

Portage Lake Watershed Forever **DRAFT**
Council Meeting - October 28, 2014 - Farr Center, Onekama

Present: Alice Hendricks, Frank English, Mary Reed, Kathy Ervin, Jim Simons, Dan Behring, Jim Mrozinski, Herb Lenon, Jamie Meister

Absent: Al Taylor

Guests: Bee Capper, Kevin Hughes

Agenda Item	Discussion	Decision/Recommendation/Action
CALL TO ORDER	Mary called the meeting to order at 7:00	
AGENDA	Proposed Agenda was amended to include <i>Chair's Report</i> and <i>Fall Retreat</i> under item #6, "Fall Activities"	Approved as amended
MINUTES	Herb Lenon pointed out that he was absent at the September meeting. Minutes were corrected.	Approved as corrected.
FINANCIAL REPORT	■ Financial - Treasurer Frank English provided current information about fund balances and distributed report.	Jim Simons moved, Herb Lenon seconded. Passed
GUEST PRESENTATION	■ Kevin Hughes , Superintendent of Onekama Consolidated School District, spoke about the two bonding proposals that will be on the ballot at the upcoming election. Emphasized the factual nature of the material he distributed and said that he had been meeting throughout the month with various groups to make sure they were well-informed.	
COMMITTEES	■ Education - Dan Behring provided an overview of plans for the coming year. (See Attached). He emphasized the importance of the wetlands and described efforts to get specific information to discrete areas in the watershed.	Report attached.
	■ Fundraiser -Jamie Meister reported on plans for the 2015 Annual Fund Fundraiser. She, Kathy Ervin and Bee Capper (committee member) answered questions and promised to keep Council informed about developments. Kathy passed out a list of potential underwriters and asked that Council members indicate which they would approach for support. There was some hesitation about plans to print a hard-cover book; the committee will consider options.	

- **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.

- **Wetlands & Critical Lands** - Dan Behring gave an extensive report for the Wetlands and Critical Lands Committee and distributed several handouts which are attached. He cited an article from the Traverse Magazine featuring a man who devoted much of his life to safeguarding wetlands in _____. Talked about the importance of delineating wetlands; shared a list of seven priorities for the wetlands committee and passed out questions he had asked of Barry Peterman (MDEQ) which were primarily answered by "needs a permit".

Material attached.

- **Nominating Committee** - Confirmation of slate of officers as agreed to at the September meeting. Brief discussion about Bee Capper and Gail Drake sharing a council seat. Consensus was that, in the absence of by-law prohibition it is permitted.

- **Membership** - Council *again* considered a revised draft of the membership remittance envelope and reconsidered a previous decision about combining the membership form with a year end solicitation. Decision was made to send a letter, the envelope, a sticker and a brochure to previous donors. A broader membership effort will be undertaken in the spring.

- **Committee Chairs** - Mary announced committee assignments for the coming year: Education - Kathy Ervin & Dan Behring; Financial Committee - Frank English & Jim _____; Membership - Gail Drake (awaiting election to Council) & Alice Hendricks; Fundraising - Jamie Meister, Kathy Ervin & Bee Capper; Wetlands - Herb Lenon, Dan Behring, Mary Reed; Wetlands and Critical Lands - Dan Behring & Al Taylor.

FALL ACTIVITIES

- **Scarecrow** - Jim Simons and Frank English agreed to dismantle the shed they had so cleverly built. **Christmas Tree** - We have again agreed to decorate a tree for the PLA's holiday event. **Fall Retreat** - Was discussed at length with suggestions that we have two sessions: one for the Council, one for the general public. Further definition about what outcomes we hope to achieve will take place. Will probably schedule in the Spring.

NEW BUSINESS

- **By Law Revision** - Dan Behring distributed a list of by-law articles he felt were those we should be paying most attention to. See attached. General feeling was that, while there are elements of the by-laws that would benefit from clarification or amendment, we were not going to take action to do so at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Website** - Mary reported that she and Kathy Ervin are meeting with MS Creative to further refine and otherwise follow-up on website development.

ADJOURN

- The meeting was adjourned at 9:00.

Next Meeting: November 25, 2014 - Annual Meeting