

Portage Crooked Lake Improvement Association Board Meeting Agenda

04/05/2025

The purpose of the PCLIA is to preserve and improve the condition and quality of our lakes and the surrounding area. We strive to create a spirit of cooperation with all property owners on the chain of lakes.

Attending: Sue Weber, Mike Stuber, Dean Forchas, Doug and Kris Picken, Kari Bunkers, Christine Lasley, Jill Osborne, Julie and Scott Maghan, Andy and Joy Larson. Diane and Chuck Lund attended via telephone

Excused: Tim Kensock

2025 Goals

- Assess Hanks/Portage channel options and determine what course of action, if any, PCLIA will take
- Improve attendance at all Lake Association functions
- Hold a winter event
- Include boating and shoreline preservation/restoration articles in the Shoreline newsletter

Call to Order

Scott called meeting to order at 8:58.

Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes for 9/28/24

Sue moved, seconded by Mike to approve the 9/28/2024 minutes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

The association currently has \$88,970.16. A certificate of deposit is maturing in May; however, the board will meet in May where we can discuss whether we want to reinvest the funds or perhaps whether we will need the money liquid for milfoil management. Our 2025 budget is set at \$29,500. Diane noted we also have approximately \$1,200 coming from the sale of Sota clothing. Joy moved, seconded by Julie to accept the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Portage/Hanks Channel: (Scott/Andy)

- No new updates. Next step if we were to proceed is we need two property owners (one on the Portage side and one on the non-Portage side) to volunteer access for equipment for dredging. We have a volunteer from the Portage side but still lacking from non-Portage site. If we get another volunteer, we will again approach the excavator for a quote. Andy asked for a few minutes at Back to the Lake to address the membership, providing an update.

Back to the Lakes (5/3/25): (Scott)

- We will be again using the Deerwood Legion and Northern Waters Land Trust will be doing a presentation.

Healthy Lakes: (Kris/Kari)

- We will see what our Milfoil looks like when the ice is out and weeds become visible. This is the 4th year after our original ProcellaCor treatment and it is possible this will be a “blossom year,” when typically the original application becomes less effective and weeds reappear. We may consider using 24-D as that is a strategy to prevent EWM from building a ProcellaCor resistance and 24-D is less expensive
- Boat Landing Coverage: We will have inspection coverage from 10 am to 6 pm Saturday and Sunday Memorial Day through Labor Day. The county has filled 49 out of the 50-55 positions needed so we are hopeful we'll have more consistent coverage this year. Kris will make application for the Crow Wing County for this year's max \$3500 grant. We are also eligible for \$100 by simply publicizing AIS in our newsletter. We were also allotted \$1,500 Sugar Bay dedicated funds from last year which we have not used. We will try to use that this spring (before June 30, 2025.) We have \$2500 for Crooked (main lake) this year.
- Considering we are a “premier” lake with Soil and Water district for water clarity, we have been given a grant for \$4,330 for plants and 19 properties are planning for shoreline restoration this spring. We need to document “in-kind” labor hours and submit the necessary paperwork, on which Kris and Kari have been working with Shelley Larson.

Fish Stocking: (Dean/Chuck)

- Dean reported fish needed to be ordered mid-summer for the fall. We have not had any feedback when we inquired of membership about trying to stock something other than fingerlings. Kris commented that larger fish are spoken for by larger lakes and yearlings are more expensive. The board decided to include a thank you in the newsletter to the Jukish' family for allowing use of their land to stock fish. Chuck Lund commented about stocking perch. Per DNR, We would just be feeding the northern with perch stocking. More details at the next meeting. Julie thanked Chuck/Dean for recent well written newsletter article.

Memberships Status: (Doug)

- Doug reported the Membership is pretty static; 119 last year compared to 189 this year. 25 members who have not renewed. Doug stated we added 4 properties on Portage. Kari and Christine continue to meet with new residents. Doug noted there has not been much real estate action on the lake yet this spring. Board decided to send out one more reminder email for members to send in their dues.

Summer Picnic (6/14/25): (Andy/Joy) Andy asked whether we should expand/change picnic. The board consensus was to keep the status quo.

Summer Fun Event (7/4/2025): (Andy/Joy) Joy suggested renting a bounce house for the younger children who attend the Family Fun event. Joy will arrange.

4th of July Boat Parade: We have not had a volunteer step forward to organize the pontoon parade. We will need to make a decision at the next board meeting to cancel the event if no volunteer comes forward. Jill suggested sending an email to membership saying boat parade is at risk of being discontinued and requesting volunteer. Scott will draft email detailing the effort/work required and ask for a response by 5/1.

Shoreline Newsletter: (Julie) Julie outlined the topics for the next Shoreline to include

- Portage channel dredging update
- ½ page ad for Jim Christensen; ** SEE discussion below
- Fish stocking again
- Milfoil disclaimer (required public notice)
- Courteous boating article
- Membership-if see Milfoil let us know; mention of the 4th year blossoming possibility
- Silent auction teaser
- Photos of the shoreline restoration training

Annual Meeting: (Scott)

We are planning to return to The Bridge and Scott will meet with the new owner to discuss the details.

Silent Auction – Sue Weber

The board reviewed the auction results from last year and Sue Weber, who has volunteered to oversee the auction, questioned whether we wanted to conduct an online auction in addition to the in person only auction. Due to the extent of the work involved with the online portion, the absence of technology guru Doug Picken at this year's event and limited online bidding/purchasing, the board unanimously determined to conduct an in-person auction only. Sue also distributed the list of businesses contributing and board members efforts to contact business to solicit gifts for this year.

Scott reported that the following Officers and Directors have expiring terms and requested anyone not wishing to continue in their positions to let him know. Scott also stated he is willing to serve as president for another two-year term.

- Scott
- Andy
- Diane
- Joy
- Dean
- Tim
- Christine
- Chuck
- Julie
- Sue

New Business

Corporate Sponsorship: (Scott/Andy/Chuck/Tim/Jill)

**The board was approached by Jim Christensen about making a donation to PCLIA. A committee consisting of Scott, Andy, Chuck, Tim, and Jill met to discuss this possibility. Jill reported that Jim offered a \$2500 donation from his marketing budget, for a sponsorship to include a ½ page ad in the newsletter and participation at one of our events, which would display a banner he provides. Scott described this as a “corporate sponsorship” rather than an “ad.” Jill also mentioned that Jim would be present at the event and could provide an informational talk, the topic of which we would designate. The board directed the committee to meet to provide recommendations for sponsorship guidelines and advertising.

Adjourn

At 10:18 am, Sue moved to adjourn, seconded by Dean. Motion carried.

Association Meeting Dates 2025 – All at 9:00 AM @ Bay Lake Town Hall

- April 5
- May 3
- Aug 2
- Sept 27