

PCLA MINUTES 4-28-26

The meeting was convened at 6:36 by John Brockschmidt. Present were Gail May, John Dolansky, Mary Netzk, Dave Colaw, Chuck Kneese, Ron Kardosh, Ana Schwab, Dave Gloer, and Lisa Pulaski. Absent was Wayne Bloomberg.

John B. said the weir by the lock is not damaged, though we didn't get much information about the flooding at first. After we sent out a MailChimp, there were a lot of hits on the links to the county website. Jule said that it wasn't difficult to get that email out. Remarks from riparians were mostly questions about when the water would recede. Ron said a lot of people use Facebook to get information. Mary said she was posting on Facebook to links that may be useful, like for septic and wells, or to show pictures of damage from flooding.

Chuck said that Ryan Bauman, the lock supervisor, has asked us to communicate to our members any information about closures and locks. Officials are not going to start collecting the lock fee until there is navigation, but the lock is open. Chuck has the lock stickers.

Ana wondered if the flooding would have been lessened if the channel had been dredged in a timely manner. The Army Corps and the State of Michigan are in disagreement about where to put the dredge material. Ana felt the dam should have been operating to remove 30 percent of the water. She felt that if EGLE had been focusing on infrastructure, then the flooding would have been less. Homeowners shouldn't be using their septic systems if they are flooded. Ana offered to contact representatives about getting this fixed. We can also contact local newspapers to bring up these issues.

Mary felt it would be good to keep people updated on the progress of the flooding through MailChimp. Ana would like to include a letter to the newspapers and politicians. John observed that a lot of information was shared on Facebook. Should we ask Jule to monitor responses to Facebook? He said that Burt Lake Buddies shares a lot of pictures and information on their Facebook page.

Chuck asked if there was any FEMA help. John D. said that we should call the Sheriff's Department about the closure of the lakes. Should we find out about warnings on the lakes and rivers? He asked Chuck if Ryan Bauman knows if the lakes are closed and if there are any signs posted. John D. said that we should warn people about safety issues and courtesy issues. What about water quality for swimming?

Ana said that our area is not FEMA eligible because there has been no Federal declaration of a state of emergency. She has been contacting the executive director at the Watershed Council about sending out communications about the flooding. Chuck said that he passes along information to Crooked Lake Yacht Club. He says a good source is Burt Lake Marine. John D. said that we need to encourage people to report damage to Emmet County.

John B. suggested that we make a list of goals for the year. Who will we get to speak at the Annual Meeting? Ana said that we may need an alternate day for the Hot Dog Day because of the flooding. Gail suggested someone to speak about updates on the flooding through August.

Invasives

John B. wondered if the zone monitoring work will be changed by the flooding. Dave C. has asked Tip of the Mitt to come to the monitor training. John D. said we should get advice from Ray about changes due to the flood.

Treasurer

John D. said that the membership dues responses haven't been collected yet because he is still out of town. He may not arrive until mid June, so the treasure's report may be delayed. Key Creative sent an invoice in March for \$1057, which the board approved. It was paid on March 27.

Communications

Gail said that we have 740 household members and 50 business members. Jule asked Gail if she should post the business membership names immediately, and John B. said yes. He will hand out brochures by hand to some businesses. John B. will share the list of businesses.

John B. said that the board should decide what information needs to go out by MailChimp sooner than the regular June email. He felt that emails will be contingent on the situation. Ana's letter would be sent out when it is ready. Gail asked to clarify how we know when to send these emails and who will be providing the information on different topics.

The next meeting will be June 2, 2026.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.