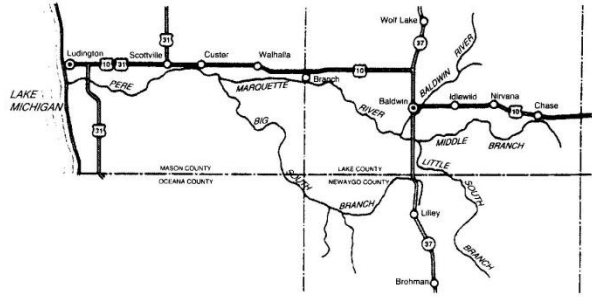


Pere Marquette Watershed Council, Inc.

P.O. Box 212, Baldwin, Michigan 49304



Board of Directors' Meeting 10:00 A.M. March 3, 2018 Lake-Osceola State Bank, Baldwin, MI Meeting Minutes

Administrative

1. Meeting was called to order by President, Paul Bigford at 10:00 a.m.
2. Attendance: Jay Barnhart, Paul Bigford, Jim Bos, Jeff Carpenter, Scott Lachniet, Chuck Turk
Excused: Mike Batcke, Dave Gabrielson, Marv Hanna, Michael Hoag, John Karakashian, Mark Raven, Tom Seroczynski,
Absent:
Guests: Dick Schwikert, and Jake Lubera, Baldwin District Ranger
3. Minutes of the February 3, 2018 meeting of the PMWC. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Jim Bos and seconded by Jeff Carpenter – minutes were approved as amended.
4. President's Notices:
 - A. Welcome Guest: Pres. Bigford introduced Jake Lubera, the new Baldwin District Ranger who introduced himself with personal biographical information. The Forest Service's current emphasis is on timber management and fire control. A 5% per year increase in timber production for a total of a 30% increase is the current goal. Proactive fire control measures are centered on fuel reduction, with controlled burns and mechanical removal. Customer service remains a priority, although there are currently 20 vacant positions in the district with funding for only one law enforcement officer.
An analysis of the environmental surveys at access points is underway to determine possible changes in management of campgrounds, the Maple Leaf Access, and a possible Lower Branch Access site. There is no plan to produce a new River Plan. Modifications will be made to the old plan to deal with changing conditions and patterns of use.
Jake was brought up to date on the railroad embankment issue and expressed his thanks to PMWC for their help in addressing this problem.
Watercraft permits are currently managed by an outside contractor, with the fees collected going to the contractor. There is dissatisfaction nationally with this program and a search is on for a new contractor.
There is currently no known source of funding for the further acquisition of riverfront property and no plans to exercise eminent domain as provided in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.
 - B. Diane Walker is retiring at the end of this summer but plans to remain in the area, and it is hoped that she will remain as a resource for matters pertaining to the river.
 - C. Lake County Road Commission plans to pave the Jenks Road 63rd Street loop sometime this summer to improve access to the Gleason's Landing access point

Old Business

5. Financial Integrity:
 - A. Jay Barnhart presented the financial statement which is available separately. We have received an invoice from the CRA for \$6,000 to be applied to the cost of the railroad embankment engineering study. A motion to approve the financial report was made by Jim Bos, seconded by Jeff Carpenter. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Watershed Restoration/ River Management:

A. Restoration Committee:

- No report.

B. PMWC project planning document

- PMWC project planning and progress summary.
 - Current Active projects
 - River Improvement Projects
 - Railroad Erosion site – Paul Bigford shared a detailed email from Paul Kogelschatz regarding the embankment stabilization project. The engineering survey will begin on March 7, and after completion of the survey alternative plans will be developed. CRA will coordinate a meeting on April 28 with the various stakeholders to select a preferred alternative. Final design and permitting will then begin, and the issue of fundraising addressed. .
 - Policy, Legal, Engineering, and Management
 - The Big Star Lake drain was discussed. We are awaiting last year's temperature monitoring data from TU. Paul has contacted Eric Lewis who plans to review the issue.
 - Future Projects
 - River Improvement Projects
 - Policy, Legal, Engineering, and Management

C. Natural Rivers Zoning Review Board –.

- Approval was granted for modification to the existing structure on the Whirlpool-Dun Rovin property within the existing footprint. The original proposal was modified to reduce river impact.
- Approval was granted for changes to the Henry's Campground in Scottville. On review the project included modifications to the existing store and other improvements that were outside the 200 foot setback.

D. River Interns – Two interns have been selected for the 2018 season

7. Communication and Information

- A. The next issue of the Mainstream Spring Newsletter is due out soon and renewal and dues notices will be included in the mailing.

8. Public Comment

New Business

9. New business –

- A. There was discussion about the Baldwin Hatchery Dam.
- B. The DNR report on the drawdown of the Rod and Gun Club Dam concluded that there was no impact on the river. The official department recommendation was that the dam be removed.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 AM

Minutes submitted by Scott Lachniet, Acting Secretary

Schedule of meetings for 2018

April 7, 2018

May 5, 2018

June 2, 2018

July – no meeting – meeting to elect Board members will be held during the banquet on the 14th

August 4, 2018

September 8, 2018 – Labor Day is Monday the 3rd so to avoid the weekend conflict meet on the 8th

October 6, 2018

November 3, 2018

December 1, 2018