

**PBWOA MINUTES – ANNUAL MEETING**  
**SATURDAY, MAY 11, 2019 PORTAGE YACHT CLUB**

8:30 Coffee, Tea, Donuts, Bagels and cream cheese for sign in.

Meeting called to order by President Mark Teicher at 9:04 a.m. with approximately 110 members in attendance. Mark asked Board Members to introduce themselves indicating which lake they live on. He also introduced Dr. Greg Peter as our 'science advisor' and thanked the Board for their work. He also introduced Emeritus Board Member Ron Esch.

- Mark deviated from the agenda a bit to first introduce Washtenaw County Marine Patrol. Joel Debauer spoke on patrolling the lakes and that their primary focus is SAFETY. He indicated that they seek to educate and inform boaters about regulations and safety equipment and issues - not in the business of harassing. He also mentioned a new State regulation – Clean, Drain, Dry, Dispose to help eliminate the transfer of invasive plant species. When asked about boating and drinking he indicated it is not against the law to have an open alcoholic beverage however the breathalyzer limit for boating is the same as driving, .08. He also said that all children 6 and under must have a life jacket in a moving vessel and this require type 3 jacket approved by the coast guard. He suggested as a response to a question from the audience that perhaps an effective deterrent to the sand bar party issue might be noise control.
- Hamburg Township Supervisor Pat Hohl, followed up the question about the sand bar indicating that the State will not allow local ordinances on open water. They are also devoting man hours to the problem and have tried to be proactive by meeting with the party boat planners prior to heavy traffic weekends. He also spoke about a recent and growing problem with air B & B's - short term rental lake homes. The state has almost eliminated the ability for local townships to control the problem with effective legislation. He asked those facing problems to contact his office – or the Public Safety department to report excessive noise, late night parties or other issues that they are able to address. Pat Hohl also addressed the issue of extra boats at various properties. He said in Hamburg Township residents are allowed 3 boats. If someone sees a problem, they should notify Hamburg and they will check that Boat Numbers match the residents. They can notify the offending party – give them a chance to correct and then follow up with tickets and fines.
- Jim Drolette from Dexter Township spoke and concurred with the Hamburg Township ordinances. He said that zoning ordinances governing Air B & B's are working their way through the state government and those with concerns should contact their representatives. He asked members to keep an eye on their yards during the winter 'draw down' for the dam levels. He is concerned that his yard has depressions from perhaps too low a lake level. The level has been court ordered through and maintained through Washtenaw county.
- The business portion of the annual meeting began with
  - A. Jane Ollila requesting approval for the 2018 minutes. Motion passed.
  - B. Jay Hale gave an update on the Treasurer's Report. Jay said our fiscal year ends in April and all figures were based on the fiscal year. He said we were in good shape as an organization and have established land conservancy monies in our accounts. A motion was made to accept the report and to roll over funds for 2019. Motion passed.
  - C. Jon Waitz thanked all volunteers for our ongoing Lake Water Testing. He stated that the PBWOA has felt it useful and important to maintain continuity of our testing for record keeping even though testing was also being done by various weed study people. Jon thanked all testers in attendance with some serving 22 years or more.
  - D. Dave Moody reported ongoing use of the website and updates posted. He said our main purpose was for historical data and current events. He asked members to report problems or suggest changes. Mark Teicher also thanked Tom Ehman for allowing the PBWOA free use of Portage Yacht Club for these meetings.
  - E. Facebook now has around 200 followers.
  - F. Jan Arps-Prundeanu spoke for the Education Committee about the MLSA conference and about the Shoreline Steward Program. She said PBWOA member Bonnie Swanson and Mark Teicher also attended the conference and many areas were discussed including watersheds, farming, lake treatments, "wake boats", lake zoning and our involvement with mobile boat washes. She shared her concerns with developing Natural Shorelines and introduced Janee Kronk and others who can help members develop these needed areas.
  - G. Chris Brenner followed up on an earlier question about keeping areas clear for fire trucks. He reiterated how important that is and offered to talk to residents who were not in compliance. He also reported that there were 25 in

attendance for the Boater's Safety Class this Spring presented in conjunction with Portage Yacht Club and Washtenaw County Marine Patrol Division.

- H. Dave Wilutis reported that the following board members were reelected: Jay Hale, Jim Jensen, Craig Kivi, Mark Teicher and Dave Wilutis. There were 168 ballots returned. Dave Moody reported 294 members to date – pretty much on par with prior years. Our goal this year would be to reach 400 members.
- Mark Teicher introduced Lauren Koloski, Project Manager, Washtenaw County Water Resource Commission. She reported that with input from the PBWOA and others they had replaced Dr. Doug Pullman, Lake Scientist. She said that Washtenaw County is committed to this project and making a concerted effort to improve in areas of performance and communication. She indicated an effort with the website to keep everyone informed and passed around a sheet for people to sign up who may not have been getting prior communication. She stated that all permits are in. Lauren went on to indicate she was aware of frustrations with the project and that they had hired a new scientific company – Progressive AE – and that they would be out on the waters to do their own assessment in a week or so. All dates will be posted. She also reported that the applicator – Jeff Knox will not treat without input from the Lake Scientist. This body of water is such a complex system with river, lakes, watershed, etc. that it is a learning process for all. There is also a link on the Washtenaw County Website to Jeff Knox and his calendar for treatment dates. Discussion followed about treatment of Base and Portage Lakes – or lack of treatment and concerns about the terminology in stating “all permits are in” when in fact restrictions prevent treatment for these two bodies of water other than canals. A fair amount of frustration was evident with communication and nuances of the message, and mostly with the snuff box mussel which is a Federal protected species. Mark Teicher spoke that he had filed a FOIA (Freedom of Information Request) both with the state and with the Feds to help identify where the protected species is in our waters. The permitting process can challenge data and seek amendments to the permits. Members spoke about the negative perception and the importance of this project being viable beyond the 5 years. That members were end users and a strategy needs to be developed to change the negative perception from many – to be proactive with communication. Bill Tupper also spoke about the weed harvesting and their presence on the lakes. An audience member asked about the rationale for replacing Dr. Pullman ‘mid-project.’ Lauren declined to answer but Mark Teicher on behalf of the Board indicated our input from members suggested frustration about lack of progress, misunderstanding on treatment types and times and other areas of poor communication. Lauren asked for questions and thanked everyone for their patience.
  - Bob Nester spoke briefly on the issue with delayed treatment (June 1<sup>st</sup>) because of the Cisco fish. He reported that they are not native to this area and had been used in the 1960's for a study and without a doubt there was an accidental release where some may think they are native to these waters. They prefer a much colder habitat.
  - Greg Peter thanked the 3 townships for addressing the swan population problem and then spoke about PFAS contamination. He indicated that this emerging contaminant has been in the environment for years but has recently been in the news as testing is identifying pollution problems. The Federal Government has no standards and Michigan is really the leading state in working through contamination issues and issues of it leeching into our waterways. It is prominent in industries – more prominently in fire retardants areas because it helps make water “wetter”. Some small companies identified as polluters have ceased or changed their operation but the cumulative effect of this chemical in our waters has been going on for years. Testing for wells is both costly and inefficient as a threshold for safety has not yet been established.

Mark Teicher thanked everyone in attendance and closed the meeting around 11:34.

Minutes taken and submitted by Secretary Jane Ollila