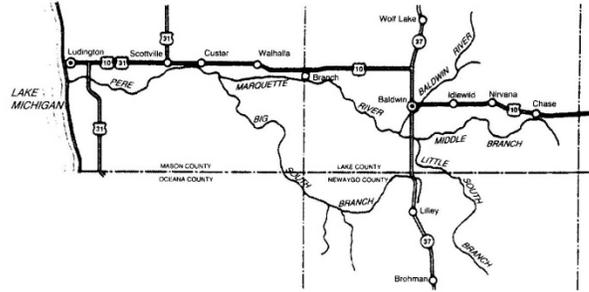


Pere Marquette Watershed Council, Inc.

P.O. Box 212, Baldwin, Michigan 49304



Board of Directors' Meeting 10:00 A.M. February 1st, 2020 Lake-Osceola State Bank, Baldwin, MI Meeting Minutes

Administrative

1. Meeting was called to order by President, Jim Bos at 10:05 a.m.

Attendance: Jim Bos, Dick Schwikert, Ian Davison, Jay Barnhart, Tom Seroczynski, Mark Anderson, John Karakashian, Paul Bigford, Jason Hackney

Excused: Michael Hoag, Mark Raven, Marv Hanna, Scott Lachniet, Matt Jacobson, Jeffrey Carpenter, Mike Batcke.

Guests:

Jake Lubera and Dave Jaunese US Forest Service, Kim Balke, Conservation Resource Alliance.
Kim Balke Biologist with the Conservation Resource Alliance (CRA).

2. The minutes of the December 7th, 2019 Board of Directors' meetings were approved with corrections (motion proposed by Schwikert, seconded by Bigford).
3. President's Notices:
 - a. Bob Nicholson a former Board member of the PMWC and influential member of the local fishing community died in December. There was general agreement that the PMWC should recognize Nicholson's many contributions to conservation of the Pere Marquette; the specifics will be discussed at a subsequent meeting.
 - b. There may be an opportunity to submit a grant proposal for \$20,000 to \$30,000 to Patagonia (the outdoor clothing company) to help support the railway erosion project; PMWC is a potential recipient.
 - c. Jake Lubera and Dave Jaunese of the US Forest Service (USFS) provided an update of projects on Forest Service Land in the PM catchment.
 - i. The project to create a new boat launch downstream of Lower Branch bridge has been approved. The project is part of an overall package that includes improvements to the Maple leaf parking lot and the Maple leaf and Logmark campsites. The next stage will be to design the new boat access and secure

- funding for the project. The earliest that the boat launch will be constructed is 2021.
- ii. The Forest Service is working with the Lake County Property Owners Association to replace signs on the Pere Marquette that indicate people are entering or leaving Federal land. The new signs indicate mileage to next rest stop or take out. The signs don't indicate time because this is a variable that depends on river discharge and speed that people paddle or row. USFS is trying to contact riparian landowners in Mason county (this is harder because there isn't a property owners association).
 - iii. The summer of 2019 was characterized by high water and storms that increased the number of obstructions (trees) in the river. If this weather pattern occurs in 2020 the USFS will continue to close sections of the river and pull float permits. Closing the upper river may increase canoe traffic in the lower river and the USFS will work with the emergency managers of townships when closures occur.
 - iv. Repairs are necessary at the Green Cottage boat launch because of damage from high water and maintenance work is also required on the stairway at the Claybanks access site.
 - v. Indian bridge continues to be a concern especially when high water coincides with the June-July *Hexagonia limbata* spinner fall. Increasing the clearance for boats to safely reach the take-out below the bridge will require raising the bridge 2 ½ feet and will cost Mason county around \$450,000. The challenges include the lack of an alternative boat launch site upstream of Indian bridge and that the bridge is not the highest road priority for the county.
 - vi. The State Council of Trout Unlimited will be the official recipient of an REI company grant to fund two additional interns to work for the USFS on PM projects (the minutes for December 2019 reported that PMWC would be the recipient (REI will not directly fund the USFS). The REI interns will join the two funded annual by the PMWC.
- d. Kim Balke of the Conservation Resource Alliance reported on ongoing projects
- i. Grant proposals to support the railroad erosion project were submitted or are planned, including:
 - November \$200,000 to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR). A decision is expected in April;
 - February \$95,000 to the US Fish and Wildlife Service;
 - A small request to Oxychem (the major user of the railroad);
 - \$100,000 request to the Great Lakes Fisheries Trust, who have indicated that they are open to a proposal.
 - A large request for around \$400,000 may be submitted to the National Fish and Wildlife Trust Sustain Our Great Lakes program; this would fund several regional projects including the railroad erosion site on the Pere Marquette;
 - A proposal to the Lake County Community Foundation for \$5,000 will be submitted in March.
 - ii. The final engineering design of the railroad embankment project will be completed as soon as the wetland delineation on the opposite bank is completed in the spring. The best-case scenario is that the project will go to bid in the fall of 2020 and construction will occur during the winter of 2020-21.
 - iii. There was considerable discussion about the potential removal of the 8th Street (Fish Hatchery) dam on the Baldwin river. Ideally the removal of the dam and

decommissioning of the hatchery would occur concurrently with the repair work to the bridge that was damaged in 2019. The bridge project has been approved for funding by the Michigan Department of Transportation, but construction will not start until 2022. Discussion will continue with the owner regarding possible purchase of the property.

Old Business

4. Financial Integrity: Jay Barnhart presented the year end Treasurer's report for 2019. The revenue for 2019 was higher (\$29,794) than budgeted (\$20,725) because of several life memberships and other donations. Expenses (\$10,240) were lower than budgeted (\$41,500) because of the timing of expenses related to the railroad erosion project that will be incurred in 2020. Consequently, the year-end balance between expenses and revenue was a surplus of \$19,554 instead of the budgeted deficit of \$41,500. The total fund balance consequently increased from \$98,762 to \$118,316 during 2019, the majority of which (\$91,552) is in the general (unrestricted) fund.

The 2020 budget was discussed. The proposed revenue budget was \$24,525 and expenses \$57,300 with an annual deficit of \$34,275, which would be covered by the 2019 fund balance (above). The majority of the approved expenses (\$45,000) are for the railroad erosion project.

The 2019 year-end balance sheet and 2020 budget were approved (motion proposed by Bigford, seconded by Hackney).

5. Watershed Restoration/River Management:
 - A. RR erosion site update.
 - a. See Kim Balke's report (above).
 - B. Restoration Committee:
 - a. There has not been a meeting since October; the committee will meet in the Spring.
 - C. Natural River Zoning Review Board:
 - a. Has a single proposal to raise a house 3.3 feet to be above flood plain; this is not a contentious issue.
6. Communication & Information:
 - A. Mainstream Newsletter:
 - a. Next issue is in progress and will feature the many contributions of Bob Nicholson to the PMWC.

New Business

The meeting was adjourned at 12: noon

Next meeting will be held on March 7th, 2020 at the Lake Osceola State Bank in Baldwin, MI at 10:00 am

Minutes submitted by Ian Davison, Secretary

Remaining 2020 Meetings:

April 4th

May 2nd

June 6th

July 11th Annual Banquet and meeting

August 1st

September 12th

October 3rd

November 7th

December 5th