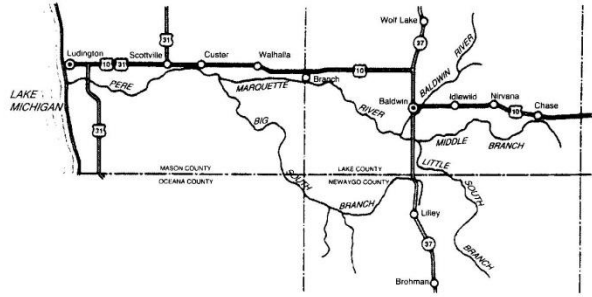


Pere Marquette Watershed Council, Inc.

P.O. Box 212, Baldwin, Michigan 49304



Board of Directors' Meeting 10:00 A.M. February 2, 2019 Lake-Osceola State Bank, Baldwin, MI Meeting Minutes

Administrative

1. Meeting was called to order by President, Jim Bos at 10:05 AM
2. Attendance: Paul Bigford, Jay Barnhart, Jim Bos, Jeff Carpenter, Ian Davison, Marv Hanna, John Karakashian, Scott Lachniet, Dick Schwikert, Tom Seroczynski, Chuck Turk
Excused: Mike Batcke, Dave Gabrielson, Troy Harrison, Michael Hoag, Mark Raven
Absent:
Guests: Paul Kogelschatz, CRA; Steve Begnoche, Former Editor of Ludington Daily News
3. Minutes of the December 1, 2018 meeting of the PMWC. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Paul Bigford and seconded by Jay Barnhart – minutes were approved
4. President's Notices:
 - A. Welcome Guest: President Bos welcomed the guests.
 - B. President Bos indicated that he had discussed the railroad project with the President of the Flint Rainbow Club (FRC), indicating the PMWC's preferred choice was option 2 (rock rip-rap) and that the project would proceed without a financial contribution from FRC. The FRC board is supportive and the motion has been sent to members for a vote (due at end of January, but results not yet communicated to PMWC). Once the FRC has approved moving ahead it will be necessary to determine which entity holds the contract for the construction. Ordinarily, this would be the property owner (FRC) but PMWC may need to do so, which would require obtaining insurance coverage.

Old Business

5. Financial Integrity:
 - A. The treasurer's report was presented by Jay Barnhart. As of December 31, 2018, the PMWC has \$98,762.43 in its accounts. A motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Dick Schwikert and seconded by Jeff Carpenter – motion passed.
 - B. A preliminary 2019 budget was proposed with \$20,725 in projected revenue and \$11,000.00 in expenses for a net annual balance of \$9,725. After discussion a motion was made to amend the preliminary budget to include: a) \$25,000 to the habitat improvement line to pay for final design and permitting of the Railroad project and b) \$500 for hazardous waste disposal for a total expenditure of \$36,500 and an annual deficit (\$15,775). The motion was made by Tom Seroczynski and seconded by Jeff Carpenter – motion approved.
6. Watershed Restoration/ River Management:
 - A. Restoration Committee: There was no meeting in January.
 - B. PMWC project planning document
 - PMWC project planning and progress summary.
 - Current Active projects

- River Improvement Projects
 - Paul Kogelschatz of the CRA gave update on the railroad project.
 - The erosion study will be expanded to include the bank adjacent to FRC clubhouse to address the club's concerns of club that the railroad stabilization project will result in erosion in this area.
 - The option of using trees cut down to create the temporary access road to provide in-stream habitat will be explored at the request of the FRC.
 - US Forest service will pay for decommissioning the temporary road, which will reduce fundraising required to complete the cost of project.
 - Assuming the FRC approves the railroad project, the next phase will be to obtain permits. This will require involvement of the railroad company (they have yet to respond to the CRA). The DNR fisheries division and US Fisheries Service are supportive of option two. DNR Natural Rivers has not offered an option because they will be involved in the permitting.
 - The goal is to do stabilization work in 2020, probably during low flows in the summer. Moving material to the construction site will be challenging and it will be necessary to work with canoe liveries and fishing guides to minimize disruption to their businesses.
 - CRA will work with PMWC to schedule public meetings to explain the project to stakeholders and letters will be sent to local businesses. The Public awareness campaign will also be used for fundraising. Conservation Resource Alliance.
 - CRA has raised \$3.5 million for PM projects over last decade, which is far higher than any of the other 15 watersheds where they do conservation work; the expectation is that the railroad project will be attractive to donors.
 - Steve Begnoche indicated there is little public awareness of the problem and risk of the erosion by the railroad embankment outside the trout and steelhead fishing community.
 - Policy, Legal, Engineering, and Management
 -
- Future Projects
 - River Improvement Projects
 - Other CRA projects include:
 - Small-scale habitat restoration projects on the FRC and Rod and Gun Club properties funded by the PM Chapter of Trout Unlimited (PMTU) in 2019.
 - The PMTU projects are addressing the inventory of PM erosion sites funded by PMWC projects.
 - There are three other landowner funded erosion projects on the PM (basically to protect landowner property), including one by the City of Scottville at the riverside park to control erosion caused by kayakers and canoers who climb up the bank to reach picnic tables.
 - A project called "wild root" funded by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) to provide native trees and shrubs to landowners in the PM and Big Sable watersheds. CRA planted 3000 trees (on federal land) in 2018, the goal is to double this in 2019.
 - Policy, Legal, and Engineering Projects
 -

C. Natural Rivers Zoning Review Board –. The next meeting is scheduled for February 25 to discuss the Henry Campground.

7. Communication and Information

A. Mainstream Newsletter: Is almost ready for December mailing; topics include storm damage news, internships, new memberships and year-end donations

8. Public Comment -

New Business

9. New business – No new business

A.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 AM

Minutes submitted by Dave Gabrielson, Secretary

Schedule of remaining meetings for 2019

March 2, 2019

April 6, 2019

May 4, 2019

June 1, 2019 – Memorial Day is May 27, 2019 so there is no conflict

July 13, 2019 – held in conjunction with the annual Banquet

August 3, 2019

September 7, 2019 – Labor Day is Monday September 2, 2019 so there is no conflict

October 5, 2019

November 2, 2019

December 7, 2019