

**Pretty Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District Annual Meeting Minutes**  
**9:00 am on Saturday, August 8, 2020**

**Thirty-Six (36) electors attended the meeting.**

**Agenda Items and Minutes**

**1. Call meeting to order and opening remarks**

Pete Kraeger, President of the PLPRD called the meeting to order at 9:06a.m. and the attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance

Pete opened the meeting by introducing our new County PLPRD Board of Commissioners member, Christine Mommaerts. Pete noted his appreciation to the folks in attendance, considering the ongoing Covid 19 outbreak.

Pete then commented on the upsurge in lake activity due to the virus including increased boating activity, kayaking, and fishing. Pete asked all residents to be especially watchful and careful until the level of lake activity returns to normal.

Pete continued by discussing the many positive developments that occurred during the past year, including:

- The Eurasian Water-Milfoil (EWM) pulling successes. (Mike Wittlief, Mark Bretl, Laura Harvey)
- The continued fish stocking program. (Maureen Cavaiani)
- The maintenance of our Website and email “Blasts” program (Bobbin Beam)
- The Clean Boats Clean Water program (Volunteers and Nate Hucke)
- The BOC members’ community work.

Pete ended his opening comments by reporting that the Waste Water Feasibility Study addressed in last year’s Annual Meeting would be deferred or cancelled depending upon the results and information we will obtain as a result of a survey we will conduct later this year with the County of Waukesha regarding individual property waste water systems.

**2. Secretary’s Report – Review and approve 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes**

Bill Sowinski, Secretary, presented the 2019 Annual Meeting minutes.

Hearing no requests for edits, corrections, or additions, he made a motion to approve the 2018 minutes and Dan Bartels seconded the motion. The 2019 Annual Meeting minutes were approved.

**3. Treasurer’s Report - Audited 2019 and Current 2020 thru May 31<sup>st</sup>**

Wes Jones, Treasurer, presented the 2019-year end Financials.. Dan Bartels, Jim Nevermann and Cherie Nevermann. audited and approved the 2019 financials.. The figures revealed that Actual Expenses for the calendar year were \$51,355.49, \$8,344.51 under budget. Savings against the budget were significantly driven by the limited use of the deep well due to favorable weather. Those savings were partially off-set by aggressive EWM removal and outfitting the DASH Boat. Capital Investment was under budget by about \$7,350 as no significant expense was paid for Pump or Lawn Mower repair or replacement. The PLPRD ended the year with \$31,305.58 in the operating fund, \$6,000 in the Well Fund and \$30,000 in the Land Acquisition Fund.

Motion was made and seconded to approve the 2019 financial Report. The 2019 financial report was approved.

Wes Jones then presented the 2020 finances through May 31. Through May we have spent \$9,393.47 out of the \$59,900 budget. While current expense is low, we anticipate increased expenses to occur or be submitted for weed harvesting using the DASH boat, running the pump due to the recent warm weather and the purchase of a diver communication system for DASH boat diver safety.

We also have expense exposure for the deep well as the motor control board is 20 years old. It is running good for now but has exceeded its expected useful life. A replacement would cost about \$4,800. We have \$7,500 in the well fund should we need or decide to replace the control board.

Motion to approve the 2020 financial report was made and seconded. The 2020 financial report was approved.

#### **4. High Capacity Well report**

Pete reported that we had not needed to run the well very much earlier this year. Recently, however, the warmer and drier weather is causing the pump to run more often. The new pump (replaced last year) is performing well. The electric company ran a new power line to the pump as part of the community upgrade.

#### **5. Fish Management Report (Maureen Cavaiani)**

Maureen reported that the fish stocking program continues to have the desired effects of reducing the stunted panfish population and increasing the walleye size and population.

In 2019, we stocked 650 six to eight-inch walleyes. The DNR donated 143 northern fall fingerlings about eight and a half inches in length. We plan to stock the same number of walleyes in 2020 and anticipate the same level of support by the DNR in providing us Northern. Maureen noted that we have a good relationship with the DNR and that, since 2014, it has donated 1,279 northern valued at \$15,000.

We have over \$1,600 in our fish stocking fund. Most of these funds were donated by the PLAA from the annual Ice Fishing Jamboree. We've also collected over \$355 from fishermen donations dropped in our fish stocking fund box. We need \$1,200 annually to support the walleye stocking program.

Maureen provided updated information showing the Pretty Lake fish stocking history from 1978 to the present. That history includes:

- 1978 – 20,000 largemouth bass (3")
- 1979 - 1,240 walleye (3")
- 2012 – 650 walleye (6–8") – Community Funding
- 2013 - 925 walleye (6–8") – Community Funding
- 2014 – 650 walleye (6-8") – Community Funding
- 2014 – 435 northern (fall fingerlings 6-8") DNR Funding
- 2015 – 925 walleye (6-8") Community Funding
- 2015 – 108 northern (fall fingerlings 8.8") DNR Funding

- 2016 - 650 walleye (6-8") Community Funding
- 2016- 143 northern (fall fingerlings 8.6") DNR Funding
- 2017 – 650 walleye (6-8") Community Funding
- 2017 – 117 northern (fall fingerlings 8.8") DNR Funding
- 2018 – 650 walleye (6-8") Community Funding
- 2018 – 324 northern (fall fingerlings 9") DNR Funding
- 2019 – 650 walleye (6-8") Community Funding
- 2019 – 143 northern (fall fingerlings 8.6") DNR Funding
- 2020 Proposed 650 walleye (6-8") Community Funding
- 2020 Proposed northern (fall fingerlings) DNR Funding

Maureen also reported that removal of the EWM benefits the predator fish which in turn helps reduce the small pan fish population. Dan Bartels reminded the community that the money generated by the PLAA Ice Fishing Jamboree largely funds the fish stocking efforts. Last year, \$1,350 was donated to the fund by the PLAA.

Regarding future stocking plans, Maureen explained that other species of fish may be introduced when the predator population reaches optimum population and size. The type and cost of those species of fish are unknown. Bait fish and other types of pan fish may be introduced. The goal is to provide as much diversity in the fish population as is healthy.

Dan Faraca commented that the size of the blue gills is increasing and wondered if we might survey the fish population more often. Maureen explained that Pretty Lake is a "minor fishery." Generally, a minor fishery is surveyed every 10 years, though some analysis is performed on the dead fish found after the winter kill. As a minor fishery, the DNR can scoop excess blue gill and relocate them to various parks and lagoons.

Pat Deno asked whether we had a count of fish cribs and had plans to place any more. Maureen indicated we do not have a count, that no additional cribs are planned and that any crib placement needs DNR approval

## **6. Pretty Lakes Advancement Association (PLAA) and Pavilion Enclosure Update**

Dan Bartels, President of the PLAA addressed the attendees about his vision of the proposed pavilion enclosure. Dan indicated that the pavilion enclosure was still in the planning stage, but that it would have several windows, multiple entry doors and a large garage door. Prior to the meeting Dan marked off the various possible sizes of the pavilion enclosure, showing the large, medium, and small options. He reported that the medium size enclosure had received the most votes in the survey, by a large margin. An architectural schematic was designed by Kerry Hart's sister, Julie, in preparation for securing a building permit from Waukesha County. Securing a permit should not be a problem as there is no need for any sort of variance and the footprint of the building is not being changed in any way. Dan reported that our fundraising finances would easily cover the cost of the enclosure and that only fundraising money would be used. Building the pavilion would not put fireworks finances in jeopardy, especially since we held no fireworks this year due to the virus and after building the pavilion, we would still have ample funds to support a fireworks display should that account be short. When asked why we should build the enclosure, Dan responded that the survey showed overwhelming support for it and that it would make the many activities we have during chilly spring and fall activities much more comfortable. Anne Bretl commented that the enclosure would most likely increase use and rental of the pavilion and that the pavilion, even with the enclosure would have a lot of open area. Pat Deno noted that we need to have a budget approved. Andy Memmel stated that being at the pavilion caused him to think that the small pavilion size might be best, rather than the middle size. Wes

Jones suggested that a special meeting might be a good idea, to further inform the community. Pete ended the discussion stating that the PLAA will address any open issues and that when they are resolved, will request the building permit.

#### **7. Land Use Report (Including Pavilion, Athletic Field and Maintenance)**

Pete thanked Jeff Kaphengst for doing such a nice job cutting the grass. There are no problems with our lawn mower that will require repair. Pete also thanked Laura Harvey for planting and maintaining the flowers and grounds around the pavilion.

#### **8. DASH Boat Update and Report**

Laura Harvey delivered the presentation regarding the DASH boat as Mark Bretl could not attend the meeting. Pete reported that extensive preventative maintenance work has been performed on the DASH boat by Mark. The deck was painted with two coats of protective paint as it is subject to many hours in the sun and the movement of large buckets of pulled weeds. He also replaced the oil filter and changed the oil in the vacuum pump. Mark added screening to the water return system to better filter weed particles, keeping them from being returned to the lake where some of the particles might root and start new plants. The PLPRD has purchased a communication system for the safety of the divers. Pulling the EWM clouds the water, making it impossible for the resources on the deck to see the divers. The system will be implemented as appropriate.

#### **9. Aquatic Weed Management Report & Discussion (Laura Harvey)**

Laura reported that we've had nine weed pulls so far this year, using the DASH boat.

Mark Bretl, a master diver is heading up the weed harvesting effort. Laura Harvey remains top side, helping discharge the suctioned weeds into large 32-gallon rubber trash receptacles. Laura noted that the harvesting of EWM has been highly successful, with the divers suctioning, over 30,000 pounds of weeds, filling 151 of the 32-gallon receptacles. On average, the team pulls over 3,200 pounds of weed per dive. The team hopes to have two more pulls this year.

Laura noted the cost effectiveness of our DASH boat system. Our former contractor charged \$5,400 for just three dives and we have had nine dives already, at a fraction of that cost. She also noted that the current cost of three dives by a contractor has increased to \$6,500.

Laura also explained that Mark and Anne Bretl know the lake extremely well and can identify the areas most infested with the EWM. She also reported that (apart from the deep well area) the areas from which EWM has been removed are remaining relatively free from EWM and that native weeds are populating those areas. Laura commented that future pulls will most likely harvest less EWM per pull because of decreased EWM density and the need for care in preserving our native weeds. Laura closed her comments by thanking the many residents who have helped net EWM weed fragments from the water surface during the dives. Those volunteers include: Mary Gohs, Gary Liedtke, Kerry Hart, Andy Memmel, Doug Iding and his children, DiCarlo, Declan, and Delilah, Dan and Helena Faraca, Christy Kellman, Heather Will, Derich Johnson, and Ken Johnson's grandson and son-in-law.

On conclusion of Laura's presentation, Rick Bjodstrup thanked the team, noting that the EWM removal effort is noticeably returning the Lake back to its natural state.

#### **10. Pretty Lake Web Site Report & Discussion ([www.PrettyLakeWi.com](http://www.PrettyLakeWi.com))**

Bobbin Kraeger gave an update of the work she has done to improve and maintain the PLPRD/PLAA web site.

In addition to managing the web site, Bobbin sends out email "blasts", advising folks for whom she has email addresses, of Pretty Lake activities as well as significant current events. We encourage all Pretty Lake residents to provide Bobbin with email contact information. We do not

share addresses or use them for spamming or advertising. Bobbin asked that anyone who has provided their email information but may not be receiving the “blasts” contact her so she can check the accuracy of that email address, or have the individual change the computer receipt settings.

Due to the increased activity on the lake and some recent unsafe activities, Bobbin has updated the “visitor virtual whiteboard” to include information regarding rules on lake safety and boating as well as DNR contact information.

## **11. Wastewater Feasibility Study and Discussion**

Pete then updated the membership on the status of the proposed study regarding future options for disposal of wastewater around Pretty Lake. The Board secured proposals from three engineering firms that have the expertise to conduct the analyses. Last year, we budgeted about \$20,000 for the study.

However, the PLPRD has no information regarding the type or condition of about 60 individual wastewater systems around the lake. Waukesha County’s record keeping regarding those 60 systems is incomplete. Before we reconsider undertaking an expensive feasibility study, we want to understand as well as possible the current type and condition of each individual system around the lake. The County has agreed to work with us to perform a survey, helping us capture the missing information. That survey will likely occur later this year and we would appreciate full cooperation by the community in providing the requested information and in allowing individuals from the County to physically inspect your system if necessary.

Christine Mommaerts noted that the County has had some difficulty in capturing complete data. More recently it has begun to issue tickets to property owners who fail to comply with pumping and inspection requirements. Part of the problem stems from septic pumpers not wanting to lose business by reporting adverse information about their customers to the County. Chris reported that other lake communities have a similar problem and that we might want to jointly address this issue with the County. Chris indicated she has some useful information she will send us.

Wes Jones said that we might not need the feasibility study, depending upon what the survey reveals. Pete stated that we cannot let our lake get polluted and that, if there is any problem, it might just be with 3,4, or 5 systems. If we go forward with the feasibility study, the engineering firm would provide us with options, plans and costs as well as help us secure available government funding. We would contract for the design and building of any community wide system.

## **12. Presentation, Discussion and Approval of 2020 budget**

Wes Jones presented the proposed budget for 2021. The budget for 2021 is \$36,100, a reduction from last year. The tax assessment of \$35,000 is also a reduction from last year. Wes discussed what type of expense is include in each category and commented on some of the budget areas and projected expenses.

The Operations budget will remain at last year’s figure of \$3,500. Cost of operations vary yearly, but our experience over the past many years suggests this is the best estimate. Considering that our loss history is likely to remain good, we estimate that next year’s insurance coverage premium will be like this year, allowing us to reduce that budget to \$3,700. We have increased our Capital Investment fund by \$500, to \$3000 anticipating some maintenance costs to the DASH boat, lawn mower and well. The 2021 Special Project’s budget does not reflect cost for the Feasibility Study and has been reduced to \$6,000. Our Well Operations budget generally reflects the cost of electricity for running the well. That expense varies depending on rainfall. Based on history, we feel comfortable setting the amount at \$10,000 for 2021 Overall, our tax assessment will be reduced by 12.5%, to \$35,000.

