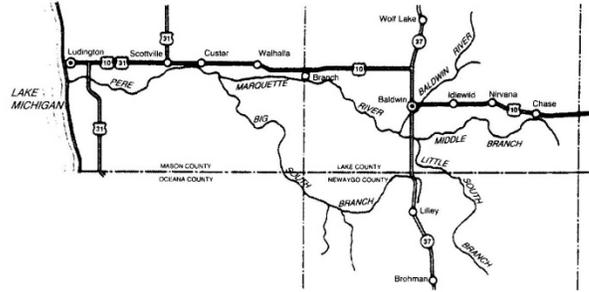


Pere Marquette Watershed Council, Inc.

P.O. Box 212, Baldwin, Michigan 49304



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

Administrative

1. Meeting was called to order by President, Jim Bos at 10:00 a.m.

Attendance: Paul Bigford, Jim Bos, Marv Hanna, Matt Jacobson, Dick Schwikert, Ian Davison, Mike Batcke, Jay Barnhart, Jeffrey Carpenter. Jason Hackney, Mark Raven, Tom Seroczynski, Scott Lachniet

Excused: John Karakashian, Mark Anderson, Michael Hoag.

Guests: Kim Balke of the Conservation Resource Alliance (CRA)

Dave Petterson Vice President of Conservation, Great Lakes Council of the Fly Fishers International (FFI)

3. The minutes of the October 5th, 2019 Board of Directors' meetings were approved with corrections.
4. President's Notices:
 - a. Mark Tenollo (DNR Fisheries Biologist) has proposed purchasing land currently owned by Jutta Gross adjacent to the M-37 boat launch on the Pere Marquette. A motion that the PMWC contribute up to \$5,000 towards the purchase of the Gross property (proposed by Batcke, seconded by Schwikert) was passed.
 - b. President Bos suggested inviting Jim Dexter the DNR fisheries chief to be the guest speaker at the 2020 banquet, which will be the 50th anniversary of the PMWC.
 - c. A meeting of the Coldwater Resources committee in Gaylord included a proposal to make the bag limit 1-fish for wild steelhead within the daily limit of three. DNR has a federal grant that ends in 2024 to fin clip all stocked steelhead. The proposal did not pass.
 - d. President Bos asked Kim Balke of the CRA to provide an update on the railroad and other restoration projects on the Pere Marquette. Her report follows:
 - i. Culvert restoration projects on Sanborn creek at Broadway and Spruce road have been completed; the next culvert project is on Blood Creek.

- ii. A contract has been signed for the final design and survey work for the railway embankment restoration project; PMWC holds the contract. If the PMWC becomes the contract holder for the construction phase of the project, it will be necessary to obtain additional insurance.
- iii. The CRA was been encouraged by the Department of Natural Resources to submit a grant proposal to the Aquatic Habitat Grant program for a multiyear project of up to \$250,000 to fund the construction phase of the railroad restoration. A decision is anticipated in May 2020. CRA has a good track-record of success with this type of proposal.
- iv. CRA will also apply for a grant of \$2,500 from Oxichem the chemical company that is the largest user of the railway.
- v. CRA also applies for regional grants that can support multiple projects.
- vi. The fact that the railroad is funded through the final design phase will help justify proposals for the construction phase that is estimated to cost \$300,000.
- vii. The construction phase of the project is anticipated to occur in the winter of 2020-21.
- viii. The restoration project continues to receive publicity and an interview with committee member Paul Bigford was featured on 9 & 10 News in October <https://www.9and10news.com/2019/10/10/pere-marquette-river-erosion-concerns-remain-as-discussion-on-solutions-moves-forward/>
- ix. The Scottville bank stabilization site to address erosion from the campsite and canoers will need additional rock; the committee discussed options for this project as well as the lower branch boat access that should help distribute fishing pressure on the PM.
- x. The committee discussed the repair of the 8th Street Bridge over the Baldwin, which is scheduled to be done in 2022 (the Village of Baldwin has a local bridge grant in review). The bridge is adjacent to the property of David Stevenson the owner of the fish hatchery and campsite property that includes the dam immediately upstream of the bridge. The PMWC is interested in removing or modifying the dam to improve the instream habitat of the Baldwin river. Kim and PMWC members will initiate conversations with Mr. Stevenson to ascertain his interest in selling all or part of the property.

Old Business

5. Financial Integrity: Jay Barnhart presented the Treasurer's report as of October 31st, 2019.
 - a. The current actual budget for 2019 is \$17,888.68 compared to a projected annual deficit of \$20,775.00. This is because: a) revenues (\$27,195.26) exceeded projected income (\$20,725.00) largely due to 4-5 life member donations, and b) actual expenses to date (\$9,306.58) are lower than the approved budget (41,500.00) because budgeted expenses, such as the \$25,000 for the railroad project have yet to be incurred.
 - b. The next balance in the PMWC account stands at \$116,651,11.

A motion to approve the Treasurer's report (proposed by Carpenter, seconded by Hanna) was approved by the Board.

6. Watershed Restoration/River Management:

- A. RR erosion site update. See report from Kim Balke (above).
- B. Restoration Committee:
 - a. The Chinnery log slide stabilization project may require reseeded and possibly additional topsoil and trees.
- C. Natural River Zoning Review Board:
 - a. The application for a variance to the 150-foot setback to build a boat slide on the PM (see October 2019 minutes) was denied; the owner has developed an alternate method to launch his boat using PVC rollers.
 - b. Pending problematic applications include a variance to the 150-foot setback for a septic system and a proposal to build a house 20 feet from the middle branch.

7. Communication & Information:

- A. Mainstream Newsletter: There was discussion about whether or not to produce a newsletter by the end of the year and on potential content. Bigford and Bos will discuss prior to the December meeting.

8. Director's Insurance: No new information; Seroczynski will check with the PMWC's insurance agent and also enquire about construction insurance.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM

Next meeting will be held on February 1st, 2020 at the Lake Osceola State Bank in Baldwin, MI at 10:00 am

Minutes submitted by Ian Davison, Secretary

Remaining 2020 Meetings:

- February 1st
- March 7th
- April 4th
- May 2nd
- Saturday June 6th
- July 11th Annual Banquet and meeting
- August 1st
- September 12th
- October 3rd
- November 7th
- December 5th