

This email captures the minutes from our meeting on 2/22/22 @ 10am via Zoom and In-Person @ Park Place . Items highlighted in **YELLOW** are action items.

Let me begin by sending condolences to Jenny Sheehan for the passing of her father Wilbur (Bill) Sales, a life-long summer Pentwater resident.

I also want to welcome Curtis Burdette who has been named the Executive Director of the Oceana County Economic Alliance, replacing Ron Maynard and Jodi Nichols before him.

**Attendees - In Person:**

Dave Bluhm, Chris Conroy, Chris Brown, Lynne Cavazos, Manny Valdez, Michael Haack, Joe Primozych, Bruce Koorndyk, and

**Attendees - Via Zoom:** Amy LaBarge, Tave Reser, Dave Roseman and Tammy Carey

Following the Agenda:

**AGENDA**

**1. Review/approval January 18, 2023 meeting minutes** (see attached) - Accepted with one modification. Chris Brown not Chris Conroy, to follow up with USACE regarding 2023 Dredge Bidding and Targeted Completion schedule.

**2. Review current USACE lake level report**

Dave reviewed the USACE report per their website reporting. Water levels are roughly 8" below this time last year but still about a foot above historic averages. Projected trend is to increase starting this month.

Manny noted that the USACE was onsite last week and noted that the high water mark was 40" lower than normal.

**3. Status of 2023 dredging contract.**

Chris Brown gave a status update - USACE Bidding result expected next week. **Will follow up with Corp on this and report back to group.** Current permit expires 2027. Historical perspective: USACE funding is under DOD and deficit spending by DOD ended in 2009 resulting in and end to annual funds for USACE project/dredging. Cali harbors get 45% of all Shipping Tax revenue resulting in little/no distribution to shallow harbors. Proposal to initiate a letter writing campaign to end this practice and more equitable distribution of shipping tax revenue.

Continued discussion regarding the cleaning out of the attenuators. USACE permit dictates dredging distance from attenuators which never allows for the natural flushing of the attenuators if the area adjacent to the attenuators can not be touched. Creative ideas to be investigated and then socialized with Liz Wilkenson at USACE for Section 408 permitting modifications include:

a) "Water Pik" clean out using the Pentwater Fire & Rescue's crew and apparatus (specifically high pressure water hoses), prior to the USACE Dredge. **Chris Conroy - Call Jonathan Hugart, Fire Chief to discuss idea and feasibility of getting apparatus in place.**

b) Dave to talk with Josh Adams marine service to move and flush boulders in the attenuators (get price estimate), discuss with Liz at USACE at GL Small Harbors Meeting; Davis- Bacon Act prevailing wages for contractors on federal projects [Davis-Bacon and Related Acts | U.S. Department of Labor \(dol.gov\)](#) ... would this work apply?

**4. Update on grants and other opportunities**

a. **Section 111 Beach Nourishment study grant -**

Update from Chris Brown - no movement on our grant request to study/determine if the piers are exacerbating sand shoaling in the channel. Per Chris B, the lack of movement on our request at this stage is not unusual. Chris B also noted that Whitehall is part of the Section 111 Program already (and also part of the Michigan Shallow Harbor Coalition). **Continued pressure to move this along is needed.**

b. **Michigan Coastal Resiliency grant under National Fish & Wildlife Foundation**- Lynne gave an update that she expects to hear on the status of our request/grant application for sand movement study; **Continued pressure to move this along is needed.** partnered with DNR to include state beach, and includes the South of Channel beaches (Oceana Beach Association). Manny - Renewing permits to move sand including along pier railing that has become a critical dune. The new perpendicular fencing on the beach by the pier is working, collecting sand. Chris B mentioned under Village CIP a multi-use/multi-season replacement snowblower with sand skid attachment for versatility. **Chris Conroy can make a copy for each committee member interested in a copy of the APA-MI Magazine - Coastal Resiliency Issue- Nov/Dec 2022 - Vol. 26. No.6 . Please let Chris know if you wish a copy.**

c. Section 408 opportunities - allows a local municipality to collaborate with USACE and DNR through contributed funds. **Dave will further explore and discuss with Chris Brown and Liz at USACE at yearly March Great Lakes Shallow Harbors meeting in Grand Haven.**

d. Creative sand removal options from USACE and local contractors - Chris C forwarded Melissa Boseman, USACE Project Manager's report on the USACE creative sand bypass system deployed at the Indian River Inlet on the Atlantic Coast.

e. **Dave and Chris B need to confirm and attend Annual Great Lakes Shallow Harbors Shallow Draft Harbor** meeting in Grand Haven in March (Date - TBD)

## 5. Small Harbors Coalition update

a. Host Meeting with Rep. Moolenaar - April /May meeting date in District has been requested with his office staff (awaiting specific date and time) . Location: PYC; Plan to meet with Matt Mrozinski, MSHC chair and other shallow harbor representatives. Suggestion to also invite Senator Peters - Chair of Senate Appropriations Committee for a good bipartisan effort. **Follow up needed with Moolenaar's office to schedule.**

Cali harbors get 45% of all Shipping Tax revenue resulting in little/no distribution to shallow harbors. **Please take some time to write letter to invite Rep. Moolenaar to meet with us and to discuss this and to end this practice and promote a more equitable distribution of shipping tax revenue.**

6. PLIB update - Dave B shared a proposed Estimate of Funding Required which is one of two requirements from Joe Primozich, PLIB Chair and Michelle Martin, Drain Commissioner (previously discussed) in order to include dredging in PLIB's 5 year work plan. The second requirement is a resolution from both the Village Council and the Township Board committing to support dredging via an increased assessment (currently \$6000 each) and an agreement to a set amount annually ( estimated/ proposed \$20K). The goal of our proposed estimate is to insure fairness - impacting all who benefits from emergency channel dredge funding calculation to ensure open channel access, not just burden the riparians. Discussion: 1. Do we all believe the breakdowns are fair? 2. Do we all agree the next dredge will not be needed until 2025 (2023 dredge assumed to last two years)? Some discussion that we will need another partial dredge in 2024. **The committee asked the Village and Township to prepare and approve resolutions of support at their March meetings for inclusion of channel dredging in PLIB 5-year (24-28) work plan and to agree to funding as needed and available.** Joe P.

thought that our estimate met the requirement to enter dredging into the April PLIB meeting's 5 year work plan discussion, as does the effort to secure resolutions from each municipality. Lynne indicated favorably toward a Township resolution to support the concept of PLIB work plan to include dredging but needed to further explore funding (or utilization of unrestricted funds). Side note: investigation of Michigan lake improvement board legislation, a second work plan could be established with its own special assessment. Open item - set meeting with Michelle Martin to understand the formula used to calculate the current \$6000 assessment paid equally by the Village and Township to the PLIB. Chris C found the attached 14a calculation methodology - clarity still needed. Is this still current?). Dave Roseman asked to restore taxing levels to 2012 levels (reduced because chair thought too much money was collected and not being used). Scope of work plan needs to include dredging the channel and taxes raised to previous levels. 2/3 acceptance by riparians present need to increase rate and scope. Michelle M utilizes State Drain Commission attorneys for consultation. Joe also agreed that if riparians want to contribute more than the taxed amount they can and can designate it for dredging. A letter writing campaign could begin to solicit riparian and non-riparian support for dredging in the work plan and funding. Reminder that any organization or individual can target giving into the Protect Pentwater Harbor Fund managed by the Community Foundation of Oceana County. Chris B reminded the group that the Village can not donate but they can pay an assessment.

7. Wind blown sand control- see above discussion in item #4

8. Other

a. Channel Website and Facebook page - Dave asked if the group wants to keep the Channel website going? If so, we need to figure out how to fund it as a citizen's committee before March 5 renew per Claudia or it will be lost. The group agreed that at a minimum the domain name needs to be preserved. **We need a volunteer to be our new webmaster** - move webpage to new free platform (Google). Each member agreed to kick in \$20 or \$25 for committee expenses such as postage, website and domain name - [pentwaterchannel.org](http://pentwaterchannel.org) . All agreed that if we are going to launch a fundraising campaign targetting marina slipholders, transients, boat owners, boat launch users, etc, we need a productive website. **Also, we need a volunteer to take over Facebook page admin from Ron Beeber.**

b. New item: Michael Haack offered Fundraising ideas - **Fish Boil at the Village Marina - he will take the lead.**

Amy LaBarge suggested bringing back the 2012 t-shirts with saying  
" Kill the Ledge - Dredge Baby Dredge"

Topic for next meeting - **Fundraising ideas to fund basic committee expenses.**

9. Next Meeting - Wednesday March 29th @ 10:00 via Zoom and In-person @ Park Place.

Regards,

Chris Conroy  
630-606-8301

On Mon, Feb 20, 2023 at 7:55 PM David Bluhm <[dbluhm61@gmail.com](mailto:dbluhm61@gmail.com)> wrote:

Hi all. Attached is our agenda for our channel committee meeting this Wednesday. If you have an item listed on this agenda please be prepared to provide an update to the group. See you all Wednesday morning! Dave

**Protect Pentwater Channel Citizens Committee**  
**February 22, 2023 10am-noon regular meeting - Park Place and Zoom**

**AGENDA**

1. Review/approval January 18, 2023 meeting minutes (see attached)
2. Review current USACE lake level report
3. Status of 2023 dredging contract.
4. Update on grants and other opportunities
  - a. Section 111 study grant
  - b. Michigan resilient coast
  - c. Section 408 opportunities
  - d. Creative sand removal options from USACE and local contractors
5. Small Harbors Coalition update
  - a. Meeting with Rep. Moolenar
6. PLIB update
7. Wind blown sand control
8. Other
  - a. Channel Website and Facebook page
9. Next Meeting