

Pretty Lake Conservation Club
July 17, 2021 ~ General Meeting Minutes
Call to Order 9:04 AM. By President Scott Alexander
Followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

Call to Order: Board Members Present- President, Scott Alexander, Vice President, Cary Fries, Treasurer, Sue Mertz, Secretary, Beth Pusti. Directors: Chris Alexander, Ken Hensch, Andy Scheidler, Nancy Wetli, Dan Martin.
Board Members Absent: Tom Tassler, Bob Burns, Greg Wattier, Natalie McLaughlin

Thank You to Jim and Sue Mertz for greeting the Members on arrival. They counted 53 in attendance.

DNR Officer: Thank you to Officer Kyle Buchanan for coming to our General Meeting and answering questions from Members.

I apologize for not getting names of folks who asked questions but the following are the questions asked and answers by Kyle.

Questions concerning Aquatic Vegetation- Kyle told us the property owners are allowed to clear up to 150 square feet of weeds in their riparian zone. Outside of that you need a permit from the DNR. He wanted to emphasis that although the club does try to control the invasive species of weeds within their control. The native weeds are off limits. Good weeds are important to the natural ecosystem of the lake and aquatic life within the lakes. He used Adams Lake as an example of an area Lake that has removed virtually all their weeds but as a result has virtually no aquatic life.

Requirements for Boat Safety- There must be 1 wearable life jacket of appropriate size per person on any watercraft including paddle boards. Any boat over 16 feet needs throwable device such as seat cushions or ring. A fire extinguisher and a throw bag containing ropes are not required but highly recommended. You must maintain idle speed within 200 feet of shoreline.

A kayak must have 1 bright light which can be seen up to 2 miles after dusk. This can be a working flashlight.

Wake Boats also called Moomba Boat- We are hearing more about these wake boats and the damage they can do to shorelines. Kyle said that Pretty Lake has a 10mph speed limit but is NOT a no wake lake. These boats can create a 3 ft. wake at 10 mph. As of now, wake surfing under 10mph is legal on this lake.

Docks- Are private property, you cannot fish from or go out on piers/docks without permission. The water surrounding the docks is not. Please be respectful.

There are two DNR enforcement officers, Kyle Buchanan and Jake Carlile in our area to cover 60 lakes. The number for the DNR Office is 260-244-3720 or call the LaGrange County Sheriff in an emergency.

Deal Ditch Update: Butch Vaughn continues to lead the PLCC effort to find answers as well as solutions to the Deal Ditch E-coli problem. Butch was able to put together a team dedicated to helping find the source who are determined to take corrective action. They have been able to make steady progress. No testing was done in 2020 due to the pandemic taking precedent with the Board of Health as well as other County departments, however the team continues to make this e-coli issue a priority. In 2020 The County cleaned and dredged everything North of 400 S on Deal Ditch, removing stagnant water pockets as they cleaned up downed trees and decayed vegetation. Butch believes cleaning and dredging of Deal Ditch has been a significant help to the problem.

In 2021, there is new equipment available for water testing but we can do only 4 samples. On July 8, 2021 Butch, along with the LaGrange County Health Dept, LaGrange Soil & Water, and the Sewer District took 4 samples. They compared these samples with samples taken in June and July 2019 at the same locations.

- E-coli can double every 20 minutes in heat so weather conditions and average daily temperatures play a significant role in the e-coli numbers.

| Site | June-2019 | July-2019 | July-8-2021 |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------|---------------------------|
| #1 State Rd 3 & 400S | ----too high to count---- | | 43.1 |
| #2 875 E | too high to count | 445 | 224.7 |
| #3 50 ft/400 S | too high to count | 398.0 | 18.5 *critical site |
| #4 Right of culvert, 50 ft. From lake | ----too high to count---- | | ---too high to count----- |

Butch told us that what this tells us is the dredging and cleaning helped tremendously and that the remaining problem is from 400 S to the lake. We have it down to 1800 feet where the problem has to be.

The group will collect samples again on August 5. They will test for E-Coli and DNA. This is an expensive testing process that LaGrange County will pay for. DNA testing will narrow the source not only by human/animal but by species. If it is human there are only 4 or 5 possible homes. There will be dye testing. Butch wanted to be clear that this team is not interested in a witch hunt. There are funds/programs available that the county can work with people to correct faulty systems. They are looking at all possibilities including dredging 400S to the lake, and possible contamination from a sewer system leak. County Surveyors and the Army Corp of Engineers will be involved in the next step.

Butch wants to make sure we understand this has been a team effort and the following LaGrange County Divisions are dedicated and deserve our appreciation.

LaGrange County Soil & Water
LaGrange County Board of Health
LaGrange Sewer District
LaGrange Surveyors
LaGrange County Commissioners

PLCC Board and Members appreciate these, and Butch Vaughn for the progress and dedication to seeing this problem resolved.

Eurasian Mil Foil Update: Rod Bergstedt is our go to Weed Control expert. He spoke to the members about the invasive weeds we have been treating since 2013. Every year Rod applies for a LARE grant through the DNR weed control program on our behalf to help us tackle the invasive weeds of which Eurasian mil foil is the focus. A survey of the lake is done every year by the DNR to determine the needs. This year we treated 9.4 acres. Usually, the DNR picks up 76% of the cost when a LARE grant is given and the PLCC pays the remainder. 100% of cost of treating the channels in the cost of the PLCC. Weed control surrounding Job's hole has been limited in recent years to preserve fishing quality but Rod thought it might be a good idea to revisit this since there is quite a bit of Eurasian mil foil in that area. We can only treat non-native aggressive weeds which is why we focus on Eurasian mil foil. This last year the DNR did not have the funding and no LARE Grant was given which meant the cost of treating the 9.4 acres was entirely the clubs to pay. \$6,200.00 to the club

\$ -1,875.00 from unused 2020 Lare grant

The products approved to treat Eurasian mil foil are 2-4-D and Procellacor.

Procellacor is more expensive but also more effective.

Rod said we will try again this Fall for a Lare Grant for next year.

Outlet Project: Jim Mertz updated the membership on the Outlet Project. This was a Cardno report (Environmental restoration and development Study done of our lake) recommended project that we felt was important to complete for the overall good of the lake. The contractor was hoping to start in July but has been delayed by the wet weather. Our permit is good for 2 years. Glacier stone will be added to the shoreline from the damn to the lake. In answer to questions the DNR built the damn and a court order determines the setting. The Conservation Club locks and unlocks the damn. We cannot open the damn until Dec 1 of each year. To prevent damage to the shoreline from ice the damn is closed in the spring. Cost of the Outlet project to the club is \$4,300.00

Treasurers Report: We would like to acknowledge and thank our former long time Treasurer, Ken Butler for his many years of PLCC Service. Sue Mertz took over the position this year and reported a bank balance of \$ 48,840.97 , Weed Control and the Outlet Project to come out yet. The annual audit was completed on May 3, 2021. Sue handed out an annual financial report from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

Membership Report: Chris Alexander reported 69% of homes have joined the PLCC this year. \$4,400.00 has come into the PLCC for dues. \$7,905.00 has been donated for Lake enhancement, and clubhouse improvements. There are 228 cottages that we count. We break these cottages down into zones. There are 8 zones that range between 23 to 33 cottages per zone. There is a Zone Director assigned to each zone to pass out newsletters and be a representative for your zone. A sincere Thank you

goes out to our volunteer Zone Directors and to our members as this community is a better place because you are part of it.

Clubhouse Report: Chris Alexander reported for Natalie McLaughlin who is our clubhouse manager. We have had 9 rentals this year, 4 of which have taken place. The new windows look great and work well. There are plumbing issues in the kitchen and bathrooms that we will need to address in the near future. The exterior of building is also on our radar. Specifically, the west side of the building takes a beating with the wind and weather. Building materials and general costs are very high right now but we will be looking into maintaining the building and adding some of these needed projects to our agenda in the near future. Natalie is resigning as clubhouse manager. The position will be open for the 2022 season. It pays \$50.00 per rental to the manager. If you are interested, please talk to your zone director or a board member.

PLCC Merchandise Report: Nancy Wetli has done a great job with the merchandise again this year. She will be at the Cruise-In with the inventory that is left. This year she had t-shirts, hats, visors, car stickers, and sassafras coasters. The two Pretty Lake history books that were left have now sold but she will take prepaid orders for a reorder if there is interest.

Cruise-In: Ken Hensch reported this will be the third year for the Cruise-In. Each year gets bigger and better. Ken said to bring out those vehicles you're hiding and show them off. The first year he had 26 cars, and last year there were 77 cars. In addition to your passion for cars, cycles, wagons, golf carts, are welcome. A free will donation to enter is your registration. There will be a Peoples Choice award this year. Food, and cold water or soda will be available as well as the 50/50 raffle and door prizes and t-shirts. There is no rain date so good weather is expected on August 7. Come out to enter your vehicles and just enjoy time spent with People who love their cars.

PLCC Golf Scramble: September 11, 2021 the golf scramble is becoming another popular addition to our PLCC lineup of annual events. This is the third year for the golf scramble held at Cobblestone Golf Club. Ron Kantorak would like to get 18 teams signed up this year. Teams must be 4-somes. The cost is \$300.00 per team which breaks down to \$75.00 per person. \$5.00 per person per mulligan up to 5 mulligans can be purchased at the event. Cost includes golf, lunch, and prizes. Get your team entered by contacting Ron Kantorak 4585 S 890 E Wolcottville, IN 46795. Checks made out to the PLCC.

- Ron is asking for donations for prizes. If you have any connections or items to donate, please give Ron a call.

Pudding Stone: Lee Hutton, in Medina, Ohio contacted a PLCC member last week with a story. His mother lived on Sylvan Lake and collected Pudding Stones. Many years ago, when the beach was sold a public auction was held but this Pudding

Stone which is engraved “Pretty Lake 1930” did not sell so he bought it for his mother. Ron Kantorak happened to be on his way back from a trip coming through Ohio and stopped last night in Medina where he met up with Lee. All Lee asked for in returning the stone is that we buy him a 6 pack of IGA which we will talk about approving \$10.00 for at the next Board meeting. Thank you to Ron for going out of your way to stop and bring this piece of Pretty Lake history back to where it belongs. Thank you to Lee Hutton for thinking of us and returning the stone. The Pudding stone is now under our flag pole at the Conservation Club and is a pretty cool part of memories and history.

Walk for the Lake: The Craig & Nancy Bobay family are organizing the Labor Day weekend “Walk for the Lake” event again this year. Craig said this is a low key, good for your health, event taking place Saturday, September 4. At 8:30 am sharp, participants will begin at their own location and proceed at their own pace around the lake in a clockwise direction. This event is for the conservation of the lake. Go to www.Prettylake.org for more information and for registration. The registration fee includes a classic t-shirt. You can order a shirt even if you’re not walking. \$20.00 per adult, \$10.00 per child under 12. Deadline to order shirts is August 21st. T-shirts can be picked up at Cottage 113 (4670 S 930 E) on September 3 from 5pm-8pm.

Last year was the first year for this event that netted \$1,300.00 for the PLCC. Thank you to Craig and Nancy for organizing this benefit.

Rummage Sale: Barb Butler and Beth Pusti are organizing the annual Rummage Sale which takes place Saturday, August 14, 8 am to noon. This is the biggest money-making event of the year for the PLCC and it could not take place without the awesome group of volunteers every year. Barb has contacted the Amish to pick up all the left overs when it is over and she is running an advertisement in the newspaper. Drop Off your donations beginning Sunday, August 8, noon – 2pm. Monday thru Friday August 9-13 until 3 pm. Thank you, thank you, to all people who volunteer and for all the donations made to the PLCC. We will take furniture, books, kitchen ware, seasonal items, lake toys, kids toys, tools, knick knacks, working electronics, garden equipment, etc. Please no large appliances that contain freon or hazardous waste items.

Rain Garden: Dan Martin reported The Rain Garden project completed last year is doing well. A lot of work and effort went into getting this project completed with the cooperation of the School System. The rain garden is a nice design and the plants are doing tremendous. The rain garden is doing what it was designed to do which is to eliminate flooding and is great to see with all the rain we had this year. There has been normal erosion occurring which is expected for a new rain garden. The PLCC has approved up to \$300.00 in additional rocks for a river bed along the natural erosion area. Groups and volunteers will always be needed to maintain this Rain Garden and we appreciate these wonderful volunteers. Ron Kantorak

reminded the membership that as part of the school system cooperation agreement we agreed to periodic informational tours to explain to students how it works. Dan said he would look into this and that we would be happy to do these tours when asked.

Upcoming Events & Future Projects: August 7, 11 am- 2pm Cruise-In
August 14, Rummage Sale 8 am- noon
September 4. 8:30 am Walk for the Lake
Bingo & Root Beer Floats, Saturday September 4, 7 pm.
Labor Day Breakfast, Monday, September 6 8 am- 11 am.
PLCC Golf Scramble, Saturday, September 11, 9 am.
Fall Bonfire & Music, Saturday, October 23, 7pm
Fall Clean-up, Saturday, November 13, 10 am.

On our radar: Clubhouse maintenance, plumbing, exterior siding.
Potential: wish list items are a kitchen renovation. No set projects for the clubhouse have been decided but we will consider best use of money available as well as the needs of the clubhouse and grounds.

Board of Director Nominations: The 2021 PLCC Board consists of 13 Board of Directors. We must have a minimum of 9 members with a limit of 15 on the Board.

Current 2021 PLCC Board of Directors

President: Scott Alexander

Vice President: Cary Fries

Treasurer: Sue Mertz

Secretary: Beth Pusti

Directors: Chris Alexander

Ken Hensch

Andy Scheidler

Natalie McLaughlin

Nancy Wetli

Gregg Wattier

Dan Martin

Bob Burns

Tom Tassler

- Nancy Wetli and Ken Hensch are resigning their positions on the Board. These two long time Pretty Lake residents care deeply about the community and have done extraordinary work in their time on the Board. They will be missed but we know they will continue to be part of the volunteers we can always count on.

There are four open spots on the PLCC Board for the 2022 Year.

Sue Mertz nominated John Stemmler to the Board.

Scott Alexander nominated Cathy Kantorak to the Board.

Ken Hensch nominated Craig Bobay to the Board.

Each nomination was seconded by a PLCC Member as I heard voices and saw paint sticks in the air from members, I apologize for not getting individual names (* each paid PLCC member was given a paint stick for voting/speaking purposes at the start of the meeting).

John Stemmler, Cathy Kantorak, and Craig Bobay each accepted their nomination to the Board, and the three nominations are confirmed.

Stan Shopa moved the nominations be closed. There was a second by someone in the back (?) I heard him and saw him but did not get a name.

PLCC Board meetings are April thru October 6:30 pm the first Tuesday of every month.

Round Table Discussion:

Andy Scheidler: Passed out REMC cards. 5 G fiber optics are coming to LaGrange County. There is contact information to request information and to register possible interest in the service. Andy said they are making a plan for the people who live here only seasonally. Andy said by comparison the lowest fee plan will be ½ the price but 100x faster than current most widely used internet company available here.

Dick Miller: StarLink will be another option in the near future for high-speed internet, Dick said by the end of the year. This is a SpaceX constructed internet constellation that will consist of thousands of mass-produced small satellites in low earth orbit, which communicate with designated ground transceivers.

Susan Anderon: I apologize, my notes here are not great. I emailed Susan to get a better understanding of what she was saying but did not hear back by the time I needed to send this out. Susan thanked Andy for the REMC contact information and I believe made the comment that the contact information was only to express interest and does not commit anyone to anything. The amount of interest in a specific area will have an impact on when service is available. She said REMC plans to begin installation November 7 thru 2022. The lakes areas are more populated than some of the smaller rural areas and she thought it would be a good idea for the PLCC Board to form a letter to REMC expressing interest for our community.

Stan Shopa: Is a Verizon customer and had been having trouble with dropped calls and dead zone areas. He let us know he contacted Verizon and they sent a network extender that attaches to the window. There was no cost for the extender and it seems to have fixed the problem.

Steve Johnson: Steve asked if anyone knew anything about the bean field across from the public access being surveyed for possible development. No one did.

Barb Butler: Thought Steve Johnson had a point and that we should find out why the bean field is being surveyed. Comments followed about possible trailer park development, The population affect on the lake, significant pollution or run off that would affect the lake.

Jim Mertz: In an effort to keep this discussion from becoming out of control with rumors and hearsay, Jim told the membership that he had talked to the owner who was having the property divided into ½ acre single family home lots that would be accessed off of 890. Their access to the lake would be the public access.

Walking Path: Someone asked about the walking path below the trailer court and whether it can be regraded. What many people may not understand is the Pretty Lake walking path is not an easement. The PLCC does not maintain or control it. We are dependent on the generosity of property owners. The path in all areas except the road is private property. Ken Hensch is willing to talk to the Todd family about approving a possible passageway through their real estate and what we might be able to do to help provide for it.

John said we need to thank these property owners now and then in the newsletters for allowing people to walk through their property, and to check in with them to see if there are any problems or ways, we can correct any problems they might have.

Dick Miller commented that other lakes use our walking path and that it has become a popular path for area lake and local residents. Dan Martin would like to possibly see the PLCC extend the walking path thru the wooded property that we own. Cary Fries reminded the membership that besides using our walking path Big Long Lake residents participate in some of our events on a regular basis. Diana Hensch: had a walking path reminder for people to pick up their dog doo, and to make sure they are using correct aquatic lawn care.

THANK YOU – to Paul Ridenour and Steve Johnson for their recycling efforts for the PLCC.

Steve will have his trailer available for metal recycling in August. No refrigerators/freezers or anything with freon.

Stan Shopa moved to adjourn, Second from Dick Miller. All approved.

