

## Minutes

### Pelican Lakes Association Board of Directors Meeting

Friday, February 17, 2017

Meeting called to order at 9:00 am by President Craig Norman, at the Northwoods Inne.

**Present:** Bob Hamilton, Bob Komischke, Art Weaver, Matt Stephens, Tracy Donovan, Jim Nickel, Jodi Billy, Craig Norman, and by phone, David Slipy, Tom McGrann, and Laurie Greeno. Also in attendance was Susan Koering, Newsletter Editor, and Glen Gustafson, former board member.

**Approval of Minutes:** After some discussion the previous minutes of the 12/9/16 Board Meeting were amended and approved.

**Membership matters:** Received a report on status of membership renewals and numbers of various categories of donations.

**Treasurer's report:** Though Bob Vaughn was not present, Craig reported our income approximated our expenses for the year.

We agreed to provide the additional match to the Lewis gift for stocking the lake. This provides a budget of approximately \$8000 for stocking (@\$2K of memorial, Jim Lewis match of that amount, and PLA match of each of those special contributions).

Expenses for items continuing from last year should be close to last year's costs. New items will be considered as they come up, and may bring total for 2017 run rate a bit over donation level, which is affordable for the current year at least.

**Filings/compliance:** Agreed to have Chris Clausen file our tax returns as required by law. Agreed to a \$350.00 cap. Proposed by Art Weaver and seconded by Tracy Donovan.

**Minute Book review:** Craig reported all minutes have now been uploaded to our Web Site.

Review of the previous minutes showed a review of our by-laws call for a Board of from 7 to 13 members, serving two year terms. Eight members re-elected or elected last year, Slipy, Weaver, Nickel, Greeno, Hamilton, Stephens, Komischke, and Billy. Five member's terms are up this year, Donovan, McGrann, Spizzo, Vaughn, and Norman.

**Nominating:** Tracy Donovan was appointed chair of the Nominating Committee. He is to appoint at least two others to help in selecting nominees.

Tom McGrann has already advised that he cannot serve again, so the Committee will determine if the other four are willing to serve and then select at least one new nominee and others as may be necessary to fill out the board.

We concluded that having say eight every other year with five in the alternate year will allow for reasonable stability and good opportunity to select new people.

**Member Relations:** Thank you letters are being sent acknowledging dues and donation receipts.

Our web site allows people to ask questions about PLA “[contact@pelicanlakesassociation.com](mailto:contact@pelicanlakesassociation.com)”. This “question box” will be monitored daily by either Craig or Jodi.

We agreed to have several hundred packets at a cost of \$3.00 to \$4.00 each prepared with information on our lakes, invasive species, decontamination station, etc. all in weatherproof bags with our logo printed or embossed on them. We intend to hand them out at the Spring Kickoff and the annual meeting.

Molly Ring, acting as our consultant on our web site, suggested we do not want to pursue using social media unless we will really updating regularly. We will consider email lists and other measures to promote easy communications as we go forward.

**AIS Roundtable, Northern Crow Wing County Lake Associations:** PLA participates with other area lake associations in communicating comments to Crow Wing County regarding its AIS plan, and offers good opportunities for coordinated efforts going forward. We want to share what works for us and learn what works for other associations to be sure we are using best practices.

**Beach Captains:** We continued discussions about the Beach Captains program. Generally, we concluded we want to continue some form of this program. We need a leader who might be a part of a newly formed Member Relations Committee. We discussed continuing personal social interactions between captains and property owners utilizing a handout package. Jim Nickel has a list of the beach captains and will provide it to Craig. Craig will then seek interest from among the existing captains to see if anyone is willing to serve as leader of this program, as a new Board member as well.

**Landing Monitors and Decontamination Station:** Pelican Lakes will receive 1200 hours of monitoring time from the county, plus an additional amount made possible by the county reduction in overhead cost (following comments on its AIS plan). As an alternative to a County-wide management plan, PLA has been offered the option to continue to use a local team if they can get a local governmental agency to accept funds from the county. The Board favors this

option, so we can have continuity with the good inspectors we have had, and can easily supplement the county schedule with our own funds as we have in past years.

Craig discussed the City of Breezy Point serving as the local agency with Joe Rudberg, Breezy Point City Administrator and Jacob Frie of the county. We would still use ERC for inspectors at the ramps and the grants from the County will cover 1200 hours at ERC's rates. PLA will cover hours above this for the ERC-supplied inspectors.

As approved in our Board call in the fall of 2016, PLA will make a donation of @\$12,000 toward to cost of the decontamination station being constructed by Mike Wiebolt at Pelican Square. We believe this will be a real plus for the city and our entire lake area. The County also informed PLA that it would receive 200 hours of Level 2 monitor time for operation of the new decontamination station operations. The City would also be asked to receive and disburse those amounts, with PLA working directly with Pelican Square for any additional operating funds. These terms will be covered in an agreement now in negotiation with Pelican Square. Bob Komischke and Art Weaver will serve as liaisons between Mike and PLA.

Our request to have the City act as the local government unit to receive and disburse the State funds being directed through the County will be presented to the Breezy Point City Council at their March 6 meeting. Tracy and Art (if available) will attend to provide "public input." Dave Slipy will talk to the mayor, Tom Lillehei to educate him on the program and encourage his support.

**Water Quality and Testing:** Jodi and Matt discussed the water testing program. For 2017, we have proposals from AW Research to complete normal monthly tests, to repeat the additional summer "squeeze test" and to conduct winter testing to determine if there appears to be signs of nutrient loading occurring in the lake. (This winter test might be repeated every third year or so to continue the data set that is in place.) All three proposal were approved by the Board, with the winter test being a new expense item this year.

**AIS Control:** Discussed curly leaf eradication program. Jodi indicated DNR Fisheries stated CLP has been around since the early 1900's and that some amount benefits the fish population because of the timing of its growth at a time when there is little other vegetation growth. The key is to monitor the additional amount, is it greater than usual?

Central Minnesota Aquatics from Nisswa quoted a service to inspect our bays with underwater. Our discussion concluded a preference for Central Minnesota Aquatics and on motion by Jim Nickel, seconded by Art Weaver we approved this expenditure.

**Advertising and Newsletter:** Bob Hamilton reported he has commitments from 25 advertisers for about 8 ¼ pages of a 28 page newsletter. The approximate \$9,000 commitment should about cover the printing costs.

Susan Koering was introduced as our new Newsletter Editor. The Board reviewed content ideas for the Spring newsletter and were also urged to provide photos of our activities for future editions and the website

**Spring Kick- Off Event:** This will be held May 20, at the Mission Township Park, We will have the informational packs mentioned above for distribution and the distribution of trees. Jodi and Craig will work on details. Art and Craig will coordinate picking up the trees. They will be available early in May and the DNR will keep and water them until our kick-off.

**Annual Meeting:** Mark Bacigalupi, Supervisor, DNR Fisheries, and Nick Phelps Director of MAISRC will both be making presentations at the annual meeting. We concluded that our speakers will go first, then our various reports. We will discuss specifics at the board meeting prior to the annual meeting.

**AIS Detector program:** Five people from Pelican Lake joined fifteen others for training to identify 8 different invasive species.

**Administrative systems:** The PLA financial system is now set up on QuickBooks, with help of Justin Clausen and Kendra Johnson. We also have on-line due payments set up through PayPal and on-line access to our banking tied to QuickBooks. QuickBooks will now replace our Access database, and be the one place for member and financial information. Craig gave a big “thank you” to Jim Nickel for his work on our administrative systems.

**Other items:** The Board urges our members to be members of the Pelican Lakes Conservation Club and hoped for and lobby for similar membership crossover from PLCC to PLA.

Jodi indicated she has attended the Pine River Watershed meeting and may join their board. She believes they are a good group doing good work for our area,

**Upcoming meetings:**

Friday, May 5 Board of Directors at 9:00am at Northwoods

Saturday May 20, 9:00 am till about Noon Spring Kick-off at Mission Township Park

Friday, June 23, Board of Directors at 9:00 am at Northwoods

Saturday, June 24 Annual Meeting at 9:00 am at Breezy Point City Hall

**Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 11:45

Respectfully submitted, Tracy Donovan, Secretary