

Portage Lake Watershed Forever **DRAFT**
Annual Meeting - November 25, 2014 - Farr Center, Onekama

Present: Bee Capper, Susan Spencer, Dan Behring, Herb Lenon, Jamie Meister, Al Taylor, Jim Simons, Frank English, Mary Reed, Kathy Ervin, Jim Mrozinski
Guests: Josh Shields

Agenda Item	Discussion	Decision/Recommendation/Action
CALL TO ORDER	Mary called the meeting to order at 7:05 and welcomed guests.	
AGENDA	Dan proposed adding 'storm drains' and 'Bear Lake' to the agenda.	Approved as amended
MINUTES	Minutes were approved.	Herb moved; Frank seconded.
FINANCIAL REPORT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Financial - Treasurer Frank English provided current information about fund balances and distributed report. <i>See attached.</i> Al pointed out that the increase in the Endowment Fund was due to investment returns 	Jim Simons moved, Herb Lenon seconded. Passed
ELECTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Slate of Officers - Frank reviewed the names of those who had agreed to run for office: Mary Reed (Chair); Frank English (Treasurer); Kathy Ervin (Secretary). Vice Chair remains unfilled. Council members elected: Susan Spencer, Bee Capper and Gail Drake. ■ Council Members - Bee Capper and Susan Spencer spoke briefly about their backgrounds and were welcomed aboard. 	Frank moved; Dan seconded that the candidates be elected as proposed. Passed.
GUEST PRESENTATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Josh Shields - Susan Spencer, Administer of the Conservation District, introduced Mr. Shields who took the revamped forestry assistance position for the Conservation District in October. The district includes Manistee, Mason and half of Lake County. His job is to help land owners manage their properties and expects to establish an advisory committee to provide information about available programs. his e-mail is: www.manisteedc2.org; office phone - 231-889-9666; mobile - 989-220-9236. 	
COMMITTEES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Education - No report. 	

- **Fundraiser** - Jamie Meister reported that the committee has been meeting but there was nothing to report at this time.

- **Water Quality and Environmental Monitoring** - Mary said that stream monitoring equipment would be pulled for the winter and passed out charts indicating water levels at the various sites. (As an aside, Jim Mrozinski said that Lake Michigan levels has risen 18"). Also said that there was a treatment map available of the east end of the lake. Mary asked for a motion to approve her writing a letter of support of Katie Grzeiack's grant proposal in Wayne County.

- **Wetlands & Critical Lands** - Al asked if we should focus on other threats to the watershed now that the treatment of the lake has proved effective. Discussion followed with suggestions about other grants that might be available: E-QIP (Environmental Quality Incentive Program), GLRI (Great Lakes Restoration Initiative), and others. Plans for 2015 include: meeting on December 5th with Matt McDough (Director of Land Preservation for the Grand Traverse Conservancy) to go over strategies and documents related to identifying and possibly acquiring other wetlands in the watershed. A motion was made to support this effort.

- **Membership** - Mary reported that the membership mailing brought a number of new members to the fold. Kathy mentioned that she talked with a person who we could hire to help with record keeping. Council's advice was that, in order to pay her, she should register as an Independent Contractor.

- **Retreat** - A decision for Council members will be held on January 27th (Tuesday) from 10:00 - 3:30 at the Covenant Bible Camp facilities. Dan will facilitate; Council members will be expected to complete the 'homework' he gives us.

- **By-Laws Committee** - Clarification of articles in the by-laws will be handled by the committee, e.g., "member in good standing". Jim Simons, Chair.

- **Student Representative on Council** - Discussion about a student volunteer to represent the school on the Council. Agreed that it could be any junior. Mary will meet with Principal Gina Hagen.

Frank moved; Jim Simons seconded.
Approved.

Dan moved; Kathy seconded. Approved.

ADJOURN

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:50.