

**Manitowish Waters
Lakes Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 286 – Manitowish Waters, WI 54545**

Minutes of Annual Meeting and Picnic
July 23, 2011, 4:00 P.M. to 6:30 P.M.
MW Community Center Pavilion

Call to Order and Welcome - The 19th Annual Meeting of the Manitowish Waters Lakes Association was called to order by President Karen Dixon at 4:05 p.m.

Motion made by Tom Young, second by Earl Watkins to approve the agenda. Motion passed.

Motion made by Greg Holt, second by Dewitt Everix to approve the minutes from 2010 Annual Meeting. Motion passed.

Motion made by Vern Lahart, second by Pat Becker to approve the 2011-2012 budget. Motion passed.

Copies of the agenda, 2010 minutes and financial reports were available to all attendees.

President's report

Karen gave a report on our activities for the last year. We have kept up our usual tasks of our web site, email alerts, newsletters, attending workshops and Town Board and Plan Commission meetings.

New last year were the 17 fish cribs placed in Rest Lake and Spider Lakes, a project developed by Tom Kramer. We hope to get DNR permission to place fish spawning structures in the chain next year. The AIS, Curly Leaf Pondweed, was found in Wild Rice Creek, Island Lake the channel between Spider and Island Lake. More on this later in the meeting.

We help fund the water ecology field trips for 7th grade students under the direction of Science teacher, Leif Williams; we support educational programs at Discovery Center and Camp Jorn and are a partner in the Town Aquatic Invasive Species Partnership (TAISP). The trout pond on the 4th of July and pontoon rides at Colorama are two things we continue to provide for free.

Introduction of Current Board of Directors

Board members present:

President: Karen Dixon, Vice President: Tom Joseph, Treasurer: Eleanor Butler, Secretary: Marilyn Gabert
Directors: Jim Reichert, Greg Holt, Jim Banovetz, Fred Theisen, Bob Becker, Tom Kramer, Fred Theisen
Director-elect – Robert Stowers

Board members excused: Barry Hopkins and Merry Perkins

Recognition of Retiring Directors

Recognition was given to our retiring director, Jean Rein, for serving on the board for four years.

Nomination and Election of Officers and Directors

Motion by Vern Lahart, second by Earl Watkins to nominate the following people for a one-year term as officers and two-year terms as directors: President: Karen Dixon, Vice President: Tom Joseph, Treasurer: Eleanor Butler, Secretary: Marilyn Gabert, continuing directors Bob Becker, Jim Reichert, Fred Theisen and new director Robert Stowers. Motion passed.

Presentation of AIS by Tom Joseph

Last year AIS was a problem, this year it is a large and serious problem. More than 20 acres in Rice Creek are so choked with Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP) that it is nearly impossible to navigate a boat through it. We need your help. You need to learn how to identify the CLP, keep a watch for it and report any sign of it.

We have formed a partnership (TAISP) to help battle the Aquatic Invasive Species between the Town of M.W. that provides \$10,000 in funding, Discovery Center that provides the interns, and the MW Lakes Association that provides the volunteers.

The MWLA has found a "captain" for each lake on the chain who in turn gets "deck hands" trained so they can help monitor our lakes. Please contact a lake captain or Anne Kretchmann, the Discovery Center AIS coordinator, and help monitor our lakes for AIS.

Once again we have been trying to eradicate the invasive species, Purple Loosestrife (P.L.), by raising P.L. eating beetles to release into P.L. patches in the wild. We have seen a lot of progress with this project.

We are currently working on writing a grant application for a Lake Management Plan for Rest Lake. The next grant will be written for Island Lake to help with the CLP problem. The AIS will affect property values and your time on the water. Please help us with these projects.

Presentation by Leif Williams, NLES Science Teacher, and Nicole Gilman, and Chris Hayashi, Students

Mr. Williams has been a teacher for 10 years with the last 7 years being at North Lakeland School. He is the Outdoor Education Coordinator at school and has written the water resources curriculum. MWLA helps fund the students' lake study field trips, and by doing so, gives the students valuable experiences.

Chris Hayashi talked of their September trip to the Manitowish River at the Hwy K wayside. They learned about micro invertebrates and saw mayflies, frog and dragonflies, and also how to recognize the health of the river partly because of the fast moving water. Chris reported on the April trip to dig Purple Loosestrife plants. Zach Wilson quizzed them on which plants were which. It was cold and wet and they had to chip through ice to get the plants. They then put the plants in pots to place in kiddie pools for the raising of the P.L. eating beetles. He recommends hip boots for next year because their knee boots got full of water. Nicole Gilman participated in the February ice fishing tournament with students and teachers. They learned what the fish do under the water, they learned how to catch and release fish, how to correctly ID the fish and how to bait their own fishing pole and tip-up. Her favorite part was catching the fish.

Mr. Williams spoke about the need for, and importance of, adult mentors and role-models who are needed to instill a love of the outdoors in today's youth. We need to give the kids an empathetic view of the environment; teach them not to litter, to contribute, to respect hunting and fishing laws, to be part of the conservation effort. It boils down to environmental sensitivity; our time outdoors and being role models and #1 teachers. Mr. Williams thanked us and hopes they will continue to receive financial support from us and to be able to look at it as an investment in the future.

Acknowledgements and Announcements

Karen thanked Leif and the students for their reports. She thanked the Town Board, particularly John Hanson, Henry Bauers and Sue Patterson for their help; Discovery Center for use of the sound system, Barb Bartling of LaPorte's Market for the donation of beer; Barry & Lisa Hopkins of The Pea Patch for donation of brats; Terry Theisen for the cookies and bars; Joel Schroeter and Kevin Theisen of The Aurora Borealis for making the salads; Lions Club for use of grills and pavilion; Zach Wilson and Anne Kretschmann of the DC for organizing the AIS materials; Julie & Jack King, Ticki Lambrecht, Betsy & Eric Matz, Penny Benson, Nancy Wenton, for their help at the check-in table; Mike Dixon, Nancy Hanson, and Jean Eales for their help with selling raffle tickets; Bill Gabert, Jim Reichert for serving beverages; Kathryn Dumas, Marilyn Gabert, Nancy & Craig Hanson, Mary Sue & Bary Ruschmeyer, Penny Benson, Nancy Wenton, Ann & Jim Carstens for raffle donations; Fred Theisen for organizing and making all the food, and all the members for attending our meeting and picnic.

Adjourn to Picnic

Motion by Tom Young, second by Dewitt Everix, to adjourn to the picnic. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Gabert, Secretary