

## Pretty Lake Conservation Club General Meeting ~ July 20, 2019

President Ron Kantorak called the meeting to order at 9:00 am  
Prayer was led by Butch Vaughn, followed by  
Pledge of Allegiance

**All Board members were present:** Ron Kantorak, Les Rockwell, Beth Pusti, Cathy Kantorak, Pat Mitchell, Nancy Wetli, Butch Vaughn, Ken Butler, Michael Perry, Denny Rorick, Sue Mertz, Ken Hensch, John Hensch, Jim Zuber.

**Introductions of those PLCC Members present:** Thank you for coming to this General meeting of the PLCC. Thank you for your ideas, your volunteer efforts throughout the year and your dedication to the community.

### **Agenda Items:**

**Treasurers Report:** Ken Butler handed out a Cash Flow statement from 7-1-2018 thru 6-30-2019. Total inflow for this one year period was \$35,834.36. Total outflow for the same period was \$30,567.73, leaving the overall total at \$5,266.63.

An Audit is completed every year. Inflows of cash come from a variety of sources including PLCC events, clubhouse rentals, Clubhouse & Lake enhancement contributions, PLCC dues, merchandise sales, and LARE grant income.

Outflows of cash include PLCC Utilities including sewer, electric, and trash. Costs attributed to hosting events, permits, flares, merchandise, clubhouse repairs. Lake projects, lawn service, postage, printing and numerous supplies purchased for events are also part of the outflow of cash. Some of the bigger expenses for the last year have been a new well to the clubhouse \$4,790.00 and replacement of the Sassafras trees that were a hazard to the clubhouse with arborvitae trees \$2295.00

Motion to approve the Treasurers report by Les Rockwell. 2<sup>nd</sup> on the motion by John Keck. All voted to approve, no opposed.

**Clubhouse Report:** Clubhouse manager, Cathy Kantorak reported seven rentals for the summer. Some changes to the clubhouse over the year have been improvements to the driveway, interior lighting, a new well, sassafras tress removal as well as the replacement with arborvitae. A new map of the lake was commissioned as an art piece. General plumbing and monthly maintenance issues as they have arisen.

**Firepit update:** Jim Hensel (cottage 17) has a grandson who as an Eagle Scout project is preparing a presentation for the PLCC to build us a fire pit area. If the plans/presentation are approved the PLCC club will pay for materials and the young man will build it.

**Concrete pad:** Les Rockwell explained he had proposed a 10x24 concrete pad be put in in front of the shed. This is a very sandy area which makes it tough to move grills and equipment in and out. A concrete pad would also protect the shed doors. Les had asked for 3 quotes with G & F

Construction being the lowest bidder. This improvement was voted on and passed at our July 9, 2019 meeting. The concrete pad will be poured August 19, 2019.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Application of stone to the driveway:** Pat Mitchell reported that early in the very wet spring the driveway to the clubhouse was muddy with very deep ruts. We approved grading the drive and having an application of slag applied to create an actual drive. The drive needs a 2<sup>nd</sup> application to create the base needed to settle over the winter. The 2<sup>nd</sup> application of slag will be finished this fall.

**Recycling at the Clubhouse- Volunteers?** Cathy Kantorak says there is much interest in recycling at the clubhouse but someone needs to take on this project. There is a recycle can but this would involve someone sorting it and taking it to a recycle location. Paul Ridenour (cottage 144) stepped up and volunteered to take on this project. We hope the membership; their guests and the community make this easy on Paul and use the proper containers. Thank you, Paul for taking on this project.

**Memberships:** V.P. Les Rockwell reported as of July 19, 19 PLCC memberships were at 65.65%. Zone 1 = 76.0, Zone 2 = 35.7, Zone 3 = 66.67, Zone 4 = 84.00, Zone 5 = 72.41, Zone 6 = 37.5, Zone 7 = 71.8, Zone 8 = 84.83.

**LARE Grant Status:** President PLCC Ron Kantorak submitted applications for 4 LARE Grants last fall. Approval or denial is expected by the end of July. Everyone must keep in mind a great number of lakes apply for these grants so there is no guarantees but we will be grateful if any or all come through to help with Lake improvements.

**Eurasian Mill Foil:** Rod Bergstedt (cottage 231) along with Aquatic Weed Control are the go to sources for this on our lake. Rod reported we are in our 7<sup>th</sup> year of treating the Eurasian Mill Foil which is an invasive weed species. A survey of the lake is done every year to determine the amount of acres needing treatment. The first 3 years 30 acres were treated. The last 3 years 3 acres were treated. This year a little over 5 acres were treated on June 5. The herbicide application goes to the root of the plant and is very effective in this species without hurting any other native species. The State pays 50% of the cost through a LARE grant and the PLCC pays 50%. PLCC pays 100% of the cost of treating the channels. The LARE grant only covers Invasive species of weeds. There were several questions from the PLCC membership on this topic that Rod did a great job answering. Since we had an expert in this field at the meeting representing the DNR some questions were deferred to our guest who was scheduled to speak later.

**Larry Koza: Fish Hatchery ([LKoza@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:LKoza@dnr.IN.gov))** graciously took the floor and answered many great questions. Larry explained there are three different kinds of Mill Foil in our lake. Eurasian, this is what we treat. It is an invasive, non-native species of Mill Foil. There are also two native species of Mill Foil that are beneficial to our lake and to the fish population. Eurasian Mill Foil is typically the 1<sup>st</sup> weed to come up in the spring. The chemical used is selective to only Eurasian Mill Foil which the DNR maps out every year along with Aquatic weed control. When they survey the lake for treatment the Jobs Hole area of the lake is off limits in the survey and will not be treated or included in the survey due to past complaints. Larry told the membership there are limits to treating Native plants but permits are available in some cases. Homeowners can clear 625 square feet without a permit. Whenever you hire someone to do the work you have to get a permit. They can recommend the proper chemicals. A

question was asked about mounds of what looks like weed matter/debris in the Jobs Hole area. Since they do not survey Jobs Hole Larry explained that he did not know what it could be but said he would come out in the next 2 weeks to take a look. There were questions from two residents who live in the Deal Ditch area who also had questions on the weeds in front of their places as well as reasons why they may be out of control. When this portion of the meeting was over Larry Koza accompanied by Jim Mertz collected weed samples from the locations in question. Of the three samples taken, Larry identified them all as Native species. This may or may not be a case where a permit for treatment might be granted. Larry said you can go to the Fish Hatchery in Orland (State Rd 20 & 327) to identify weeds in your area and to find out what determines the granting of permits for removal. Larry reminded the membership that many types of weeds and lily pads are beneficial to the lake and the aquatic wildlife but the best way to control weeds is to not treat your lawns with fertilizers containing phosphates.

**Rain Garden:** Ron Kantorak explained the 2<sup>nd</sup> LARE grant request is for a Cardno Report recommended Rain garden on the South side of the lake at the hill below the School. This rain garden as outlined in the Cardno report involves redirecting heavy rainfall events and using native plants for filtering. Damage has occurred to cottages in the area, the roadway, and drainage into the lake. We hope to correct or alleviate issues of water flow. We knew this was an issue before but had trouble getting permission to use the school land. A presentation from our Board of Directors last fall along with the Cardno report helped us to finally get School Board approval to go ahead with the project. If we are given LARE grant acceptance we can move forward on this project and begin to obtain bids.

**Pretty Lake Discharge Channel:** Ron outlined this as the 3<sup>rd</sup> LARE grant project we are waiting acceptance or denial on. Another Cardno recommended project to benefit the lake is to plant native vegetation where the lake discharges to the channel for a natural filter.

**Farm land drainage into the boat launch area:** Hopefully the 4<sup>th</sup> LARE grant project Ron explained this as the farm drainage goes under the road to the boat launch and then into the lake. We will regrade with natural plants to filter the farm run off.

**Recycling around the lake:** Katie Bowman a relatively new resident, uses Noble County for her trash pickup. An additional \$3.00 a month gives her recycling service once a month. Katie presented the board and members present with an analysis of availability and cost of recycle pick up services for the three trash pickup providers in our area. Most residents on the lake use Republic which has a contracted lower price through the Pretty Lake Conservation Club. Presently Republic does not offer recycling services in our zip code, however they told Katie that if enough residents were interested they may offer it. After listening to Katie Bowman's presentation Ron said he will go ahead and contact Republic to try to negotiate a contract price to see if recycling pickup can be added for those who want this service.

**Deal Ditch E Coli Update:** Butch Vaughn has taken on this serious ongoing issue and has formed a team of experts that we feel are finally taking our 2018 Cardno report seriously when it showed E-coli being 95% human and entering the lake from Deal Ditch. Butch and his team which includes experts from Lagrange Soil & Water, Lagrange County Commissioners, and the Lagrange Health Department began water testing last Fall once a month to numerous sites.

Lagrange sewer district does the testing. Through the process of elimination some original sites have been taken out through the testing process because they are not an issue. Butch reported that 9 sites still in the testing area are so high in E-coli that they are now unmeasurable in the summer heat. Deal Ditch is almost 2 miles long and all sites are along this area. Butch feels confident they should have results by the end of October as to the sources along this ditch. Once we have the sources this team of experts will go from there to determine corrective action. Long term Butch said to run sewer lines along the ditch could run ½ million dollars as well as 35K per hookup.

The question of how dangerous is e-coli to swimmers? There is no doubt e-coli is dangerous to swimmers, especially children or people with low immune systems. Testing at the lake and dam has shown that the lake is doing its job to keep the lake clean. High E-Coli numbers are in the ditch. Where the ditch comes into the lake it disperses and cleans itself. By the time it reaches the discharge the E-Coli is very low in the lake. 90% of the lake is clean, and is still one of the cleanest lakes in Indiana. We have been forcing this issue for a long time and are finally hopeful we are close to solving this mystery and finding a solution.

**Board Nominations:** Denny Rorick explained we currently have 14 Board Members with one opening. According to our bylaws The Board of Directors is a minimum of 9 with a maximum of 15 members, this has not changed. We are an all-volunteer board. We require a number of members due to the many planned events so no one or two people are doing it all. It requires attending a monthly board meeting on the first Tuesday of every month usually April through October, talking about issues that affect the lake and voting on solutions. Participating and helping to plan events throughout the summer with the help of the membership. It is a great way to serve your community and get to know your neighbors. Denny introduced two nominations to the Board.

Natalie McLaughlin (cottage 155), Natalie is a nurse at Parkview. She grew up on the lake 1958-1976. She has been back a few years now and wants to be more involved.

Peggy Jones (cottage 80). Peggy has served on the Board before. She is dedicated to the lake. She has been here since 2002 and is recently retired.

Scott Alexander (cottage 177D) called Denny and wanted to know about qualifications but was not at meeting and had not specifically said he wanted to be nominated. He will not be included as a nominee.

Ron Kantorak asked for Nominations from the floor. Any person present at this General Meeting who would like to be nominated. There were no Nominations from the floor.

Rod Bergstedt moved that Nominations be closed. Larry Goshorn 2<sup>nd</sup> the Move that Nominations be closed. All voted in favor, no opposed. Nominations are now closed

**Annual Meeting:** Must take place to vote in New Board of Directors when we have more than 15 people interested in becoming PLCC Board Members. We have 14 current PLCC Board Members with no one resigning and 2 new nominations. All Board members will be up for a vote. All PLCC membership is asked to return August 3, 9 am to vote for the New PLCC Board.

**DNR Representatives:**

**Allyson Oliger:** Docks, seawalls & weed removal [AOliger@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:AOliger@dnr.IN.gov) . Allyson is your go to source for weed removal permits.

**Jake Carlile: Enforcement** [JCarlile@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:JCarlile@dnr.IN.gov) . Jake was present for the meeting. We appreciate the time he took in answering questions from our membership. Jake was informative and clearly dedicated to his profession. Jake reminded us there are 15 divisions in the DNR and to please make sure you are contacting the right people and divisions for your particular question or problem. Do not call him for questions on permits or weed identification. He is Enforcement. Jake gave us 4 numbers.

**911- Emergency, a Life or Death situation**

**260-463-0200 ext 1 , LaGrange County Sheriff. Immediate non-emergency.**

**812-837-9536 DNR Dispatch – not specifically Lagrange. This is DNR dispatch for the STATE.**

**260-498-0250 Jake Carlile/ DNR cell phone. He will answer his cell phone when he is on duty. Jake answered questions from PLCC members ranging from Lake speed limits- Under 300 acres automatically a 10 mph speed limit. Buoys can go out to 150 feet. Anything inside 150 feet is Idle zone. Your pier is your property the water under your pier and to the sides of your pier are public water. He enforces law on 64 Lagrange county lakes. If there is a dangerous situation happening on an all-sport lake compared to a call about someone going 15 mph and no danger is indicated he will go first where the lives at most at risk. He has gotten more calls this year about speeding on Pretty Lake and will show an increased presence in those areas where he is getting more complaints. Jake recommended talking to your neighbors first before making phone calls and complaints. Most situations can be resolved by simple common sense talks with your neighbors. Approach the situation with a level head and keep your cool. Jake explained most speeding comes from house guests or folks not familiar with the rules, Make sure your family and friends know we have a 10 mph speed limit. If there is an unresolved issue of someone breaking the law or a dangerous situation call 911. If he is working he will always answer his cell phone. Thank you Jake!**

**Doug Nusbaum: LARE** [DNusbaum@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:DNusbaum@dnr.IN.gov) . Doug was scheduled for the meeting but is sick and contagious. We appreciate him not spreading his germs.

**Larry Koza: Fish Hatchery** [LKoza@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:LKoza@dnr.IN.gov) . Thank You Larry! Thank you for attending and for answering so many questions. It was great to hear your expert input. A recap of some of Larry's information is 625 square feet can be cleaned each year. Causes for increase in plant growth can be affected by weather. Lawn fertilizers really contribute to weed control, Use a product with 0 phosphorus. Some years are big for weed growth- some not. The hope is with the controlling of the Eurasian Mill Foil the natural plants that are beneficial to the lake can grow.

**Pasta Dinner:** originally scheduled for July 20, has been postponed to August 3, 5pm – 7 pm. Due to extreme and dangerous heat index we are moving this event up 2 weeks. Denny Rorick and Jim Zuber are planning 4 entrees along with green beans and applesauce. Hope to see everyone for this event on August 3.

**Rummage Sale drop off:** Aug 11-15, drop offs welcome noon – 3pm If no one is there after hours there will be a sign for designated drop off space.

**Rummage Sale:** August 17. Butch Vaughn and Barb Butler are heading this annual event. We will need several volunteers the day of the event.

**Bingo / Root Beer Floats:** Nancy Wetli and Beth Pusti will be ready to roll on this Labor Day weekend event on August 31<sup>st</sup>. We will be selling all remaining merchandise and look forward to the help we will get from veteran bingo/float volunteers.

**RUMOR Mill:** Terrible way to get your information. Go directly to the source. Please call Ron or any Board Member for facts. Do not listen to speculation. Ron Kantorak 216-570-0449

**Questions/comments from PLCC Members:**

Sue Mertz: Has leftover fishing Lures from Fish a Rama if people would like them

Pat Mitchell: Asked if we can extend the Rummage Sale hours of operation an hour or two? It ends at 11 am and he thinks maybe 1pm would give people more of a chance to get to it. Butch and Barb will talk it over.

Butch: Thanks to all for coming. It is nice to see a good turnout.

Nancy Wetli: Merchandise will be sold at remaining events. If you want a Pretty Lake History Book \$59.00 Please sign up or give her a call to get on the list.

Ken Hensch: Annual Hog Roast. 3 Neighbors pull together a wonderful Hog Roast/ Band. Come have a good time! They furnish the meat and music. Bring a side dish and whatever you want to drink. Great time to get to know the community.

Denny Rorick: Invite everyone to the Pasta dinner. He is rolling out some new dishes. Hope to see you then.

Jim Mertz: Announced Larry Koza told him before he left the Fish Hatchery will be stocking Wall-eye this fall.

Barb Butler: Tim Swartz , Veteran and lifelong resident of Pretty Lake who passed away over the winter will have a memorial in his honor Lagrange American Legion, Post 215.. Sunday, August 11, 2019 – 11:30 am. Visit Share and Rejoice together for Tim.

**Move to Adjourn: Motion to Adjourn by Rod Bergestedt. 2<sup>nd</sup> Motion by Pat Mitchell**