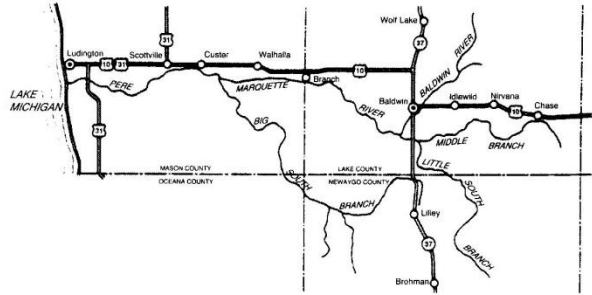


Pere Marquette Watershed Council, Inc.

P.O. Box 212, Baldwin, Michigan 49304



Board of Directors' Meeting 10:00 A.M. November 4, 2017 Lake-Osceola State Bank, Baldwin, MI Meeting Minutes

Administrative

1. Meeting was called to order by President, Paul Bigford at 10:01 a.m.
2. Attendance: Mike Batcke, Jay Barnhart, Paul Bigford, Jim Bos, Marv Hanna, Michael Hoag, Scott Lachniet, Tom Seroczynski, Chuck Turk
Excused: Jeff Carpenter, Dave Gabrielson, John Karakashian, Mark Raven, Grant Snider
Absent:
Guests: Samantha Tank, Paul Kogelschatz
3. Minutes of the October 7, 2017 meeting of the PMWC. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Chuck Turk and seconded by Marv Hanna – minutes were approved.
4. President's Notices:
 - A. Welcome Guest: Samantha Tank and Paul Kogelschatz were introduced

Samantha Tank presented the results of her summer's work "Early Invasive Dynamics of the New Zealand Mud Snail (NZMS)." The NZMS is a worldwide invasive species, first noted on the US west coast in the mid a980's. The snail reproduces asexually and can produce 300 clones of itself per year. They were first noted in the Pere Marquette River in 2015, and the presumption is that they were introduced either on angling gear or as a result of fish stocking. They can survive out of water on a damp surface for several weeks and can survive passage through a trout's digestive system and live to tell about it.

In the western US they can exist in dense mats of 200,000 organisms per square meter but are not yet classified as an invasive species in Michigan because they have not yet been demonstrated to have caused harm to the environment. They are 4-6 mm. long with a right-sided operculum and 4-5 rounded whorls in their shell. To this point, populations have been identified in 4 Michigan rivers --Pere Marquette, Boardman, Au Sable, and recently Manistee--with the densest populations in the Boardman.

During the summer of 2017, 20 river miles of the Pere Marquette from the forks to Walhalla were surveyed by a 4 person team. Further searches were conducted at public access sites from Walhalla to Pere Marquette Lake. A 4 person team did 20 minutes timed visual searches at intervals and the highest concentrations were found in the Rod and Gun Club. There has not been much spread since a survey performed in 2015, with very few organisms identified below Bowman's Bridge. Except in the Rod and Gun Club, there were roughly equal numbers of NZMS and native snail species. The only tributary studied was the Baldwin River, and no organisms were found there. Inter-observer comparisons seem to confirm the accuracy of the survey method. Environmental DNA studies are very sensitive, expensive, and don't give good estimates of the number of organisms present. Dietary studies of benthic fishes show that they do consume and can digest NZMS as opposed to trout. TMF has no effect on NZMS.

Her recommendations:

1. Decontaminate gear when moving from one river system to another. A 20 minute soak in a 2 percent Virkon solution seems to be effective and has minimal environmental impact.
2. Contact the DNR if NZMS are discovered in new locations.

Paul Kogelshatz from CRA presented an update on the railroad embankment project.

Pruin and Newhof were unable to come to an agreement with the railroad, so AECOM has been enlisted and has been able to come to an agreement with the railroad. The scope of work is specified on the enclosed Task Order No. 1 which has been redesigned to fit our budget.

At present it is anticipated that the final design will offer 3 alternatives:

1. An armored bank
2. Move the river channel creating a flood plain and re-contouring the railroad embankment at the area of concern
3. Some combination of the above

The plan is for the parties involved (CRA, PMCW, Flint Rainbow Club, USFS) to meet at the site, review options, and come to an agreement. At this point, if the railroad support can be achieved, the Task Order No. 1 will go into effect and fundraising will begin. Paul Kogelschatz reports that they already have a \$15,000 grant from Freshwater Fisheries that can be used.

To that end:

1. **A motion was made by Serozinski, seconded by Batcke, and passed that the PMWC hold the contract for Task Order No. 1.**
2. **A motion was made by Bos, seconded by Hannah, and passed unanimously that the PMWC sign the attached Administrative Services Agreement with CRA to provide \$6,000 for initial supervision of the project. No final design will be made without assurances of the railroad's cooperation.**

Paul Kogelschatz also reported the completion of two road crossing improvements on Sanborn Creek, with two more planned for next year.

- B. There were no president notices
- C. Dates for the 2018 C4C and banquet were confirmed. The C4C will take place Friday July 13, 2018 and the banquet and auction will take place Saturday July 14, 2018 at the AmVet Club in Baldwin, MI.

Old Business

5. Financial Integrity:

- A. The treasurer's report ending October 31, 2017 was presented. A motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Jim Bos and seconded by Chuck Turk – motion passed.
- B.
- C.

6. Watershed Restoration/ River Management:

- A. Restoration Committee:
 - The committee is scheduled to meet December 5, 2017 at 10 am at the Lake-Osceola State Bank.
- B. PMWC project planning document
 - PMWC project planning and progress summary.
 - Current Active projects
 - River Improvement Projects
 - Railroad Erosion site – see the Paul Kogelschatz report above
 - Policy, Legal, Engineering, and Management
 - The Big Star Lake drain was discussed. Tom Seroczynski contacted the Michigan DNR and DEQ and found that they have no record at the DEQ of any permitting of the original drain in the late 80's. Neither do they have any record of permitting for the recent modifications.
 - Future Projects
 - River Improvement Projects
 - Policy, Legal, Engineering, and Management
- C. Natural Rivers Zoning Review Board – A tri-fold brochure standardizing natural river regulations for realtors and landowners has been prepared. **A motion was made by Bigford, seconded by Bos, and passed that the PMWC support this with a grant of up to \$1,000.**
- D. River Interns – No new information

7. Communication and Information

- A. The next issue of the Mainstream newsletter is being composed. A request was made for contributions and/or suggestions..

8. Public Comment: No public comment.

New Business

9. New business –

A. The Board approved the meeting dates for 2018

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 PM

Minutes submitted by Scott Lachniet, Acting Secretary

Remaining schedule of meetings for 2017:

December 2, 2017

Schedule of meetings for 2018

January, 2018 – no meeting

February 3, 2018

March 3, 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