

## MINUTES OF THE PAW PAW LAKE ASSOCIATION

September 6, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. at the Watervliet Public Library. Board members present were Bob Becker, Scott Hoadley, Ken Kregel, Len Metheny, Charlie Pater, Joe Stepich, Barb Van Hout, and Kip Wright. Lou Presta was absent.

The **Minutes** of the July 5, 2008 meeting were approved, with Ken making the motion, and seconded by Kip.

**Treasurer's Report:** Len stated that Aug. 31 is the end of our fiscal year under the old bylaws. He reported an ending cash balance of \$96,260.41, the sum of all accounts at Fifth Third Bank:

General Operating Account	\$2,102.73
Premium Money Market Account	\$72,255.31
Restricted Savings Funds	\$21,302.37
Administrative Petty Cash Fund	\$600.00

Total revenue for the year ending Aug. 31, 2008 was \$78,880.32 and total expenditures were \$55,121.18, with a net operating income of \$23,759.14.

Revenue for August was \$45.00 in membership dues; \$2,220.00 in dinner dance revenue; \$43.59 in interest from the 5<sup>th</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> money market account; and \$25.00 in general contributions. Expenditures were \$97.50 in administrative assistant services; \$1,511.54 in dinner dance expenses; \$400.00 in trade organizations and subscriptions; \$200.36 in newsletter printing and postage costs; \$494.70 in misc. administrative expenses.

Len reported that our cash balance of \$96,260.41 as of 8-31-08 is approximately \$22,000 higher than our balance on 8-31-07.

Kip made a motion to accept the treasurer's report, the motion was seconded by Ken, and the report was approved.

Len replied to Charlie's question about income from membership dues, that dues alone do not cover all of the Paw Paw Lake Association's expenses. Total dues paid for the fiscal year ending Aug 31 were \$10,900.00. Expenses for the fiscal year, taking out the cost of weed treatment, were approximately \$21,900. Joe noted that we will need other ways to raise funds if our current weed treatment program ends.

Len presented an operating budget for the interim months of September 1, 2008 – December 31, 2008. He projected revenue of \$580.00, and expenditures of \$7,520.00, leaving a loss of \$6,940.00.

Under the new bylaws, our fiscal year will now begin on January 1 and end on December 31. Len presented a budget for 2009 showing anticipated total revenue of \$79,250.00 and

total expenditures of \$59,120.00, leaving a net operating income of \$20,130.00 for 2009, based on historical budgets.

Ken made a motion to accept the proposed budget for 2009, Kip seconded, and the motion carried.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Boat Parade:** Scott reported there were 19 or 20 boats who participated in the Aug. 30 event--the weather was excellent. Expenses were about \$1,750. Scott thanked Don Deam, Nancy Erickson, and Kip for their help. Some gift certificates remain unclaimed. There were about 300 people at the Waterfront Restaurant.

**Dinner Dance:** Kip reported that the food and the band were excellent. Attendance was low due to other conflicting events on the lake. She thanked Rick Rasmussen and Janie Staggers who came through 1000%. Kip said that expenses for the dinner dance were \$2,600 and receipts were \$2,320, so the loss was small. Two \$100 gift certificates for gas at a BP station were given in a drawing.

**Audit:** Len reported that the audit will start on Sept. 6 and he will have the draft report ready for the October meeting.

**Weed Treatment:** Barb reported that Pinecrest Industries plans to charge 5 cents more per foot of treatment next summer. The increased cost to the PPLA will be about \$1,400. After discussion, Charlie made a motion that the PPLA will absorb the new cost and keep the price for weed treatment the same for next year as it was this year. Joe seconded the motion, which passed. Joe suggested that we could increase the price every 4-5 years if needed.

Dan Hutchins would like the Spicer Group to give the report of its findings to the Watervliet Township and the Coloma Township Board in a joint meeting. K C McKay said that this might cost \$700. This input would be helpful to the two boards which have to make a decision on the petition drive. The tax assessor will have to check signatures of home owners who signed the petition.

**Clean Boats/Clean Lakes:** Ken reported that two signs have been posted at the public landings and two larger permanent signs have also been made that will be put up.

### **Committee assignments for next year:**

Kip agreed to organize the annual dinner dance next summer. Scott will consider running the boat parade, along with John and Cindy Phillips who were much help this year.

John Phillips is working on the PPLA website and adding pictures. To submit information or pictures to the website, Scott's e-mail address is [shoadley@elarasys.com](mailto:shoadley@elarasys.com) and John Phillips' e-mail address is [jr\\_phillips@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jr_phillips@sbcglobal.net). Del suggested including links to the North Berrien County Historical Society at [www.northberrienhistory.org](http://www.northberrienhistory.org) and

to the Sarett Nature Center at [www.sarett.com](http://www.sarett.com). Scott said the cost to host the PPLA website is \$25/month, and Len said that he would call to see if he could pay yearly.

**Safety:** Wayne Grane said that the board needs to decide the number of hours for the Sheriff's patrol next year. Currently \$4,300 is budgeted for 2009.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Garden Club/Buffer Zones:** Discussion was held on the usefulness of native plants in creating buffer strips to clean runoff and rainwater entering the lake. K C McKay said that demonstration areas for rain gardens and buffer zones would be planted around the lake by the Garden Club. This would be to encourage residents to install their own buffers. Since the areas of planting must be decided upon and plants must be ordered in January for spring planting, K C requested up to \$4,000 from the PPLA for plants and educational material. Frank Jurenka said that the Paw Paw Lake Foundation will also contribute up to \$4,000. K C said that she would present the plan to the PPLA board when it is finalized. Joe made a motion to spend up to \$4,000 for this project, Barb seconded, and the motion passed.

Kip suggested that the Fairview Beach area would be a good. The public landings and parks are other possible locations. Ken suggested that high school students could help out with planting to fulfill their requirement of 40 hours of community service.

**Alternatives to weed treatment:** Frank Jurenka suggested that we should investigate other weed treatment options such as harvesting, as he is concerned with the water quality and oxygen levels in the lake. Charlie agreed to chair this committee with Ken and Barb.

Bob proposed that we pay for an aquatic weed survey of the lake to know what we are dealing with, as the Spicer report suggests. The Spicer Group's project would cost \$18,900 but Bob obtained a quote from EnviroScience to do the project for \$5,260. Motion was made by Kip and seconded by Ken to approve the EnviroScience project.

Joe disagreed with this, saying that the Lake Restoration Initiative or the township boards should pay for this. Len added that the approval and the start of the LRI project are probably 18 months away. Charlie noted that Don Soper of Pinecrest Industries knows the weeds on the lake. Kip then withdrew her motion and Ken withdrew his second of it. Charlie said that he would bring his maps and information on the lakes and weeds to our October meeting.

**Echo Dive:** Len spoke of the past echo dives in the lake performed by the Mud Club scuba divers, who removed junk from the bottom of the lake, such as rubber tires, bikes, etc. and brought it over to the Yacht Club for disposal. They have mapped submerged pilings in the past. Len wanted to bring the support of the PPLA board to their next meeting on Sept. 23, along with possible insurance coverage. No funds would need to be provided for this service.

Joe said that the PPLA would be interested in supporting this work of the Mud Club if the details could be worked out.

**Michigan Lakes and Streams Meetings:** All are invited to a meeting at the Van Buren Public Library on Sept, 27, from 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. The annual ML & S conference will be held the last weekend of April, 2009. The Fall seminar of the ML & S will be held on Oct. 22, from 5:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. at the Van Buren intermediate school at Lawrence. The cost of \$20 includes dinner.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

The Spicer Group recommends an economic impact study of the lake for this region. Dan Hutchins, Watervliet Township supervisor, is willing to go to the board to ask for partial funding. Bob and Del have names of people who have information about values of homes, taxes, businesses related to Paw Paw Lake. Berrien County may also have resources. One study of importance would be to show a link between water quality/clarity of a lake and its impact on the community, as other lakes may have studied this already.

No further comments were made from the audience or the board.  
The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m. The next meeting will be held at the Watervliet Library at 10 A.M. on Saturday, October 4, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Van Hout, Secretary