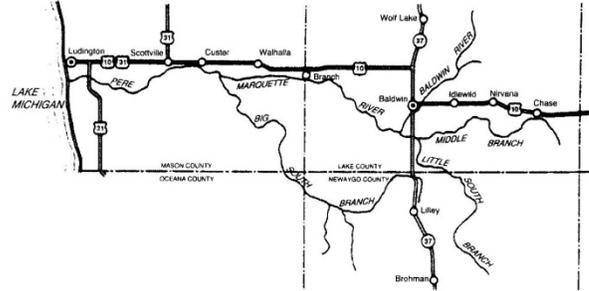


Pere Marquette Watershed Council, Inc.

P.O. Box 212, Baldwin, Michigan 49304



Board of Directors' Meeting 10:00 A.M. June 6th, 2020 Wenger Pavilion, Baldwin, MI Meeting Minutes

Administrative

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

Attendance: James Bos, Tom Seroczynski, Jeff Carpenter, Paul Bigford, Jay Barnhart, Dick Schwikert, John Karakashian, Jason Hackney, Ian Davison, Scott Lachniet, Mark Raven, Mike Batcke, Mike Hoag, Matt Jacobson, Mark Anderson, Marv Hanna.

Excused: None

Guests: None.

2. The minutes of the May 2nd, 2020, Board of Directors' meetings were approved (motion Bigford, seconded Seroczynski).
3. President's Notices:
 - a. Cast for Conservation. There was discussion regarding the feasibility of holding the 2020 cast for conservation. The Board decided to cancel the event and offer to refund entry fees but to encourage people to make these a donation to the PMWC (motion Anderson, seconded Seroczynski).
 - b. The 2021 Cast for Conservation will be held on July 9th with the banquet on July 10th, 2021. Jim Dexter the Fisheries chief for the DNR has agreed to be the speaker and Glen Blackwood will be asked to be the auctioneer.
 - c. The July 2020 board meeting was cancelled; the next meeting will August 1st, 2020 at which time new board members will be appointed.
 - d. The Stevenson property (dam, fish hatchery and campground) on 8th Street in Baldwin was discussed. The family has indicated a potential willingness to cooperate with PMWC to remove the dam but have listed the property for sale. There is strong support on the PMWC for removing the dam, but the consensus was to adopt a "wait-and-see" approach given the uncertainty regarding key issues such as long-term ownership, etc.
 - e. Railroad embankment erosion project:
 - i. There has still been no notification regarding the various grant proposals to support the railroad erosion project, except that the \$5,000 proposal to the Lake County Commission was declined.

- ii. It is still unclear if the change of ownership of the railroad will affect the project. The only employee familiar with the project retained by the new company is Scott Knight.
- iii. PMWC has paid an invoice to the engineering company for \$10,473 and has received another for \$11,774. The design documents are not yet complete, but the delineation of the wetlands has been finalized and may affect the location of the temporary access road to deliver construction materials to the project site.
- iv. Once the design work has been completed it will be possible to develop a cost-estimate for the construction that can be used to secure the funding required to complete the project.

Old Business

- 4. Financial Integrity: The treasurer will provide a detailed report at the next (August) meeting.
- 5. Watershed Restoration/River Management:
 - A. Railroad project: See President's report (above).
 - B. Watershed Restoration Committee. No meetings have been held.
 - C. Natural river zoning review board. The next meeting is on June 23rd, 2020. There are two applications, neither seem contentious.
 - a. Jeff Heth in Pleasant Plains is seeking approval to raise the foundation of a single-family home on the Little South Branch.
 - b. Jeff Lowry in Pleasant Plains is requesting approval for an addition to a single-family home on the mainstem of the Pere Marquette in the upper fly water. The addition would be built on the landward side of the house.
- 6. Communication & Information:
 - A. Mainstream Newsletter: Is finished and will be mailed in June, including information about the cancelation of the banquet and the Cast for Conservation.

New Business

- 7. Mike Batcke and Tom Seroczynski reported on a conversation with Jake Lubera the chief US Forest Service ranger in the Baldwin office.
 - a. The US Forest Service (USFS) does not currently have funding for the proposed new boat launch at Lower Branch bridge and this project is delayed indefinitely.
 - b. The USFS has an estimate of \$550,000 to raise Indian Bridge. There is no prospect of the township (the responsible party) having this funding in the foreseeable future. The low bridge is a serious navigation hazard except at very low water levels and blocks passage at mid to high water. Canoes and kayaks could be portaged over the bridge, but this is not a viable option for a drift boat. The current Wild River plan calls for the Pere Marquette to be fully navigable.
 - c. Board members discussed attending meetings of the Mason County road commission, possibly with representatives of the Forest Service to discuss Indian Bridge and seek support for remediating the navigation hazard.

Meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Minutes submitted by Ian Davison Secretary

Remaining 2020 Meetings:

July 11th Annual Banquet and meeting – Banquet is cancelled meeting may be rescheduled.

August 1st

September 12th

October 3rd

November 7th

December 5th