

Pretty Lake Conservation Club Minutes - July 7, 2020

President Ron Kantorak called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Prayer led by Butch Vaughn

Followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

Board Members Present: Ron Kantorak, Cathy Kantorak, Sue Mertz, Nancy Wetli, Michael Perry, Natalie McLaughlin, Les Rockwell, Beth Pusti, Denny Rorick, Ken Butler, Pat Mitchell, Ken Hensch, Butch Vaughn.

Board Members Absent: John Hensch, Jim Zuber

June Minutes: Motion made by Sue Mertz to approve the June 2, 2020, Board meeting Minutes. Second the motion by Les Rockwell. All approved. June Minutes are posted on the clubhouse bulletin board as well as the PLCC website.

Secretary, Beth Pusti review of email votes completed after the June 2, 2020 Board meeting:

June 4, 2020 an email from Rod Bergstedt to Ron Kantorak was circulated to the Board for review. Justin Blotkamp from Aquatic Weed Control had a good look at Pretty Lake on June 4 to assess the Eurasian water milfoil (EWM) situation. A survey shows the milfoil is a bit more plentiful this year. A map of the proposed treatment area was attached. The Board was given three options and budgetary estimates for the 2020 weed program to be able to make an informed decision. A vote from the PLCC Board was needed to proceed.

Option 1, treat lake & channels with 2, 4-D \$1,039.23

Option 2, treat lake & channels with Procellacor \$1,937.12

Option 3, treat lake with Procellacor & channels with 2, 4-D \$1,508.84

Procellacor is a newer product but has proven to be more effective long term and safer. It is also more expensive. The LARE Grant pays 80% of the weed program to the lake with 20% being paid by PLCC. Treatment to the channels is 100% cost to PLCC. The vote from the Board members was unanimous for Option 2.

A notice was sent out to the PLCC community on Tuesday, June 9 advising property owners when to expect weed control under the IDNR Lare grant to take place. Water restriction after treatment is 7 days on irrigation. Meaning, do not take water from the lake to use watering lawns or gardens for 7 days. This is a much lower risk restriction than the 2, 4-D irrigation restriction of 21 days. There was no swimming or fishing restrictions. Treatment took place June 11, 12.

June 9, 2020 Fund raising proposal: Ron Kantorak sent an email to the PLCC Board in which he outlined a proposed fundraiser from property owner, Craig Bobay and his family. Craig has proposed a walk around the lake to raise money for PLCC. He has offered to take care of the organizing and donations. He would purchase and donate 50 shirts for the walk which are a retro design from about 20 years ago. The first 50 people would receive a shirt with their \$10.00 entry fee. The \$10.00 per person will be donated to the PLCC. Anyone passed the first 50 to sign up would be charged \$20.00 entry fee and they will also receive a shirt. The shirt cost \$12.00 each with the remaining \$8.00 per entry to benefit the conservation club. The walk will be held counter clockwise Labor Day weekend. Saturday, September 5, 8:30 am sharp beginning walk

from participates own lake home. A Board vote was called to approve this fundraiser which was unanimous in favor of the walk. We thank Craig and his family for not only their generosity but for planning and organizing this event. We look forward to it.

June 12, 2020 - Six trees in the woods South of the clubhouse near the West border came down in a storm. Several were of good size. Brian Clark of the North Shore offered to cut trees and wood into 18” logs and stack along the edge of the woods to use in the fire pit for the price of \$200.00. The vote to accept Brian’s offer was unanimous.

June 16, 2020 - Ken Hensch emailed the Board proposing we purchase T-shirts for the Cruise-In. He said that Steve Yahn and Diana had found a good price on t-shirts. The idea proposed was to sell the shirts with a profit going to the PLCC. Ken asked for approval to make this purchase of about 40 shirts with an initial cost to the club of \$9.25 each.

The vote initially passed with 7 yes, 3 no, 1 abstained, and 3 not voted. Ultimately this was undecided and needed further review.

July 7, 2020 - Cruise-In, scheduled to take place August 8th was discussed further. Ken Hensch and Steve Yahn are planning this event. T-shirts have already been purchased by the club at a cost of \$156.00. Ken Hensch made a motion to finish the shirts, Natalie McLaughlin second the motion which passed with a vote of 9 yes, 1 abstain from Ken Hensch, and 2 no which came from Pat Mitchell and Ken Butler.

Ken Hensch also made a motion to purchase 10 reusable signs for this event that are similar to the signs we have for the bingo/root beer floats, to be used for directional and information purposes the day of the event. Sign cost not to exceed \$150.00 Beth Pusti second the motion for reusable Cruise-In signs not to exceed a cost of \$150.00. Ken Hensch abstained from the vote. Motion passed with all other members voting yes.

In planning this event Ken Hensch said there will be a need for door prizes and possibly a silent auction can be held. He would like the signage to direct spectators to park along roads. This event lends itself well to natural social distancing however people will be expected to wear masks for the safety of all as mandated by the County Board of Health. If all goes well Ken would like to look for sponsors next year. Last year we had a free will offering donation for brats/ hotdogs which were available. Jack Landers has offered to donate some money for hot dogs/ buns, brats but we will need more help in this area.

Treasurers Report: Ken Butler handed out a June 2020 Transaction report. The Balance as of May 31, 2020 was \$75,107.79. Big expenses for the month included the Cardno projects of \$32,512.25 and the 50% deposit on the new clubhouse windows of \$7,000.00. Balance at the end of June was \$36,874.10. We also had dues deposits of \$2,573.50. Ken reported that we currently have over \$3,000.00 in pending deposits from dues, July 4th events, and the generosity of property owners who continue to give a little extra when least expected. We truly appreciate everyone who helps to keep this Conservation Club an important part of their giving during this uncertain time. Ken wanted to acknowledge that there are a lot of really good people on this lake and we are blessed. Pat Mitchell moved to accept the Treasurer’s report with a second from Cathy Kantorak. Treasurer’s report was approved by all.

Clubhouse Report: Cathy Kantorak reported 3 rentals with a wedding this weekend. A Girl Scout troop has asked to come spend the night, July 24 and have some sort of wildflower

planting project. The windows are still scheduled to be replaced after the Rummage Sale in August. The Fire Pit project is still something that will be completed on an as time allows schedule. There is no set date however they are starting to bring in materials for the project.

Membership Report: Les Rockwell reported he has given a list to the Zone directors of property owners in their areas who have not paid dues. The percentage of dues paid per Zone is as follows: Zone 1 84.00%, Zone 2 51.85%, Zone 3 72.00%, Zone 4 87.50%, Zone 5 79.31%, Zone 6 58.06%, Zone 7 75.76%, Zone 8 84.85%

Total % of Properties that have paid dues is 74.01% which is ahead of last year. A total of \$4,625.00 in dues has been collected so far in 2020. Thank you to all of the Pretty Lake Community for your continued efforts in showing that you care through your memberships and enhancement allocations to the lake or clubhouse. You are so important to the maintenance and planning of projects that benefit all of us.

PLCC Signs: Michael Perry did a great job with signs and we very much appreciate all his hard work. Les Rockwell brought up that the doubled sided sign at 400S although in better shape than the other signs recently redone could be updated to match the others for an estimated cost to be \$80.00-\$90.00. Les motioned to have the sign at 400S also brought up to date. Michael Perry second the motion. Motion was passed.

All of the signs will have been done now except the “social game night” sign. Michael Perry said he had most materials to complete the project but since there are no social game nights currently scheduled due to the pandemic we decided to table this discussion until next year.

Masks for Rummage Sale? Purchase & have on hand? We have talked it over as a Board and decided that the rummage Sale is too important of a fundraiser to cancel unless absolutely necessary. We will do our best to spread items out further and utilize more space and possibly borrow tent canopies for outdoor use of tables. We may have to limit the number of people we allow inside at one time. For the safety of our volunteers and our residents we will require masks to be worn as mandated by the LaGrange County Board of Health. Co-chair Beth Pusti will supply a box of masks in case we need to provide masks to purchase at 1.00 apiece, however most people should have a mask to wear.

Republic Services Contract: Ron Kantorak reports that he has been dealing with this issue for quite a while, he says per our contract, Republic Services has overcharged the Pretty Lake Community and owes residents that were overcharged refunds. Republic tells him they are waiting on their Accounting Department to give them numbers of who they need to refund. The hassle is real and ongoing but Ron continues to try to get this resolved.

Roads around the Lake: Ron has also been trying to get answers, as to the schedule of repair and resurfacing of the roads around the lake as well as when and what is going to be done specifically with drainage issues around the lake. The County Highway Department has been unresponsive to his requests for answers and requests for a meeting.

LARE Grant Status: Weed Control is done for 2020. Thank you to Rod Bergstedt for all your help and advice. **Lake Discharge** Ron said he has not heard back yet on the LARE Grant status for this on the discharge channel. Once he does, the board will make a decision to go ahead or not depending on cost estimates.

Maple Tree Stump: Thank you to Dick Pusti for removing the maple tree stump and as many roots as possible. It is now ready for grass seed when the weather allows.

Ring of Fire, Leftover Flares? There are no flares left for next year. We should have grossed \$1427.50. Thank you to Vicky Linder for selling over 100 Flares.

Paint / Staining of fence & posts, picnic tables: Some of the picnic tables have been scraped down, thanks to a lady who had to do some community service hours and to The Butlers who supervised. We still need these projects done this year for general maintenance. No set day and time to complete was made because we are in the heat of summer however several people volunteered to take care of this when the heat lets up and we can get together. Michael Perry, Beth & Dick Pusti, Cathy & Ron Kantorak and Ken Butler all volunteered. When we actually set a date and time hopefully more can join in as schedules allow.

Golf Scramble flyers & posting: Cobblestone golf course is still reserved for this event on September 12, 2020. There is information on the bulletin board at the clubhouse as well as on the website.

Goose round-up results: Special thank you to Ken Butler, Butch Vaughn, and Doug Crawford: 33 of 35 geese were captured and relocated and these gentlemen were instrumental in making it happen. We appreciate all who helped. Butch said the June 13th day may need to be moved back a week next year. Ron was worried about losing Mongo as a drop off site because of overcrowding. Ron advised that the board should check with the DNR for when the best weekend to schedule this event next year.

Flotilla Results: Nancy Wetli and Natalie McLaughlin did a great job chairing this fun family event. There were 8 entries this year with 10 pontoons. Five judges were chosen from around the lake with their only instruction as to choose what they thought was good. Terry Martin then counted and reported the results.

1st Place went to the Schnorr Family of cottage 205 with their float Tiger King

2nd Place went to the Wetli Family of cottage 85 & 86 with their Heroes Salute

3rd Place went to the Butler, Kantorak, & Mitchell Families for their Trump Train. We would like to thank the third place team for donating their prize money back to the clubhouse.

We thank all who entered and look forward to seeing this family event grow every year in creativity and fun memories made for all.

Denny Rorick told the Board in years passed when he was running for public office and was going to enter the flotilla as a candidate. He was told he could not by the PLCC board at that time. He was upset to see this happen in our flotilla this year when it was previously denied to others. Denny Rorick made a motion that participants cannot use the flotilla to campaign for an individual candidate. Beth Pusti second the motion. Cathy Kantorak, Pat Mitchell, and Ken Butler voted against his motion. Butch Vaughn abstained. Beth Pusti, Les Rockwell, Natalie McLaughlin, Nancy Wetli, Sue Mertz, Michael Perry, Ken Hensch, Denny Rorick voted for this motion. Motion passed. In the future we will ask that the Flotilla event not be used to campaign for a particular candidate.

Cathy Kantorak made a motion that no political issue be allowed as a flotilla theme. There was no second to her motion. Motion dies.

Merchandise Results: Nancy Wetli reported 43 orders with \$1000.00 being given to the Treasury. People seemed to be happy with the quality of products as well as the sizing. Prices were kept reasonable and cost to do this online was minimal. Since we do not have the event schedule conducive to selling merchandise in person this year, online was a good option to use with current events. Nancy will run it again this summer and we will let the community know when that window of opportunity is set.

Dan Martin a Pretty lake resident and owner of Saving Grace offered to put apparel at his store, which he is also doing for Big Long Lake. We appreciate this offer and may look into it further in the future. Nancy said we run the risk of having to purchase a lot of inventory so for this year we will stick to online ordering. Nancy is looking into solid cotton caps which seem to be a popular request. Thank you Nancy for all your work.

Root Beer Float by Boat & 50/50: Thanks go out to the Rockwells, Butler, and Mitchell families for coming up with and implementing the July 4th Root Beer Float, 50/50 from the lake. Social distancing from the piers seemed to work well. There was no cost to the club since the ice cream and root beer was all donated. \$230.00 profit from the root beer float, and \$120.00 profit from the 50/50 raffle went to the PLCC. The Kahn family won the 50/50 raffle. They were guests of cottage 165, Eldon Biddle. Again, thank you to all who participated and volunteered.

General Meeting: Scheduled for Saturday, July 18 at 9:00 am - There will be no outside speakers this year. Masks are required however meeting will take place outside. Les Rockwell and Beth Pusti will be out of town but available remotely if needed.

Board Members Staying on? Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Denny Rorick along with his Committee will be putting together a list of potential new PLCC Board members. You must be a paid member of the Pretty Lake Conservation Club to be nominated. Presently we have 15 active Board members with 7 openings for the 2021 season.

The PLCC Board must consist of at least 9 members on the Board and not more than 15 per our bylaws. In addition at least 9 members are required to keep our 501C3 tax exemption. The activities of the Board will be discussed and a slate of nominees for election to the Board will be presented at the General Meeting. The seven Board members who have elected to leave are: Pat Mitchell, Cathy Kantorak, John Hensch, Ken Hensch, Jim Zuber, and Butch Vaughn. Butch has asked to be replaced on the Board of Directors but will stay on to help see the e-coli situation is resolved. Our current PLCC President, Ron Kantorak is also thinking of stepping aside but has indicated an interest in continuing to help in areas where his expertise is most needed.

These Board members have given countless hours of time and talent not to mention many years of combined experience which will be greatly missed. At the same time we would like to invite PLCC members from all sides and corners of this Pretty Lake to step into their shoes and become a part of keeping this community special.

Annual Meeting: If needed will be August 1

Second coat of stain & seal on porch? Denny Rorick has this under control. The weather has been too hot but this will be completed by mid-August.

LaGrange County Lakes Council/ water sampling update: Butch Vaughn reported he has made contact with Mike Holcomb and Dave Arrington who has a business as a water sampler contractor. Butch returned to Ron Kantorak a file of information concerning the Lakes Council sampling with the State and Federal parameters for acceptable water constituent levels. Butch seemed to have several concerns, one of which sampling does not have locations. Continued research is necessary before determining whether or not this testing is necessary for our lake. Butch is following up on this item.

E-Coli issue update: Butch Vaughn continues to be valuable and resourceful in keeping this issue at the forefront in priorities. Butch met again with County Surveyors Zach Holzinger, and Steve Vaughn. Butch is confident that LaGrange County is dedicated to finding the answer. The County Commissioners, Surveyors, Board of Health, and Sewer Board are all committed to getting this taken care of. Butch said the pandemic is slowing the process but he believes the County will resolve this e-coli issue.

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION:

Ron Kantorak: Leatherneck turtle eggs are round, usually 10-12 in a hole. Painted turtle eggs are white, smaller and elongated eggs. If you come across these eggs he recommends you mark the top of each egg with a dot and put into an egg carton with a little sand to hold them stable. Tom Mason on the East side of the lake is incubating turtle eggs so you can take the eggs to him. They are protected.

Michael Perry: Please remind your guests, and family there is a 10 mph speed limit on the lake at all times. 20 mph on the roads around the lake. No one wants to see anyone hurt needlessly. Please be mindful of children, joggers, and walkers, as well as swimmers, floaters, and boaters.

Denny Rorick: People tubing over the holiday weekend, three kids on back, no life jackets, and coming dangerously close to his boat. Again, please be respectful and practice safe boating. The PLCC is not who you go to when you see dangerous situations. Please call or leave a message with detailed information with our area DNR enforcement officer Jake Carlile this is his on-duty cell phone number 260-498-0250.

Ken Butler: Basketball backboard needs replaced. Something to think about if someone has any ideas. Also Cathy Kantorak is stepping away after 9 years as the PLCC property manager and we need to fill this vacancy preferably with a Board member. Duties entail scheduling events, rentals, taking and returning deposits, making sure it is cleaned up before and after events as well as alerting the Board to maintenance issues and general upkeep of the property. The property manager does get paid a small amount of \$50.00 per rental. Please think about it and let the Board know if you are interested in taking on this responsibility.

Pat Mitchell: Brought to the attention of the board that at Ron Kantorak's request, South side resident Greg Wattier has been keeping the new rain garden at the school watered which is so

important as the new plants are established. We owe Greg our gratitude and really appreciate this service he has done for the success of the rain garden. Ron Kantorak will send Greg a letter from the board thanking him for taking on this task. Also, please remember to thank Greg if you see him. Pat also mentioned the West side of the clubhouse is in poor condition. Years ago someone painted it instead of staining and now it is peeling and in need of attention. Michael Perry offered to look into what we need to do in the way of paint and repair recommendations. We will consider repairs after the windows have been replaced later this summer.

Butch Vaughn: Wanted to make a correction to something from the June meeting Minutes. Under the section where Deal Ditch was talked about the Minutes read in part “In December of 2019, the LaGrange County Surveyor, Department of Soil and Water and the Army Corp of Engineers walked the ditch. All agreed the ditch needs cleaned and dredged north of CR400. This could be done in 2021” Butch wanted to verify that 4800 feet will be dredged this year in 2020, not 2021.

Les Rockwell motioned to adjourn the July 7 meeting. Sue Mertz second the motion
Meeting Adjourned.