

**Pretty Lake Conservation Club**  
**General Meeting ~ Saturday, August 1, 2020**  
**Minutes**

**PLCC President, Ron Kantorak called the General Meeting to Order at 9:00 a.m.**  
**Jim Mertz led the prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance said by all.**

**PLCC Board Roll Call: ALL PRESENT.**

**Ron Kantorak, Cathy Kantorak, Les Rockwell, Beth Pusti, Ken Butler, Ken Hensch, Butch Vaughn, Sue Mertz, Pat Mitchell, Nancy Wetli, Natalie McLaughlin, Michael Perry, Denny Rorick, Jim Zuber.**

**Introduction was made of those present along with their cottage numbers. There were 44 residents, along with 14 Board Members for a total of 58 folks present.**

**AGENDA ITEMS:**

**Treasurers Report:** Ken Butler handed out a Cash Flow Statement that covered the last year from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020. Inflows of cash included some of last summer (2019) events including but not limited to Bingo, 50/50, clubhouse contributions and rentals, dues, directory sales, LARE Grant income, rummage sale income and so forth. We have had minimal Event income for 2020 so far due to the Coronavirus. Total Inflow of cash for the stated report was \$67,109.83

Outflow of cash for the same period totaled \$71,458.08. Leaving an Overall Total of \$ **-4,348.25** Outflows of cash included but not limited in the report are Utilities, Clubhouse repairs of \$10,061.33 which include a \$7,000.00 deposit on new windows to the clubhouse, 2019 event expenses, Lawn service, Insurance, and \$46,500.00 in Lake Projects.

Currently we have \$37,372.31 in the bank. We will owe another Insurance payment this fall along with the remaining \$7,000.00 for the 19 windows that will be installed by the end of August.

Our annual audit was completed July 16, 2020.

Pat Mitchell moved to accept the Treasurers Report, Sue Mertz second the motion and there were no objections. Treasurers Report passed.

**Clubhouse Report:** Our property manager, Cathy Kantorak reported 5 rentals for this year despite the virus and 1 wedding rental yet to happen. \$2,167.00 from ads in the new directories that went out last Fall. The fire pit was completed this last week with 4 cement benches yet to come. Thank you to Gabriel Solyom who is completing this as part of an Eagle scout project.

**REPAIRS:** Concrete pads were added in front of the shed. There is now a driveway into the clubhouse grounds. The porch, fence and posts have been stained or painted, and propane tank filled. The area behind the arborvitaes has been mowed and basketball hoop has been

repaired. NEAR FUTURE ITEMS: End of season plumbing work, West side of building needs sanded, prepped and painted. All 19 clubhouse windows will be replaced by the end of August at a cost of \$13,490.00.

Clubhouse cleanup day is set for November 14. Hope to see everyone back then.

Cathy Kantorak announced that when they install the new windows the old windows will be available. Dan Martin expressed an interest in all of them. Cathy said she would keep him posted as to the date because he will have to get them on that day.

Cathy and the Board would also like to thank Paul Ridenour for periodically doing a recycling run for the clubhouse.

Cathy is stepping down as clubhouse manager at the September board meeting this year. We truly owe her a debt of gratitude for her many years of service. Cathy has done an amazing job and will be missed.

There are many aspects to this job that includes keeping up on repairs, handling rentals, and scheduling events to name just a few. We sincerely thank you Cathy, you will be missed.

**Signage:** Michael Perry was given the task last Fall of repairing and replacing the Clubhouse sign at 890 & 500 which had fallen into disrepair. He worked on it as a winter project and did such a great job that the clubhouse sign in front of the property also became a project for Michael. The sign at 400, will also be completed soon. Michael submitted plans and cost estimates each time to the Board, He did much of the labor himself and came in under the budget estimate each time. We truly appreciate Michaels work and his willingness to help out wherever possible.

**PLCC Pretty Lake Online Store:** Nancy Wetli has been working all year on the merchandising and has done a great job. Due to the virus she utilized an online store platform. This helped us avoid buying inventory that we could not sell without events and was able to keep our costs low and still make some money for the club. In the Spring she had success with the online store that was opened for a week. She has opened it for another week and it is currently running online at <https://prettylake2020.itemorder.com> from Friday July 31 through Sunday, August 9. Items can be purchased from this online store. Pickup will be August 19 or 20<sup>th</sup>. Nancy will put out a notice when to pick up items. There is information on the PLCC.org website. Nancy also has PL car decals for \$5.00 each.

The Pretty lake History Book was republished in 2019. The book is \$59.00 and there are 6 people currently interested but we need at least 10 orders to republish. If anyone would be interested please contact Nancy to be added to the list.

**Membership:** Les Rockwell reported that as of July 31, 2020, 75.33% of the 227 cottages we count had paid their yearly dues. We appreciate all who have paid their dues especially in a time of uncertainty. Membership is ahead of last year and is so important right now when we have not been able to hold events. There has been \$4,725.00 in dues paid for 2020.

Thank you Conservation Club Members.

**LARE Grant Status:** Ron Kantorak reported to the membership updates on the Lake improvement projects. Please keep in mind it takes about 2 years to do these projects. First a study of the lake is done to determine the greatest improvement needs and the projects that can be done given the cost analysis and availability of funds. LARE Grants are applied for depending on the projects the PLCC Board approves, then deadlines have to be met. The projects involve the DNR, land owners, public officials, applications and a slew of follow-ups and red tape. If a LARE grant comes through it typically pays for 80% of a project with the PLCC covering the other 20%. Once we are informed of an approved Grant then we begin all over again with getting bids and discussing the best possible options for getting a project completed. In the last few years we applied for 3 Grants of which two were accepted. We proceeded as follows.

**Eurasian mil foil:** An invasive weed control project through Aquatic Weed Control (AWC) that has been an ongoing project. The acreage treated depends on an annual assessment of growth and control. We tried a new product this year called Procellacor which has been shown to do a better job with a lower level of toxicity. Procellacor only goes after the Eurasian mil foil. It will not kill or control any native weed or plant. This year 9.43 acres of the lake were treated as well as 1.72 acres of channel. There is a map on the PLCC.org website to show areas treated. We do not treat Jobs Hole due to complaints from fishermen.

**Rain Garden:** A LARE Grant project completed this spring. The rain garden at Milford School off 500S was needed due to a 12" drain that water cut into the road leaving sediment and materials flowing into resident areas and then the lake. The rain garden will alleviate these issues. We thank the School Corporation for allowing us to have this completed on school property, and in turn it will serve as a continuing education resource for the school system on rain gardens. We thank Bruce and Katie Bowman who have been taking care of it and Greg Wattier for watering it daily through this hot summer so we do not lose it. You are appreciated. Maintaining this rain garden is something that will be ongoing and must be planned for.

**Farm Land drainage into boat launch area:** Water was collecting and not draining causing erosion and sediment to enter the lake. Repairs were made on the farm side, on the County side we repaired and cleaned out discharge area with filtering plants.

**Pretty Lake discharge channel:** This was a project we applied for but for some reason was denied after our other two projects were accepted. Possibly denied due to budget constraints. Ron resubmitted this proposal last November and hopes to hear something by this September. Ron will follow through with this and keep us posted.

**Republic Service Contracts:** Ron reported that our former 3-year contract @ \$48.00 per quarter is over. He has been trying to renegotiate a contract for Pretty Lake Residents for quite some time and it has been a battle. We currently have 97 customers that utilize this contract who were actually overcharged. Republic has finally agreed to deduct \$15.00 from current customer charges and a new negotiated price for 1 year has been set at \$51.36 per quarter. Residents have other options with other trash or recycling programs if they chose. Noble County disposal is \$69.00 per quarter but also offers a recycling program for an added charge. If you are not using Republic and would like to change you only need to specify to them that you want the contracted price for Pretty lake residents.

**Road Paving & Drainage issues status:** Ron acknowledged that he gets all the area complaints about road damage, downed trees, and drainage issues much of which he has no control over. That being said Ron did send a letter quite a while ago to Ben Parrish of the County Highway Department outlining multiple issues needing addressed with road repairs. Ron brought several areas on roadways around the lake to his attention including erosion problems on the Southwest side, Shoddy work completed last year on 500S, areas at the corner on 890, and at the bottom of hill to the South of the clubhouse where water collects and is causing problems. Road conditions are generally not good all the way around the lake due to years of ongoing construction and chip n seal repairs. Dealing with these issues, getting calls returned and trying to find solutions has been and will continue to be an ongoing problem. They did take care of drainage issues at the boat launch, and by the end of summer have committed to repairing the issues at 890 and bottom of the hill however he said there was no money in the budget to care for roads presently and that they will be doing wedging and sealing cracks with chip n seal repairs. Ron requested that they not use pea gravel but asked they use white limestone.

**Hog Farm/restrictive breeding:** Ron recapped information on a Confined space, Hog farm that was attempting to get rezoning into Noble County that would have affected the area lakes and waterways. A letter writing campaign ensued in a combined effort of concerned citizens in which Ron Kantorak represented himself as well as Pretty lake residents. The letter writing effort included zoning commissioners, County councilmen, State Senators, and Representatives. Eventually the Petitioner pulled the request for zoning change. Diana Hensch commented that they could resubmit at any time.

**L1- Building Code Zoning Change:** LaGrange County attempted to add a zoning change that would greatly limit what homeowners could do with their lake property backlots. These changes would have restricted structures to one story, no plumbing, and eventually no electricity. There are already many that are two story with plumbing and electricity. Ron again represented himself and as PLCC President at the zoning hearing. Commissioners voted it down.

**DNR Contacts:** Ron Kantorak wanted everyone to know who to contact in our area if they need assistance with DNR matters.

Allison Olinger- Docks, Seawalls, and Weed removal permits [AOLiger@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:AOLiger@dnr.IN.gov)

Jake Carlile- Enforcement cell-260-498-0250 [JCarlile@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:JCarlile@dnr.IN.gov)

Matt Horsley- Fish stocking, hatchery

Doug Nusbaum- LARE Grants. [DNusbaum@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:DNusbaum@dnr.IN.gov)

**Deal Ditch~ Ecoli updates:** Butch Vaughn reported that water testing has come to a halt due to the pandemic and will resume once the Board Of Health is not overwhelmed with issues related to Covid 19. In 2019 water samples were collected regularly from April through the end of October at 11 sites. Butch read Health Department Meeting Minutes from October 29, 2019. The testing indicates 70% human/30% animal. Dye testing continues at homes along Deal Ditch. There are many stagnate areas along the ditch where water collects and e-coli easily and quickly multiplies. Dredging of the ditch is quite an expense but is underway. The project

includes cleaning brush, trees, spoils, to keep the water flowing. Butch believes the team formed to combat this problem will see it through. This team includes the LaGrange Health Department, County Surveyors, The County Sewer District, LaGrange County Soil & Water and Butch himself.

**Board Nominations:** The Board Nomination Committee comprised of Denny and Cecily Rorick, and Pat Mitchell announced there were 7 new Openings to the PLCC Board. We must have 9 active Members with no more than 15. If there are over 15 nominations they need to be voted upon at an Annual Meeting to take place August 8 if need be.

Nominations to the new PLCC Board are as follows:

Robert Burns, Cottage 49-50

Cary Fries, Cottage 89

Greg Wattier, Cottage 159-160

Scott Alexander, Cottage 177D

Chris Alexander, Cottage 177D

Dan Martin, Cottage 141

Stan Shopa motioned to close the nominations. Cathy Kantorak seconds the motion. No one opposed. Nominations are closed. Induction will take place the first meeting after Labor Day which is September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020. These six new members may attend the Tuesday, August 4 meeting at 6:30pm to get an idea of what to expect. There will not have to be an Annual Meeting since we did not exceed 15 nominations. Welcome to the Board!

After Labor Day we will elect new officers.

**Leaving the Pretty Lake Conservation Board:**

President, Ron Kantorak will continue to help out in many ways including the Grant application process, the golf scramble, and wherever we can use his experience.

Cathy Kantorak, Pat Mitchell, John Hensch, Ken Hensch, Jim Zuber, and Butch Vaughn are also leaving the Board after this term. These seven people have dedicated countless hours in planning and implementing events, cleaning and maintaining the clubhouse, attending meetings and helping neighbors and friends. We all owe them our gratitude and sincere appreciation. Butch has promised to continue to see the e-coli issue through until it is resolved and I am sure we will see everyone continue as invaluable volunteers for the community.

**Cruise-In: August 8,** Ken Hensch and Steve Yahn are planning our 1<sup>st</sup> event of the summer for 2020. Helping them are Michael Perry and Jack Landers. This Wheels and Weiners Cruise-In will feature the love and appreciation area folks have for their classic, custom, and rare vehicles. Keeping a socially safe distance this event promises door prizes, and a silent auction. Hot dogs and pop will be available from the grill area. We hope the weather is nice and everyone has a safe event.

**Rummage Sale: Drop Off** is scheduled Sunday, August 9 from 12-2 pm. Monday, August 10 thru Friday, August 14 from 9am – 2 pm.

**Rummage Sale:** Scheduled for Saturday, August 15, 8 am – Noon. Typically the largest fundraising event of the year, we voted last month to still have this event despite knowing it will bring challenges due to Covid-19. We will expect volunteers and attendees to wear masks for the health and safety of our community as mandated by our State and County. We will utilize a larger area of the grounds. We will have only about ½ the normal tables in the clubhouse and may have to limit the number of people we allow into the clubhouse at one time. Because this event requires many volunteers, we needed to get an idea of peoples comfort level in putting in the time and resources to this event. At our meeting Beth Pusti asked for a raise of hands of those that do not feel comfortable attending or volunteering for a rummage sale this year. 1 out of 58 people raised their hand.

We had eight people offer the use of canopy type tents to be able to spread items out further around the grounds. We realize this will not be an easy event to handle safely in a health crisis and that we need to take all possible precautions seriously not only to make sure people feel comfortable attending but also volunteering. Masks are expected but one will be provided to those without one. Disposable gloves and or sanitizers will be available.

Barb Butler will run an ad in the newspaper, and make arrangements for the pick-up of unsold items by the Amish. Lunch will be provided to volunteers on drop off days.

**Root Beer Floats by Boat:** Saturday, September 5, 7 pm. Nancy Wetli and Sue Mertz are planning to handle this event similar to how it was done on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. They are working on the location to be announced later.

**Walk for the Lake:** September 5, 8:30 am. Craig Bobay and his family came up with a socially responsible way to raise additional funds for the club in an easy and relaxed way. Additional information is on the website however just sign up by the August 27 deadline with a \$20.00 entry fee. Part of the money will go to pay for a good quality Pretty lake retro polo shirt while the rest will go to the club. To get the ball rolling, Craig and his family purchased 50 shirts for the first 50 who signed up to participate. They hoped to get about 100 people and already have 70 entries. Again the deadline is August 27 so they have time to order the shirts. Pickup for the shirts is Friday evening of Labor Day weekend and the morning of the walk. People who have entered will simply leave their homes at 8:30 am on September 5 and in support of the club will walk clockwise around the lake. No prizes, no competition, just a hopefully beautiful morning to spend with your family or guests walking the lake and being thankful for the beauty all around us. Thank you so much to Craig and Nancy Bobay for their generous donation of 50 shirts, and for the organizing of this event.

**Golf Scramble:** September 12, 8 am shotgun start. Ron Kantorak reported he has 8 teams interested. The scramble will start and finish at the same time with lunch afterward. Cost is \$75.00 per person, \$300.00 per team. Information is on the website or contact Ron if you're interested.

## **QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS:**

Peggy Jones- Thanked Cathy Kantorak for all of her work through the years as our PLCC property manager.

Chris Sluyter- Commented on what seems to be increased speeds, also wondered if this is going to be an issue if we should not look into set times for this to take place. Ron Kantorak answered that the DNR sets the speed limit. Any Indiana lake under 300 acres has a 10 mph speed limit. Pat Mitchell added that we do have the option to petition the DNR for open speed limit times if majority of cottage owners want to change it at some point.

Other comments were made siting erosion of shoreline, and safety situations where many people purchase places on Pretty lake specifically because it does not have some of the issues that come with an all sport lake.

Chris Sluyter also asked about the Pretty lake resort lawsuit concerning common property. Ron Kantorak answered that the Pretty lake Conservation Club has no involvement.

Chris Alexander- Had a question about how late someone can be on the lake. The answer is there is no time limit to the lake.

Ken Hensch- An additional answer to increased speeds on the lake, Ken noted that life preservers are not being utilized. It is the law that everyone on a boat needs to also have a life preserver present. No one wants to hear of a preventable death on the lake.

Ron Kantorak added that sometimes it seems like a boat is going faster than it really is but if you do have legitimate safety concerns of boaters creating a dangerous situation do not hesitate to call 911, the County Sheriff in an emergency. To report a non-emergency but an ongoing situation call Jake Carlile with DNR enforcement. Jake can be reached at this mobile number 260-498-0250. If he does not answer, leave a message or he will not respond.

Denny Conrad - Commented that navigation/landing lights are not being used correctly. Headlights on boats were being used inappropriately and counter clockwise is how boats should go around the lake.

Stan Shopa- Kudos to Ron Kantorak for your work as President and on the PLCC Board. Great job Ron!

Stan Shopa moved to adjourn the General meeting, there were a lot of 2<sup>nd</sup> to the motion but I will specifically name Sue Mertz. No one objected.

- **THANK YOU TO ALL PLCC MEMBERS FOR COMING TO THE GENERAL MEETING, FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT, AND FOR ALL THE TIME YOU VOLUNTEER TO MAKE THIS A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE AND REST. WE TRULY APPRECIATE FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS WHO CARE AND MAKE THIS A BETTER PLACE FOR ALL.**

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