

PBWOA ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

Saturday, May 13, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

Portage Yacht Club

1. Called to Order by President Mark Teicher 9:03 a.m.
2. Hamburg Township Deputy Director of Public Safety, Dariusz Nisenbaum
 - * presented an overview of their approach to public safety with emphasis on prevention and visibility.
 - * 18 full time staff with the ability to utilize fire and police as needed to deal with water issues
 - * 3 watercraft, including a wave runner now available for use on the lakes.
 - * Concern about the safety of sand barge swimmers at the entrance to the river on Base Line expressed by many. Question of possible buoys for navigational purposes was raised. *Update: Pat Hohl, Hamburg Township supervisor indicated that the DNR has refused to consider any buoys on the river or at the entrance near Base Lake.

3. Welcome to and comments from our local elected township, county and state officials:
 - 48th District Representative, Jennifer Conlin. (President Mark Teicher wanted people to be aware that this district is newly formed as a result of redistricting and includes the entire Chain of Lakes.)
 - Jennifer Conlin thanked the PBWOA for the invitation and indicated that she has been actively seeking out opportunities to meet with the lake communities, as they are indeed a vital part of our district. Water is important.
 - PFASS is a big issue and bi-partisan. She hopes to hold a town hall at Hamburg Township in the near future.
When asked if the legislature had acted yet on the bill that would allow the state of Michigan to adopt stricter standards than the Federal EPA guidelines, she indicated that it is still awaiting action in the House.

 - Dexter Township Supervisors: Marris Metz and Michele Stambouellis.
Buoys near Portage Lake are to be replaced by the Washtenaw Marine Division next week, paid for by Dexter Township.

\$600,000 in ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds to be used for public safety. They are seeking more clarification/specifics.

 - Hamburg Township Supervisor: Pat Hohl started his remarks with a rousing endorsement of the PBWOA: “They are the best!”

PFASS is a Public Health Emergency and is not going away! We are the generators of it as we all use the plastics. What can we do? Use less plastic.

Septic systems are failing and disposal of bio solids is also problematic.

Hamburg Township is very experienced with SAD's and he anticipates no issues with the lake management continuation.

* Looking at intermittent wake barriers that individual townships can enforce with county support. *Clarification: the townships may now apply to the county Sheriff and Emergency manager who can grant a 14 day "intermittent" no wake zone for an area of flooding where wakes can damage personal property.

Hamburg Township has \$2.5 million in ARPA funds.

*Putnam Township supervisor, Dennis Brennan thanked the PBWOA for their water safety and health efforts. He shared their website: <https://www.putnamtwp.us> as a source for all local information and provided his email: supervisor@putnamtwp.us With ARPA funds, they are looking into the possibility of investing in more "dry hydrants" that would make fire suppression work more efficient in the lake communities.

4. DNR Conservation Officers' Comments - Pete Purdy and Lisa Taube reinforced the comments made by Hamburg Township Deputy in that their focus is on safety and prevention. They monitor for impaired driving and life jacket compliance. Type IV Personal Flotation devices are required. The DNR conservation officers are responsible for more than water safety with hunting and fishing a big part of what they do. Fishing licenses are \$26.00 and you can get them online. The fine for not having a license is \$400. A Wake fine is \$250, but their focus is on education. Comments from PBWOA members stressed the need for citations as well.
5. State of our Lakes & Waterways presentation by Dr. Paul Steen of the Huron River Watershed Council.
 - Presented visual of the changes in the Huron River chain of lakes over the years. What was once wooded is now covered with artificial, human centered areas. We are lucky that we do have the river and large areas of natural vegetation.
 - All of the data show the waters slowly becoming more phosphorous rich. Continue to monitor – he encouraged people to volunteer to work with the CLMP
 - Cut down or eliminate phosphorous by watering your yard with lake water, rather than fertilizer
 - Consider more natural shorelines and reap the benefits of more aquatic balance and healthier waters. Fish sticks provide great habitat for fish
6. Chain of Lakes Improvement Project -Theo Eggermont, Director of Public Works and Lauren Koloski, Environmental Supervisor.

- *Theo reviewed the changes in the SAD, with Washtenaw County now responsible only for the lake system south of Gallagher.
- * Monies left over from the previous SAD were shared with Hamburg township, per percentage of parcels taxed.
- * Lauren reported that treatment is scheduled for the canals and Tamarack are scheduled for Tuesday, May 16th.
- * Highlighted the web-site for information on shoreline “softening.”
- * Also the benefits of rain gardens.

7. Portage Lake Natural Shorelines Preserves -Craig Kivi

Craig highlighted the benefits of the work completed over the past two years and specifically thanked Tom Ehman and the PYC for their assistance in getting the trees/logs into the preserve. He spoke of all the aquatic life he has seen return to the area. When asked about donations, he informed the membership of his 501 3C status and the website: Natural Shorelines forever.

8. Business Portion of Meeting:

*Mark thanked the retiring board members for their years of dedicated service to the PBWOA: Dave Moody and Jane Ollila

He also acknowledged the death of Bill Tupper - a long term supporter and board member of the PBWOA.

*Annual Meeting Minutes - Completed by Jane Ollila and presented by Jan Arps-Prudeanu. Accepted by voice vote.

*Election of Directors: results presented by Mary Beth Timmerman with Mark Teicher, Dave Wilutis, Lis Knibbe and Jim Jensen elected to serve two year terms. Accepted by voice vote.

*Treasurer’s Report presented by Lis Knibbe; March 31, 2023 Total income \$21,567.52; Total Expenses: \$17,768.75. Total Assets: \$73,670.88. Treasurer’s report accepted by voice vote.

*Education Committee: Mark Teicher reminded members that they will be reimbursed by the PBWOA for the MSU Introduction to Lakes course, conferences, including MLSA; and other educational seminars.

Jan Arps-Prudeanu reported 35 students attended the Boater Safety Class this year. The Shorefront garden tour was held last September 30th as a means of introducing members to shorefront possibilities. Another tour will be held – likely in August. The 2nd issue of Shoreline Living was sent to all members.

Although, not a PBWOA program, Jan offered supplies for the Boat Shrink Wrap Recycling program that the Base Lake South Shore is sponsoring.

Dave Wilutis presented the PBWOA Mission statement and requested responses on a brief survey seeking feedback on what members find important to address. He identified the challenges of reaching the more than 2400 riparians on the entire chain of lakes. One member suggested including the entire SAD list our PBWOA mailing list.

Membership: Jim Jensen reported that we currently have 236 paid memberships with likely 350 to 375 anticipated once all previous members have responded. He reminded members to keep him apprised of mailing address changes. Facebook followers continue to increase monthly.

CLMP Water Testing: - Jon Waitz highlighted that the program depends on the dedicated volunteers: Little Portage: Craig Kivi, since 2015; Portage: Jim Collins, since 2002; Baseline: Jim Meyer, since 2007; Jon Waitz, since 2013; Tamarack Jim Meyer; Whitewood: Joan Fitzgibbon and Nancy Cox – since 2023. Recently retired testers for Whitewood: Dian Tryon (since 2014) and Judy Porman, since 1997. Jon thanked them for their years of service. The testing results, going back to 1994 are listed on our web-site – under Water Quality tab. While Progressive AE has done testing for the past 4 years, the CLMP data is very important to keep the information flowing.

Shoreline Consultation Program presented by Liz Knibbe: The PBWOA would like to encourage all to look at their shorefront areas as possible gardens. Washtenaw County offers a one hour, on site consultation to answer your questions about establishing or improving your shoreline garden. You can sign up for a consultation www.washtenaw.org/706/request-a-design-visit. For PBWOA members who reside in Livingston County, the PBWOA will reimburse up to \$125 for a one hour consultation by a Certified Shoreline Professional. PBWOA will reimburse the first 25 applicants.

Fisheries: Bonnie Swanson reported on her research into fish stocking programs and learned that we were fully stocked in 2017, but with no details on how many fish were released. It was mainly Walleye. In 2021, 68,000 walleye were stocked in Portage Lake and 18,000 Walleye were released into Zukey/Strawberry. PFAS has made us “lowest priority” for fish stocking programs. The fisheries dept. hopes to resume stocking, once there is a relaxation of the DoNotEat advisory, which Bonnie will continue to follow closely

There had been information provided to PBWOA that some fish actually eat zebra mussels, however the Fisheries department indicated not enough to make a difference.

Mute Swans: Greg Peter, Science Advisor, praised the Mute Swan removal efforts that have resulted in the return of the Native Trumpeter Swans to our Chain of Lakes. Loons have also returned in higher numbers.

President's Annual Review & Wrap Up - Comments from members was solicited and Julie Teicher suggested that the PBWOA consider a new LOGO, with the possibility of having a contest with the winner to be announced at the Pizza Party. A logo that has more focus on the waters might be more appropriate. - Mark accepted the recommendation.

THANK YOU TO THE PORTAGE YACHT CLUB & TOM EHMAN FOR HOSTING

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jan Arps-Prundeanu
6-2-2023.