

Pretty Lake Conservation Club

Minutes- September 7, 2021

President Scott Alexander called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.
Prayer led by Dan Martin, followed by the Pledge of the Allegiance.

Board Members Present: Scott Alexander, Chris Alexander, Ken Hensch, Nancy Wetli, Andy Scheidler, Tom Tassler, Natalie McLaughlin, Cary Fries, Sue Mertz, Beth Pusti, Dan Martin.

Board Members Absent: Gregg Wattier, Robert Burns

2022 Board Members Present who will be inducted at the October 5, 2021 Meeting:

John Stemmler, Craig Bobay, Cathy Kantorak

Board Members leaving at the October 5, 2021 meeting will be: Nancy Wetli, Ken Hensch.

Guest, Ron Kanorak: Our former PLCC President asked to speak on the Golf Scramble event coming up this Saturday, September 11. Ron currently has 15 teams signed up and feels good about possibly more in the next week. Please note the list of sponsors Ron would like to acknowledge and thank for their support.

Walmart-2 dozen golf balls

Max Platt Ford- 72 cozies

Cobblestone Golf Club- 1-month free golf membership

Shepherds Chevrolet- 2 dozen golf balls

TFC Corporation, Kurt Thompkins- donation of 6 dozen golf balls

Jo Bergstedt- Embroidered the golf towels Ron bought at Walmart with "PLCC 2021 CHAMPS" Thank you to all of these sponsors!

- Ron would also like to reserve on the events calendar, Saturday, September 10, 2022 for next seasons PLCC Golf Scramble.

Deal Ditch Update: Ron Kantorak reported for Butch Vaughn an update to the Deal Ditch e-coli issue. The team of LaGrange County various experts and departments that Butch has been working with are closing in on the e-coli source. The high numbers of e-coli have been identified as coming from 300 ft. between 400 and the Lake. Alf Garcia with the Board of Health will walk this area of the ditch with the team to identify the specific source. The DNA testing of the e-coli has been identified at 50% human, a surprising large percentage of bird -there are evidently a lot of wild turkeys in the area and the rest Butch will report on at a later date. Other parts of Deal Ditch up to 400 are now low percentage due to the cleaning of the ditch that has been done by the County over the last two years. This has been an incredible effort by Butch, The LaGrange County Soil & Water, The Board of Health, The County Surveyors, as well as the County Commissioners who have all helped to make this a priority. This was probably the most important lake projects improvement that was in the Cardno report several years ago that we have been following and working towards solving. We look forward to being able to bring this issue to a close.

Minutes Approval: All Board members had a chance to review the Meeting Minutes for August 3, 2021. Motion to approve came from Sue Mertz, with a second from Ken Hensch. All approved. Minutes are now posted on the web site and in the display case at the club.

Treasurers Report: Sue Mertz has been busy putting together numbers for a 2022 budget. She presented to the Board three handouts.

One showing Event expenses/income for each of the last 4 years for comparison and to get an idea of which events are popular and worth keeping and which may need to be replaced. It also gives a working knowledge of expected costs. While some events are designed as fundraisers for the club, all are designed as community social events to bring people together. Neighborhood community is the primary focus and what we are hoping will always be the priority.

The second handout Sue gave us was PLCC Clubs normal annual expenses to maintain basic needs of the clubhouse. This included a 4-year comparison of expenses for electric, mowing, insurance, printing, property manager, sewer, and trash.

The third handout Sue gave us was the Treasurer Report which includes the current summary of expense/ income / balances. Some of the major deposits in August were the remaining LARE grant for weed control of \$1875.02, Merchandise sales of \$1,054.00, Rummage sale income of \$2,743.60, and Cruise-In income of \$1,785.50. Expenses included utilities, printing, merchandise cost reimbursement, and event costs.

Our PLCC Financial year runs from July 1, 2021 thru June 30, 2022. For the first two months of this financial year the total income has been \$13,832.52, while the total expenses have been \$ 12,981.55. The checking account balance as of August 31, 2021 was \$50,680.94.

Beth Pusti asked the question, if our PLCC planning/events calendar, as well as our PLCC Board term is October to October, why is our PLCC financial year July 1-June 30? It seems to her it would be less confusing to be able to see total costs/incomes for an entire summer season of membership and activities rather than a new year beginning in July which does not reflect membership income for that season. It may be too difficult to change now and there may not be a good reason to change but she wondered why the financial year began in the middle of the summer season, when the rest of the PLCC calendar runs from Fall to Fall. Sue Mertz answered that it was set up that way to have a full year financial report for the Annual meeting.

Dan Martin questioned whether we should look into reducing costs such as insurance and mowing by getting quotes from competitors with pricing updates. Ken Hensch cautioned that because of some of our events there are insurance companies that will not cover us. Examples he gave were our 4th of July flares, and flotilla.

Westfield, our current insurance company has worked very well with us. Craig Bobay mentioned that Westfields good reputation for paying claims and treating people fairly in his experience is accurate. Cathy Kantorak thought new updated prices and quotes were obtained three years ago. Sue Mertz said she will look into when we updated insurance and if our costs are within reason.

We do not currently have a mowing contract. Cary Fries mentioned mowing is done by a Pretty Lake resident. In 2018-19-20 we paid \$1125.00 annually. In 2021 we paid \$1685.00. He mows the property acreage, trims and maintains the grounds. Even if this is done 16 times a year this averages out to \$105.31 which the Board seemed to agree was more than a fair price.

Sue and Scott will work together over the next month to come up with a working budget for 2022. In the budget they will determine what we need to maintain a relatively safe cushion for unknown occurrences, and what we have to put aside for projects that we would like to prioritize in the near future.

Motion to Approve the Treasurer Report came from Beth Pusti, with a second from Nancy Wetli. All approved.

Outlet Project: Sue Mertz updated the Board on the Outlet project, which is one of the final projects for lake enhancement that was cited in the Cardno Report, that we approved to complete last Fall. The contractor has waited for dry weather to minimize repair costs for property damage. We never really had a dry August and have had a very wet year. When we open the dam the first week of December it will be easier to work on the sides of the outlet. Our approved permit is good for two years and the project will be completed when conditions are most favorable.

Membership Report: Chris Alexander reported four more additions to the membership rolls. Membership income for this year has been \$4,675.00 which she said seems to be an average figure. 160 out of 228 counted cottages have joined. Chris said some cottages are empty, some cottages have been taken out and empty lots remain, many people who are members may own more than one lot. Ken Hensch said there are currently 20 trailers and that Mike Reynolds does a great job maintaining and keeping the area looking nice. Cathy Kantorak reminded the Board we will be putting together a new directory in 2022 which should help with a more accurate current count.

Dan Martin told the Board we need to refrain from using the word "Dues" in our membership forms as this is a voluntary organization and not mandatory as the word dues implies. Dan said the Membership Forms sent out in April should be referenced as Members joined instead of Dues paid. Dan said some residents have seen this as a problem. Although, I don't think the Board ever meant for the PLCC Dues reference to upset anyone, I believe we all see Dans point that language does matter. We want our community to continue to be welcoming and using the language "Members joined" instead of "Dues paid" is the right language change. On that Note- We truly appreciate all of our members. The membership is the heart and soul of the Pretty Lake Conservation Club. Everything we do requires tons of volunteer effort and we are so thankful for the amazing residents who make up this community. Truly.

Clubhouse Report: Natalie McLaughlin reported there were no rentals in August. Three rentals are scheduled. Two rentals in September and one in October. Thank you to Natalie for taking on clubhouse manager responsibilities this last year.

Cathy Kantorak has agreed to resume the position of clubhouse manager for the 2022 season. Happy to have you back Cathy. Cathy reported to the Board that Jim Hensels grandson Gabriel is now an Eagle Scout. We thank Jim and Gabriel for their work on building our new firepit area and congratulate Gabriel on his accomplishments.

Merchandise Report: Nancy has done a wonderful job for the PLCC at the helm of the merchandising and as an active Board Member we can always count on. We will miss her on the Board as she takes her leave. Profits to the PLCC in merchandising this year were \$1,626.47 which is very good. The online store she coordinated in 2020 also did very well but some did not like the change. The online store was much easier to do and does not create any left-over inventory or waste. Nancy suggested if the new person who handles the merchandising does the online store, they need to market it so everyone knows about it. Thank you, Nancy, for your years on the Board. We know we will see you as a volunteer and appreciate your dedication.

Cruise-In: Ken Hensch reported for the annual Cruise-In. Weather systems all around the area threatened to cancel the day but the clouds above our PLCC remained clear and the Cruise-In went on as planned. Last year there were 77+ cars, this year Ken was happy to see 44 cars come out of hiding on a rainy day.

In a comparison of the last two years the event did very well and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.

Food in 2021 \$719.00/ in 2020 \$710.00 50/50 in 2021 \$150.00 / in 2020 \$208.00

T-shirt sales in 2021 \$430.00 / in 2020 \$434.00

There was also \$117.00 in registration this year and \$160.00 in grab bags.

Each of the last two years two signs have come up missing.

Once again, the volunteers and planning committee did an incredible job and Ken has a long list of sponsors to thank. Special thank you to the following Sponsors/Donors:

Donors for the Cruise-In

Adams Lake Pub

Bender Automotive – Emma

Carquest Auto Parts (LaGrange & Middlebury)

CJ's Garage – LaGrange

Costco – FW

Culligan – Kendallville

Dan-O's Auto Repair – LaGrange

Ellison Bakery

Everidge Motors – Stroh

Frontline Auto Tech – Shipshewana

H&H Promotions

Lake City Bank- FW

Lawnscape Garden Center – Angola

Pizza Hut- Kendallville

REMC – LaGrange

Romers Restaurant – LaGrange

Rural King – Kendallville

Walmart – Kendallville

Wings Etc.. _ Kendallville

Whatchamacakes – Kendallville

Steve Yahn

I as Secretary, would also like to acknowledge Ken as a longtime member of our Board. Kens experience, knowledge, and dedication will be missed on the PLCC Board but we know he has a big heart for the PLCC and this community. I am are thankful he will be around to advise and volunteer. Thank you, Ken.

Rummage Sale: Barb Butler chaired the rummage sale remotely this year. Calling together veteran and rookie volunteers to come in and do what they knew needed to be done. Beth Pusti co-chaired and gives Special thanks to Connie Miller, Ada Shopa and Sue Mertz for coordinating drop off week and making sure everyone stayed on track. The rummage sale is dependent on its many volunteers and we very much appreciate them all. Drop off

week was hampered by stormy weather but the Saturday morning of the sale was beautiful. The PLCC cost to run the rummage sale was \$75.00 including supplies and newspaper ad. The rummage sale brought in \$2,743.00 making the net income for the PLCC at \$2,668.00

Thank you also to Steve Johnson who recycled the rummage sale metal and added \$111.60 profit.

Thank you also to Cathy Kantorak for coordinating daily lunches to feed the volunteers without adding to expenses.

Labor Day Breakfast: Cary Fries reported the breakfast went well. Thanks goes out to the ten people who volunteered to help. Cary said there were 20-25 fewer served than Memorial Day breakfast which is not unusual for the end of the season. 138 people were served which is a very good number. There were many compliments on the sausage, French toast, and pancakes. The biggest expense was the sausage. There are still plates, napkins, and plastic wear left. Expenses were \$401.52 and Cary thinks the breakfast made around \$600.00.

Bingo and Root Beer Floats: Andy Scheidler reported they went through 122 ice cream cups. There were 1 ½ gallons of ice cream left out of 10 gallons.

The root beer floats brought in \$223.00

50/50 raffle brought in \$171.00

Bingo after prizes \$28.00

Total profit to the club \$346.10 Everyone seemed to have a good time and we appreciate efforts from the many volunteers.

Walk for the Water: Craig Bobay does not have the final numbers yet for the "Second Annual" Pretty Lake "Walk for the Water" but reported 119 people preregistered. He has had 20 more requests for this year's t-shirts which were popular. Craig would like to thank his daughters who came up and helped distribute the t-shirts and with registration. Craig says this is a low-key event that shows off the walking path. He said "Sometimes its not about the profit but about the community feel"

Six cases of water were donated by Culligan Water of Fort Wayne. The cases of water were placed on the walking path at three locations.

Craig reported, anticipated net revenue for the PLCC is in the range of \$1350.00. A final report will be submitted after the additional t-shirts are distributed. Last year, the Bobays purchased a banner advertising the Walk. The banner states the Walk for the Water is on "Saturday of Labor Day Weekend" So that banner may be used in future years. The PLCC would like to thank the Bobay family for their time and efforts in creating this event and making it happen.

Yoga: Andy reported the yoga classes are still going on and there is good opportunity for people to participate.

October Activities: October 23 is the night for the Bon Fire/ Chili pot luck.

Dan Martin has music lined up to begin at 7:00 pm for \$150.00. The PLCC will utilize any left overs from the season in the way of supplies. We will also provide makings for Smores, hot dogs, hot chocolate, and hot cider. We would ask families to bring a crock pot of their favorite Chile to share. Dan Martin and Beth Pusti are chairing this event.

2022 Budget: Sue is working on submitting a 2022 budget as previously talked about in the treasurer's report. The Checkbook is healthy but we need to be careful in planning for the future projects. Lake and building maintenance will be the priority.

We will take another look at the Cardno report to see if we missed any of the recommendations. Ron Kantorak reported that he believes most of the projects have now been completed or are in the stages of completion. A few of the projects were pushed to the County without cost to the PLCC such as the e-coli issue and some of the drainage issues. Some can not be completed with out the help of the County for paving issues which is not currently in the County's budget.

We need to be mindful that there may not be Lare Grants available for weed control as was the case this last summer.

Scott Alexander told the Board to come next month with ideas for projects.

2022 Event Calendar: Scott reminded the Board the October 5 meeting will include planning the calendar for 2022, so please come prepared for discussion and availability for events and any ideas for changes or additions. A

couple of ideas that have been tossed around are maybe a comeback of the Family Picnic in combination with the Conservation Fair.

People have missed the turtle races and kids' events. We could also add a corn hole, pickleball, or volleyball tournament. Combined with Conservation we could invite the DNR, and vendors who focus on clean air and water and natural animal habitats.

Round Table Discussion:

Sue Mertz: reported numerous dead yellow jackets in the men's restroom & window sills. She asked to be able to call a pest control which the Board approved.

PLCC had one last "Pretty Lake" print by Carl Moser which sold at the Cruise-In. They are still available if people want to contact Carl Moser for a \$50.00 unframed price. We will post Carl Moser's contact information under the print hanging on the clubhouse wall.

Nancy Wetli: Stan Shopa has a Pretty Lake history book to loan, if anyone is interested.

Ken Hensch: Ken and his Committee for the Cruise-In would like the Cruise-In to always be the 1st Saturday in August on the calendar of events. This would help in sign costs and for planning purposes.

Cathy Kantorak: Calendar suggestion from Pat Mitchell is a Civil War reenactment event on PLCC grounds. The Board is always open to new ideas and hearing about what this event would entail.

Dan Martin: Would like an agenda item at next meeting to be discussion on extending the Pretty Lake path into a nature trail through Conservation Club property.

Motion to adjourn made by Cathy Kantorak, second by Cary Fries. All approved.