

PBWOA MINUTES – ANNUAL MEETING

SATURDAY, August 15, 2020 via on-line ZOOM

9:00 a.m. log on with guidance and help from Melissa DeSimone, Executive Director of Michigan Lakes and Streams.

Meeting called to order by President Mark Teicher at 9:36 a.m. with approximately 45-50 members in attendance. Mark introduced Board Members and indicated there were two vacancies if anyone was interested or knew of someone who was interested. He thanked the Board and spoke briefly about various items the PBWOA had tackled during the last year: Chain of Lakes Improvement Project, 80th Birthday Party, Education-importance and reimbursement of members taking classes, wake boats, pitting issues, FOIA requests to the state and federal governments for information on endangered species, Portage Lake Preserve area, issues with public access on boat launch, encouraging natural shorelines and hoping for volunteers and more involvement from members.

Mark introduced Harley Rider, Dexter Township supervisor who indicated they had been working on zoning ordinances for a number of years to reduce the difficulty of homeowners and expected a resolution shortly. John Kings from Webster Township mentioned the new fire station and issues related to safety for the upcoming election. Pat Hohl, Hamburg Township reported passing a bond to help with homeowner associations passing road upgrading. He said the last election went well despite the Covid mandates and Hamburg Township would be working on their Maser Plan.

- Secretary Jane Ollila noted that the 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes were on the website. Mark Teicher asked for a vote to approve the minutes as submitted. Vote passed. He also wanted to have those in attendance see the Hamburg Township Proclamation given to the PBWOA on February 18th and thanked Pat Hohl and Hamburg Township for the honor.
- Jay Hale presented the Treasurers Report noting that it was from the Fiscal year 2019 ending March 31st. He mentioned we were on par with the prior year with advertising down. He asked for a motion to roll over the money from 2019 to 2020. Motion made, seconded and passed.
- Jon Waitz spoke about the CLMP testing and our lack of funding till 2021. PBWOA volunteers are still doing water clarity with the secchi disk and phosphorus and we will combine efforts with the on-going testing from Progressive AE. He also spoke about the heavy “muck” problem on Baseline and concern from members on the possible toxicity. Jon took two samples to Brighton Analytical – one with the worst possible muck in front of his house and another sample out from his dock with relatively clear water. The testing samples came back as 112.2 cfu per gram in the muck to 1 cfu in the water sample. Health concerns from ecoli start around 300 cfu. The chief health officer from Livingston County visited as well and indicated the lake was in ‘good shape’ and that dying weeds and leaves contribute to this washing ashore. Dick Harrison from Portage Lake asked about the testing since he has similar problems. Jon noted the cost was \$40 per sample and a very good company to work with.
- Dave Moody introduced himself as the computer geek and noted that he handles the website, email to members and the membership roles. He talked about the website and links to Washtenaw County and links to other areas of interest like the History of the area. He said our membership is currently 364 and felt the number was good for the Covid crisis and all.
- Jim Jensen spoke about his role maintaining Facebook and that our goal is to provide information and education.
- Jan Arps-Prundeanu talked about the Education Committee and their focus of keeping members informed. 2020 has proved challenging since there have been no boat washes, no conferences – that she thinks seeing and participating is a better way to communicate. Jan said we are working toward prevention and conservation, buffer gardens are increasing, shoreline steward programs are better including the Portage Lake Preserve. If members have questions, she urged them to call her or another board member and reminded them that Lauren Koloski from Washtenaw County was another great resource.
- Dave Wilutis reported that the following board members were reelected: Jan Arps-Prundenau, Chris Brenner, Dave Moody, Bob Nester, Jane Ollila, and Jon Waitz. He also talked about the initial start of the Chain of Lakes Improvement Project – 6 to 8 years ago and its progression to today. We are now 4 years into the 5-year plan and he has been seeking feedback from residents, Washtenaw County, Board members and other scientists familiar with lake management to better access where we stand. He said this is a HUGE COMPLEX system – a river system with 9 lakes – a massive project for anyone to take on and perhaps the most complicated in the State of Michigan. He noted that there have been lots of challenges and even with those challenges we have seen a remarkable improvement. Climate change, invasive weeds, homeowners are all challenges for treatment but the consensus is that we NEED a managed system – and that we are on the right path.

- Bob Nester followed up that even having 45=50 interested members in attendance today is impressive – that riparian owners share a responsibility to be respectful of the waters – that we all own a piece of this pie. We need to enjoy our waters and watercraft and protect our resources.
- Greg Peter, Science Advisor thanked the board and said that it was the most active board he has ever worked with – that they care about the lakes and invasive concerns. He indicated that the ongoing swan program has been successful until this year when the DNR couldn't get out to oil the eggs due to boating restrictions relative to Covid but even with the lapse the overall population has dwindled from 150 a few years ago to about 24 or so now. He spoke on behalf of the MUCC regarding research on shoreline and bottomland relative to wake boats. He also mentioned the PFAS testing areas within the state.
- Mark Teicher introduced Washtenaw County representatives, Evan Pratt, Theo Eggermont, Public Works Director and Lauren Koloski, Project Manager, Washtenaw County Water Resource Commission.
 - Theo introduced himself and talked briefly about changes within Washtenaw County. He said with the warm weather and excessive rain it was a good year for Algae. He said that the weather and state restrictions delayed testing and treatment but a new pre-schedule will be initiated in another year. This was the first "full year" for our new lake scientists, Progressive AE and that the harvester was also new to the lake system. The harvester this year has agreed to return following harvesting to pick up and collect stray weeds. He noted that EGLE also limited treatment this year. Theo said that they are developing greater communication overall to SAD members and the database of emails has gone from 200 to close to 400 under her watch.
 - Lauren said Washtenaw County was moving ahead with a planned Educational Meeting on September 24th and it would be a Zoom meeting like this one from 7-9:00 p.m. They will update SAD members on the status of the lakes and what challenges we will face moving forward. She will record the meeting for those who might not be able to attend.
 - Paul Hausler from Progressive AE talked about the changes with the state regarding permits. He said this is one of the "more challenging" projects he has faced in his tenure as a lake scientist and spoke of the river system/lake system artificially controlled with the dam. He said no permits are granted for any chemical treatment on the river due to endangered species. This creates significant challenges for controlling algae, Starry Stonewort and wild Celery. The Covid Pandemic affected communication – that no one besides the driver and scientist are now allowed on the boat for help in spotting treatment areas and assessing treatment. He said there are "lots of moving parts" but the biggest change this year is the treatment for Strawberry and Zukey. This year the state granted Strawberry and Zukey "individual" permits – rather than "general" permits so treatment is restricted by not using copper products due to endangered species (snuff box mussel and now a small fish – Sand darter). This limits much of their work. EGLE also enacted a rule that treatment can only go 100' from shore. Mechanical harvesting does not need permits and a new company is now working their way up the chain. Paul likened this year and trying to plan treatment like running a marathon with a broken leg. He said the changes in permits from the EGLE for Zukey and Strawberry coming late and the restriction on who he can take on the boat have also created problems. He mentioned other issues with maintenance on boats and equipment with Chinese parts, import restrictions and problems with transporting. Some boats and harvesting equipment are inoperable and unrepairable without parts.

Mark asked members present to write and post their questions and we would then ask for answers.

Theo was asked how many years remained on this SAD and what the prospects were for continuing. He said the goals and expectations are changing and that there were two years remaining. He is going to assess costs and get a running tally of where the Chain of Lakes Improvement Project is stands and where it might be headed.

Someone asked if flowering rush could be eliminated. Paul Hausler explained the treatment and why they weren't allowed to use chemicals to eliminate. He did indicate the home owner could remove herself – Janee Kronk offered a method to identify and more easily pull from lake.

Evan Pratt responded to questions about the dam safety stating there was a survey every 2 years and the Fluke Dam was rated a "high hazard" not because of needed repair but because of the amount of water it held back. He said there were no major issues and safety improvements within the last couple of years included updating electrical,

preventative measures such as greasing the chains and replacing seals. Dick Harrison thanked Evan and Lauren for their work and wanted them to know that they were appreciated.

Mark talked about fertilizer feeding the weeds in the lakes. Paul said their company tests the waters – in 10' intervals and will be submitting the report. They were hampered in the spring because of Covid but would begin the Fall Turnover Sampling and finish their year-end report.

Lauren and Paul Hausler responded to a question about Portage canal with algae. Both were familiar with the problem from last year and indicated it was stagnant shallow water in the canal with a build up of duckweed which looks like algae. They suggested an aeration system to help keep the water moving and to also note they were somewhat hampered by “instant” treatment with the 7-day notice requirement to the city of Ann Arbor.

Dick Knight asked about considering stainless steel chains on the dam and perhaps a solution to the danger faced every day with those entering the lake system in close proximity to the dam. Evan Pratt responded that they were aware of the problem and had added additional signage both at the public boat launch site and at the entrance to the river. He explained that the Risk Management team at Washtenaw county had also studied the problem with no clear answer but noted the river “was there first” and that there is some responsibility to boat owners. Evan also stated that all metal components are stainless. Dick Knight noted that he doesn't have any workable solution either but sees the problem every day as he helps transport and launch boats.

Mark Teicher thanked Melissa DeSimone one again and everyone in attendance and closed the meeting around 11:40

Minutes taken and submitted by Secretary Jane Ollila