

PRETTY LAKE CONSERVATION CLUB

OCTOBER 2019 – MAY 1, 2020
RECORD OF BOARD VOTES DURING OFF SEASON
AS WELL AS REVIEW OF OFF SEASON EMAILS & UPDATES

2020 LARE Grant Application: On October 30, 2019, Ron Kantorak sent out an email with two attachments from Rod Bergstedt and Dave Keister (AWC) discussing and advocating that we apply for our 2020 Weed control LARE grant. The emails discussed and recommended we try a new more expensive chemical application on a 50% basis. Dave Keister from Aquatic weed control explained that we have been treating Eurasian mil foil in the lake with 2 applications of 4-D on 10 acres. The new herbicide called Procellacor is becoming widely used. It is more expensive but sometimes gives more than one year of control. The goal is to reduce the annual Eurasian Mil Foil acreage. Dave recommended we apply for 5 acres of Procellacore, and 5 acres of 2, 4-D to see how the Eurasian Mil Foil responds. Ron Kantorak explained that Rod Bergstedt is beginning the processing of the LARE grant application and would need a PLCC vote on how to proceed. After Researching the Procellacor product line, Ron found the information to be very positive as to its long term effectiveness on Eurasian Mil Foil along with lower Toxicity, 40 to 100 times lower on native plants and animals. Per the EPA it could almost be labeled non-toxic. He looked for negative comments but found none. The total cost for a 10 acres treatment of 50% 2, 4-D and 50% Procellacor would be \$4,750.00 with the PLCC share equal to \$2,375.00, an increase of \$875.00. Ron Kantorak called for a PLCC Board vote on how to proceed.

November 1, 2019 Final vote results on LARE grant for weed control to use the new herbicide Procellacor on a 5 acre test patch of the lake on Eurasian Mill Foil has passed with a vote of 13 yes, and 1 no vote. The no vote was Ken Butler. Ron Kantorak has informed Rod Bergstedt to move forward with the 2020 LARE grant application on that basis. The other 5 acres will be treated with the usual 2, 4 D chemical to be able to evaluate the results of each herbicide.

November 1, 2020, Ron Kantorak also informed the Board that he held a job showing on October 21, 2019 for the two LARE grant projects (Milford School rain garden, and the drain into the public landing). Bids are due from prospective contractors on November 4th.

Pretty lake break-In: Saturday, November 2, 2019: Ron Kantorak informed the PLCC Board that he had been contacted by a lake resident reporting a break-in and theft of property. The crime happened at 5 am, Thursday, October 31, 2019. The resident suggested we get the word out around the lake so that people are aware and can watch out for neighbors. The resident asked to remain anonymous. He did file a police report. Les Rockwell thought it would be a good idea to run it by the PLCC Board before we post anything on a website and email out information. A vote was called for on whether or not we notify the lake of incidents brought to our attention to raise awareness using our website and email capabilities. Ron believed it to be perfectly consistent with our Mission statement. A PLCC vote was taken to provide notification of the Pretty Lake break in with 13 yes, and 1 no vote from Les Rockwell.

Minutes~ October 1, 2019: Ron Kantorak called for a PLCC vote on November 2, 2019 to approve the Minutes from our October 1, 2019 so that these Minutes could be posted to the PLCC website and displayed on the outside display board at the Conservation Club. The vote coming in final on November 5, 2019 was all voted to approve the Minutes. The October 1, 2019 Minutes are approved and will be posted on the PLCC website and at the Conservation Club.

Contract Award for LARE Grant Projects: Wednesday, November 13, 2019, Ron sent an email to all Board members showing the proposals received from Cardno, and S&L for the two LARE Grant projects. The Milford School Rain Garden, and the Catch basin stabilization. 80% of the cost will be covered by the IDNR with PLCC incurring the other 20%. Although the cost for Cardno to perform the work will be \$1,120.00 more to the PLCC than S & L, the proposal that Cardno made was in significant more detail and improves greatly on the original bid parameters for both projects. Cardno made the original recommendations as to what we could do to improve Pretty Lake. The Board voted unanimously to award the contract for both projects to Cardno. Total cost for both projects \$45,000.00. Indiana Department of Natural Resources will cover 80% at \$36,000.00 with PLCC cost to be \$9,000.00

We would like to thank all those involved in the lengthy process of recommendations to improve our lake as well as all those involved in the LARE grant application process. We are excited to finally get these projects underway.

Proposed L-1 Lake Zoning Changes: Thursday, November 14, 2019 A important notice was emailed out by the PLCC. The notice was to inform LaGrange County property owners that the LaGrange County Plan Commission has introduced and scheduled for a public hearing on changes to the zoning ordinance that would affect L-1 (Lake residentially zoned) homes and lots. There are two significant proposed changes. The first change is to prohibit sinks, toilets, and other residential plumbing facilities in auxiliary buildings (such as back garages, carriage houses, man-caves and the like). The second change is to restrict auxiliary buildings to one story. The public hearing is scheduled for Monday, November 25, 2019 at 7 pm at the LaGrange County Annex Building. The notice provided a link for the actual wording of the proposed zoning changes, and contact information to have your views heard.

Since the proposed changes affect the rights of Pretty Lake land owners and restrict future use of lots, the association wanted to be sure property owners are made aware of this and are afforded the opportunity to be heard.

Ron Kantorak sent an updated email informing the PLCC Board that he was planning to attend the above meeting representing the PLCC with regard to the zoning commission's proposal to limit back buildings to one story with no plumbing. Ron stated in his email that they eventually plan to eliminate electricity in back buildings as well. Many current Pretty Lake residents have back lot properties with two stories, electricity, and plumbing. Ron found no good reason for the planning commission to implement these restrictions going forward. Ron plans to represent his position both personally and as President of PLCC. He asked the board that if we had any objections to him doing so to let him know. There were no objections presented from the PLCC board, only support.

December 30, 2019 LaGrange County commissions met to vote on proposed zoning changes to L-1 regarding auxiliary buildings on back lots. They voted unanimously to reject the proposed changes. Thank you to all citizens who participated in this government process.

General update from President Ron Kantorak: First week of December 2019. 1.) The contractor, Cardno will survey the Milford School property on Monday, December 9, 2019. This will give them the information to begin engineering the rain garden project. They have already surveyed the property at the public landing. 2.) The Pretty Lake Dam was raised on December 1st and the channel cleared and cleaned of debris. Special thank you to all the men who showed up and helped with this job. Michael Perry, Pat Mitchell, Ken Hensch, George Dewalt, Ron Vaughn, and Les Rockwell. A very special thank you to Dick Pusti who chain sawed his way down stream clearing many fallen trees from the channel. Well done all. 3.) Ron Kantorak submitted a LARE grant request for 2020 budget consideration. He resubmitted the request to provide shoreline stabilization along the Pretty Lake discharge channel. We hope to have this request approved this time around. 4.) Ron is in the process of submitting a request to the LaGrange Highway department regarding paving the roads around Pretty Lake and concerns with fixing proper drainage in several areas as it related to the road conditions.

Letter sent to Mr. Benjamin Parish of the LaGrange Co. Highway Dept: As President of PLCC, Ron Kantorak sent a letter December 6, 2019. In the letter Ron cited several concerns from Pretty Lake residents related to road issues. 1.) Cardno Report dated July 6, 2018 " Pretty Lake Post Construction Monitoring Report" recommendation states that a significant portion of 890E should be paved, not chipped and sealed, a bio swale and a new culvert be created to alleviate the sediment going into Pretty Lake. 2.) Significant damage to 890E as well as the entire road system around Pretty Lake has been damaged due to construction. The road system needs to be paved not chip and sealed. The recent paving done on 500S at 890E was a terrible job. 3.) Drainage off the East side of 890E North of the public landing is not draining into the ditch but instead the water runoff is traveling down 890-E across the newly paved public access and washing out the South side of the newly paved area. Ron expressed his desire to talk about the areas of concern. Copies of this letter were sent to Commissioners Larry Miller, Terry Martin, and Dennis Kratz.

PLCC Directional Sign refurbishing update: January 10, 2020, On December 12, 2019 Michael Perry sent the PLCC Board and update on his project to repair/refurbish the PLCC Sign on 500 S & 890 E. Five options were presented for the Board to review with each option including specific details and price analysis. Each Board member voted by email. The vote was unanimous for Option #5.

Option #5

Buy one 2"x12"x8' Cedar Board cut to 2"x10"x48" or not. Plane, biscuit, & glue. Clamp for a few days in a warm environment. Paint dark brown with Benjamin Moore Arborcoat. Have Doug at Shade Tree engraving CNC the letters & arrow into the new board. Paint yellow in letters and apply traffic beads for reflection. Cost = new wood \$72.00, dark brown paint, yellow paint, and traffic beads \$0.00, CNC letters and arrow \$150.00 Total cost \$222.00

Ron has instructed Michael that he may proceed with this project.

Pretty Lake update on Deal Ditch- E.coli situation: January 10, 2020, Ron Kantorak sent the PLCC Board an update from Butch Vaughn . Martin Franke (LaGrange County Soil & Water) and Steve Vaughn (LaGrange County) met with IDEM, IDNR, and US Army Corps of Engineers officials at the Pretty Lake public access on Tuesday, January 7, 2020. Steve Vaughn showed them what the Surveyors office is planning to do in the way of cleaning out the inlet ditch to Pretty Lake, and received their input on wetland and disposal of sediment issues. Everyone agrees the E.Coli numbers indicate a problem. No one obvious source has shown up as where the contamination is originating. It is hoped that cleaning Deal Ditch will either reveal the source of contamination or alter the situation in some way as to improve understanding of the problem. Each of the LaGrange County agencies involved still seem committed to finding a permanent solution.

Butch Vaughn also added in an email dated January 11, 2020 that they will be doing a visual inspection of the Deal Ditch banks (They need an extended cold spell) looking for “hot spots” that may detect a tile or seepage coming into the ditch. Butch also indicated there was a dye test yet to complete on a property that has no record with the Health Dept. They so far have not received return correspondence from the homeowner for permission to proceed with testing.

General update email sent from PLCC: February 24, 2020 an email update on current environmental projects was sent out. The email stated that PLCC had received the final engineering drawings from Cardno on the Milford School Rain Garden Project. The drawings were reviewed with the Prairie Heights Superintendent, their Head of Maintenance, and a School Board Member along with the project engineer from Cardno. We received approval to move ahead with construction.

PLCC also received the final engineering drawings for the drainage project at the public landing. Following a meeting with the head of LaGrange County Highway Department and Neil Wolhether we received approval to move ahead with construction of the drainage project at the public landing.

Cardno is expected to begin construction on both projects in March, with completion in April. Planting of the appropriate filtering plants will take place after the last frost of the 2020 spring season.

General Information: As PLCC is obligated to close (lower) the dam between March 1 – April 1 depending on seasonal water conditions, Jim Mertz lowered (closed) the dam on March 9, 2020 after the ice melted.

Due to Covid-19 virus and CDC recommendations our April 7 Board meeting has been cancelled.

Les Rockwell & Ron Kantorak have prepared the April newsletter along with the membership letter to go out soon.

Ron Kantorak will order flares and will file paperwork for the goose round up IDNR permit before April 25. Michael Perry is completing the PLCC sign, which will be up soon.

Spring clean-up scheduled April 25, has also been cancelled. The Clubhouse is in good shape. Members will go as schedules allow to social distance but will rake and do general maintenance as needed. There are established burn piles for leaves, branches etc..

Pretty Lake Conservation Club

APRIL 1 –

CONTINUED RECORD OF BOARD VOTES DURING OFF-SEASON
AS WELL AS REVIEW OF UPDATES.

CLUBHOUSE RENTAL DEPOSITS: Vote was taken on whether or not to refund PLCC rental deposits due to Covid-19 virus concerns. 13 voted to refund deposits when requested. 1 voted (Les Rockwell) to refund if request is made 30 days in advance of rental. Vote has passed to refund when requested due to public health and safety concerns.

LAKES COUNCIL: After receiving a letter from LaGrange County Lakes Council asking for our membership, Ron asked for Board vote on whether to pay the \$75.00 membership fee. The Council also asked for \$200.00 for a water testing fee. Votes to pay for a \$75.00 membership to join the LaGrange County Lakes Council passed with 11 votes, 1 vote against from Michael Perry and 2 votes not received. We did not pass the \$200.00 for water testing. There were 4 votes for water testing, 8 votes against water testing, and 2 votes not received.

Since we do our own testing already we wanted to learn more about their process for testing, where it is published, who does the testing and how often before we pay for water testing. We will join the LaGrange Lakes Council but not the water sampling for 2020.

Maple Tree: On the West side of the clubhouse a maple tree between the clubhouse, tennis courts, flagpole, drainage line was brought up as a future issue with roots as well as branches. Should it be removed now while it is a manageable size? Or leave as is? There were 11 votes for removal, 1 vote from Denny Rorick to leave as is, and 2 votes not received.

The maple tree was removed April 1st by Cathy & Ron Kantorak, and Cynthia and Les Rockwell. The 3 foot stump will be removed at a later time. Thank you to the Kantoraks and Rockwells for your time and labor.

Spring Clean-Up, April 25: Has been cancelled due to the pandemic. The clubhouse is in good shape. Members will go up to the clubhouse as their personal time and social distancing allows raking leaves and moving branches to the established burn piles. Les Rockwell will put up the tennis net. Michael Perry will get the grills clean and prepared for summer. Thank you to all for doing what you can to help out on your own time table. We appreciate you all.

NEW PLCC SIGN: Michael Perry did an excellent job on the new directional sign at 500S & 890E. The sign is installed and looks great. He did such a good job that Ron Kantorak asked Michael to determine prices for replacing both the signs to the clubhouse which are in poor shape. Ron asked for a vote to move ahead on the project. Michael submitted a cost estimate to Ron on April 9 which he approved as reasonable, In the \$275.00-\$350.00 range. Based on member votes 12 of 14 for approval, Ron gave Michael the go ahead to proceed with the project. Votes were not received from Pat Mitchell or John Hensch.

FLARES: Ron Kantorak purchased 10 cases of flares @ 36 flares per case for the “Ring of Fire” (July 4). The 360 new flares + 240 left over = 600 flares in inventory. Last year we sold 581 flares. There was a slight increase in price because the order was not large enough for the previous years discounted rate. \$1.84 last year cost per flare. \$2.43 this year cost per flare. There was a discussion and vote on whether to raise the price of flares this year or keep it at \$2.50 per flare. The final vote was unanimous to keep the price \$2.50 per flare for 2020.

PROJECT UPDATE: Progress on the Milford School raingarden and the drain at the public landing is continuing. Both Projects should be complete by the end of April with some plantings to take place when seasonally appropriate.

AQUATIC TREATMENT BIDS: April 24, 2020, Rod Bergstedt sent a spreadsheet showing the Aquatic Weed Treatment bids for the 2020 season. Bids were received from Aquatic Control, Inc., Aquatic Weed Control, Aquatic Enhancement & Survey, Inc. , and Clarke Aquatic Services. The DNR authorized two herbicides for treatment in Pretty Lake this year. Our contract with the DNR provides the State will pay 80% of the cost. Board members were sent the results for review and vote. The lowest bid was submitted by Aquatic Weed Control with a total cost of \$ 4,353.00. The Board voted unanimously to award the contract to Aquatic Weed Control who are also the most familiar to our lake and who we have had good results with every year since we started the program.

Follow up with LaGrange County Highway Department: On December 6, 2019, Ron Kantorak sent a letter to Benjamin Parrish, or the LaGrange County Highway Department addressing three issues of concern from residents of the Pretty Lake community.

- 1.) Cardno report dated July 6, 2018 recommended that a significant portion of 890E should be paved, not chipped and sealed, and a bio swale and new culvert be created to alleviate the sediment loading into Pretty Lake. **UPDATE:** Mr. Benjamin Parish responded that he expected something would be done about the drainage issue at the bottom of the hill on 890E as you are heading North to the PLCC clubhouse before the Fall of this year 2020.
- 2.) Due to a significant amount of construction completed along the West side of Pretty Lake, there has been quite a bit of damage to 890E. The entire road system around Pretty lake desperately needs paved not chipped and sealed. **UPDATE:** Mr. Parish responded that his budget would not provide enough funds to pave the roads around Pretty Lake with asphalt as requested. He did say they would repair all the issues around the lake and also chip and seal the road surface before the Fall of this year 2020.
- 3.) Drainage off the East side of 890 E immediately North of the public landing is not draining into the ditch on that side of the road. Instead, the water runoff is traveling down 890E across the newly paved public access and washing out the South side of the newly paved area. The mound of earth on the East side of 890 E needs to be regraded and seeded to direct the water runoff into the drainage ditch and culvert under the access road and into a proper sediment recovery area before going into Pretty Lake. **UPDATE:** Ron met with Ben and Carl (crew supervisor) on 2/17/2020 and showed them the drainage issue at the public landing. Within a week this issue was addressed and the area regraded to allow proper drainage into the new newly made drain just South of the public landing on the East side of 890 E.

LARE GRANT PROJECTS: Projects applied for and received in 2019 will be completed by Cardno with the final filtering plants at the public landing and in the school rain garden to be completed in May.

DIEHM PROPERTY REZONING Number 533: It has been brought to the Boards attention that a sale and rezoning of property just over the LaGrange County line into Noble County is planned which affects LaGrange County property owners, and the Lake communities both economically and environmentally. The proposed sale and rezoning of 109.53 acres of the Diehm property from Zoned A1 to A3 would allow for a confined feeding operation. Included are 3 large Hog buildings and a mortality composter. The proposed 109.53 acres are just over the border from LaGrange County, South of Big Long Lake. This property borders within close proximity of affecting three

Counties, Noble, LaGrange and Stueben but is in the Noble County jurisdiction. Ron Kantorak stated concerns by a number of Pretty lake residents. This rezoning will directly affect Lake of the Woods, McClish Lake, Big Long Lake, Pretty Lake. Ron participated on a conference call with several other Lake representatives concerning this issue and would like property owners who have concerns to get involved in some of the following ways:

- 1.)** Email: planning@nobleco.org and let them know as a property owner you are not in favor of this CAFO.
- 2.)** In the event that legal council is needed to be engaged a separate bank account will be set up to handle donations (PLCC is not involved in collecting or donating funds for this account). Information will be provided at a later time for where donations can be made if this becomes necessary. Ron offered to pass along information from the Lake representatives group for those that would like to contribute but made no financial commitment of any kind from PLCC.
- 3.)** Noble County Commissioners are:
Gary Leatherman – 260-636-1290 x 1151
Justin Stump- 260-636-1290 x 1152
Anita Hess - 260-636-1290 x 115
- 4.)** Property Owners are encouraged to sign a petition. Pretty Lake property owners can sign the petition located at our clubhouse. The petition is hanging on the clubhouse door knob.

Ron Kantorak sent the 17 page, Diehm Property-Rezoning Application to the PLCC Board of directors for their review as well as information concerning the issue. Recommendations were made and are encouraged in the way of emails to public officials who are making or influencing this decision. Namely The Noble County Plan commission, Senator Glick and Congressman Denny Zent.

Ron Kantorak has asked Les Rockwell to inform the PLCC Community that a Petition will be hanging on the door knob to the clubhouse for Property owners around the Lake to Sign.

The Petition:

LaGrange, Noble, Stueben County Petition to stop the proposed CAFO located at:
11554 E 1200 N, Wolcottville, IN. 46795

REASON:

We, the land owners in Stueben, Noble, and LaGrange Counties do hereby protest the proposed placement of the CAFO at the above mentioned address. There are many serious concerns expressed by all resident and business owners living and working around this proposed site.

- 1.) The Maumee ditch runs through the property at 11554 E 1200 N. This ditch drains into Lake of the Woods and McClish Lakes.
- 2.) Camp Lakewood is located on Lake of the Woods and their camp is located within 100 yards of a well that is used for children attending camp to bathe and for their drinking water.
- 3.) The foul odors emitted from the proposed CAFO will have an effect on the property values as well as possible harm for residents, children, and long term workers.
- 4.) The CAFO will increase truck/semi traffic on our area roads, bridges, and overpasses.
- 5.) There are three lakes with a large residential public recreational population within 1-2 miles of the proposed operation.
- 6.) The CAFO will cause contamination from leaching into our lakes, wells, and water supply.

Please add your support by signing the petition.

BOARD VOTE: April 30, 2020, Les Rockwell moved that the PLCC send a communication with documentation regarding the hog farm and zoning changes in Noble County with the PLCC President Ron Kantoraks comments to membership regarding the information.

Michael Perry seconded the motion. Motion passed with unanimous Board vote.

MAY BOARD MEETING/ACTIVITIES- COVID-19: April 30, 2020 Due to the health and safety risks involved with Covid-19, a recommendation was made to cancel our May 5 Board meeting and conduct all PLCC business via emails.

In addition, two events scheduled for May 23 (Bingo & Root Beer Floats), May 25 (Memorial Day Breakfast), which are both events that would prove difficult to maintain social distancing, it was recommended that we cancel these May events in the interest of safety for all. A Board vote was called to make the decision to cancel May events. The vote was unanimous to cancel May events by all Board members.