-wide watershed coalition. Council supported the proposal. Mary Reed and Frank English agreed to participate.

### **CHRISTMAS TREE**

Mary and Kathy volunteered to decorate a PLA-provided small Christmas Tree which will be auctioned off during the Christmas in Onekama event. Half of the proceeds will be deposited in the PLWF's Wetlands Fund.

### **NEXT MEEETING**

November 27, Portage Lake Covenant Bible Camp, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Ervin

**PORTAGE LAKE WATERSHED FOREVER**

**2012 FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

	JANUARY 1 2012	SEPT 30 2012	CHANGE
ANNUAL FUND	26,126.79	33,215.33	+ 7,088.54
ENDOWMENT FUND	93,116.74	103,168.81	+10,052.07
WETLANDS FUND	0                  44,305.00	5,436.62	
AES	#17 transactions	11,337	

Annual Fund - Donor contributions of .....13,615  
 Endowment Fund contributions .....1,315.00  
                                     Investment Activity.....9, 472.88  
 Wetlands contributions.....44,305  
 Total donor contributions to date:..... \$59,235

**BUDGET SUMMARY 2012**

Activity	Projected Expenditure	Available balance	Projected Income	PLWF Plan Objective	Note
Education/Outreach	\$7,000			Community Ed	Web domain 41 Web Dev. - 398 Ed Printing -1500
DO Water Testing Equipment	\$1,000	1,000		Water Quality	
Annual Fund July 2012 Fundraiser	\$5,000 (\$4,559)		\$15,000 (\$13,150)	Implementation	
Operating Expense	\$2,500			Implementation	
Explore the Shores	TBD			Access to water	\$5,000 matching funds if Grant
Endowment Devel.	\$3,000			Future	Strategic development fees, materials
Wetlands Protection	June (\$1,000)				
Start: \$26,126.79	\$18,500	\$7,626			
End: \$33,215.33					
* start \$26,126.79 Income \$13,615 Total 39,741 - 26,126 = 13,615	\$13,615 actual = \$4,885 under budget				