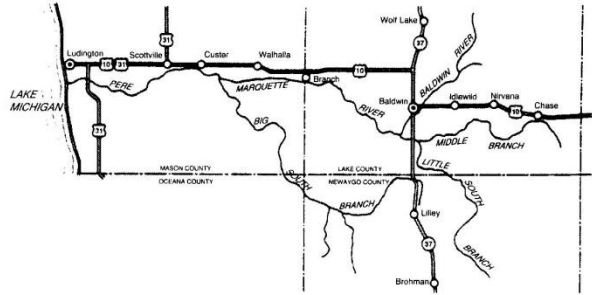


Pere Marquette Watershed Council, Inc.

P.O. Box 212, Baldwin, Michigan 49304



Board of Directors' Meeting 10:00 A.M. September 9, 2017 Lake-Osceola State Bank, Baldwin, MI Meeting Minutes

Administrative

1. Meeting was called to order by President, Paul Bigford at 10:03 a.m.
2. Attendance: Mike Batcke, Jay Barnhart, Jim Bos, Paul Bigford, Dave Gabrielson, Marv Hanna, Michael Hoag, John Karakashian, Scott Lachniet, Tom Seroczynski, Chuck Turk
Excused: Jeff Carpenter, Mark Raven, Grant Snider
Absent:
Guests: Mark Tonello
3. Minutes of the August 5, 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: President Bigford welcomed Mark Tonello to the meeting. Mark handed out the most recent electroshocking survey that showed that there were more than 100 pounds of fish per acre in the upper water of the PM, indicating a very good fishery. He mentioned that the Little Manistee also had a good trout population of over 100 pounds per acre. Mark informed us that it was very hard to get positions filled following the retirement or reassignment of employees.

A motion was made by Jim Bos and seconded by Mike Hoag that the PMWC send a letter of support to help hire a fish biologist to replace Rich O'Neil who has retired. Motion passed – Tom Seroczynski and Mike Batcke will draft a letter for the board to review.

Regarding the salmon population in the rivers, he indicated that the salmon were more affected by what was going on in Lake Michigan than what was happening in the rivers. He blamed the mussel population in the lake for reducing the food available for forage fish that feed the salmon. There was a discussion about the Big Star Lake drain. Chuck Turk gave an extensive review of the history of the issue and presented a number of questions about how to remedy the situation. The PMWC Board will ask Mark Raven to review the case history and see if there has been proper management of the water out-flow. Tom Seroczynski will check with DEQ regarding any permit issues.

- B. Railroad update: An email from Paul Kogelschatz, watershed coordinator for CRA, was distributed. The engineering firm of Prein and Newhof will no longer be involved with the project since they were unable to agree on a right-to-entry contract with the railroad. A second engineering firm that was also considered during the quality based selection process, AECOM, will move forward with the project in a phased approach. AECOM is currently in Phase 1 which includes contracting and permits. Phase 2 will be the survey and soil investigation and Phase 3 will be the preliminary design.
- C. River Intern Report: The intern reports were passed among the members to review. Most notably was the fact that a large number of boats did not have permits to float the river. This was attributed to a significant number of boaters choosing to use private sites for launch and take-out. Responsible behavior on the river seemed improved over previous years.

Old Business

5. Financial Integrity:

A. The treasurer's report indicated that the 2017 banquet and C4C were among the three top money generators in the history of the events. The August statement was not available for review. However, it was reported that the endowment funds were up 7.8% as of the end of August.

B.

C.

6. Watershed Restoration/ River Management:

A. Restoration Committee:

- No meeting was held in August. Next meeting is scheduled for September 26, 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 President's remarks.
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 - Policy, Legal, Engineering, and Management
 - Future Projects
 - River Improvement Projects
 - Policy, Legal, Engineering, and Management

C. Natural Rivers Zoning Review Board –

D. River Interns – Intern reports were handed out to members for review.

7. Communication and Information

A. The next issue of the Mainstream is planned for the fall.

8. Public Comment: No public comment.

New Business

9. New business –

A.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:03 PM

Minutes submitted by Dave Gabrielson, Secretary

Remaining schedule of meetings for 2017:

October 7, 2017

November 4, 2017

December 2, 2017