

Portage Crooked Lake Improvement Association Board Meeting Agenda

04/06/2024

The purpose of the PCLIA is to preserve and improve the condition and quality of our lakes and the surrounding area. We strive to create a spirit of cooperation with all property owners on the chain of lakes.

Attending: Dean Forchas, Sue Weber, Mike Stuber, Scott Maghan, Julie Maghan, Christine Lasley, Tom Kaufhold, Andy Larson, Doug Picken, Kari Bunkers, Joy Larson

Excused: Attending by teleconference: Diane Lund, Tim Kensok

2024 Goals

- Assess Hanks/Portage channel options and determine what course of action, if any, PCLIA will take
- Increase the number of people who attend events.
 - Annual Meeting
- Hold a winter event

Call to Order Scott called the meeting to order at 08:59. Called to order at 8:59

Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes for 9/30/23 Moved/seconded (Sue/Dean) to approve the minutes from 9/30/2023 meeting. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report Checking balance of \$55,132.57 as of 3/31/2024. Moved/seconded (Kris/Tom) to approve Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Financial Topic

Income, Expense and Fund Balance – Tom presented documents showing PCLIA funding by year from 2019 to 2023. We had been averaging \$16,000 per year in donations from 2019 to 2022. We experienced a “significant” increase in 2023, which is also attributable to revenue from sales of Sota clothing, AIS grants and targeted donations and the Silent Auction held at the annual meeting. Tom summarized that we are spending more than we are taking in in membership dues. Kris noted there previously wasn't a need to solicit additional funding, but now as we try to fight AIS, there is need for more funds. Tom wanted to celebrate with a “victory lap” for our increase in funding.

Committee Reports

Portage/Hanks Channel: (Scott & Kris) Scott and Kris had attended a meeting in which there was a sentiment for PCLIA to financially support the dredging of the channel. Scott stated the costs were significant and it was unknown how successful the dredging would be and how long the benefits would last. There were also significant logistical issues with the equipment being able to even access the channel. Questioned whether there was an option for a public landing placed on Portage Lake. The DNR will consider that option if land becomes available. Andy will communicate and act as a liaison between PCLIA Board and Portage Lake owners. Discussed scheduling a meeting with all lake members (including a DNR representative) to communicate what we know about the channel dredging, correct misinformation and attempt to

educate everyone about what we have learned about the issues surrounding the dredging. Andy will reach out to Barb Vann to discuss scheduling a meeting.

Back to the Lakes: (Scott)

- Gathering will be held again this year at the Deerwood Legion on May 4th. Kari mentioned that there are about 4 boxes of Sota Clothing apparel left from the online sales and questioned whether we should sell them at the event. The consensus was that we should.
- Kari also stated the Spencer from Sota clothing would like to see the proceeds from clothing sales go to support a music concert on the lake. Kari will inquire as to whether Spencer is willing to spearhead/organize the event.

Healthy Lakes /Milfoil) (Kris and Scott)

- We received one grant (\$1,500) for Portage Lake, the lake not funded last year. We did not receive grants for the 3 other lakes, as they received grant money in 2023.

Boat Landing: (Andy)

Board discussion regarding whether it is worth putting resources into additional hours at the boat landing. Based on county data, Andy opined that he did not think we are getting value for our investment. The inspections conducted were cursory, data obtained from them indicated that we are not getting significant benefit from inspections. Andy recommends going with the county's estimated 288 hours for 2024 from May 11 through September 1, 9 am to 6 pm. If we wish to schedule 16 additional shifts, the cost would be \$3,600. Joy/Tom seconded to not schedule additional shifts for inspections at the landing. Motion carried.

RMB Alternatives: (Andy) Andy researched the feasibility of switching water testing services. He recommended switching service to A and W Research versus RMB for water testing, based on decreased costs (\$1,125 vs. \$867) and flexibility of testing dates/supply pickup/drop off. Questioned whether AW can get data from RMB. Motioned/seconded (Sue/Dean) to change to AW Research. Motion carried. Andy will initiate paperwork and check on the data transfer. Sue volunteered to help with testing, if needed.

Fish Stocking: (Lynn)

- Next opportunity is fall of 2025
- Has the information shared in The Shoreline increased donations? Doug will look at contributions to determine.

Online Payments/Membership Impact: (Tom, Tim, Doug)

58% of property owners are members of the association. One-third (64) used online portal to pay their dues. We increased by 5 new members, and 18 rejoined. The board then discussed the number of non-paying members and Doug will send out reminders to non-paid members. The Board believes the introduction of membership "levels" has helped to raise additional donations.

The board then discussed the use of Vanco, the vendor for online payments. We have had a success (almost doubled) in the increase in the "add on" contributions from 2022 to 2022 In addition, the majority of members "grossed up" (added funds to their dues/donations to cover the Vanco fees.) Tim recommended sticking with the program. Doug and Tim will research for another online company which would interface better with

our membership form. Thanks to Tim, Tom and Doug who spearheaded the implementation of electronic donations.

Memberships Status

The Board discussed how to get more property owners to be part of the association. Dean commented that he believes property owners have not become members because either 1) they are not aware of the association or 2) They do not have a perceived value in being a member. Dean/Sue and Christine will meet to brainstorm to develop strategies for increasing membership. Scott advised that we have some properties that have more than one owner. The current articles of incorporation does allow for more than one person per property to be a member and each has voting rights.

Shoreline Newsletter: (Julie) Julie commented on the additions of Shore lore/Dark Skies to the newsletter and thanked Tom and Mark Weber for those additions. Any submissions for the next newsletter need to be in by first week in May. Suggested placing the annual dinner reservation form in two newsletters, hopefully to increase the number of people attending.

Annual Meeting: The annual meeting will again be held at the Bridge. Discussed whether we want to again have the silent auction. Tom is willing to head up the Auction this year but would like to have additional help. Tom will create a list of potential donors which we will distribute to board members to approach for donations.

New Business

None

Adjourn Motion/Seconded (Andy/Tom) to adjourn. Motion carried at 10:38 am.