

MWLA Board Meeting Agenda
Monday, May 20, 2015
9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. – Bobcat Cabin at Discovery Center

Call to Order at 9:39 am

Attendance – Karen Dixon, Tom Joseph, Eleanor Butler, Marilyn Gabert, Jody Miller, Bob Becker., Greg Holt, Tom Kramer, Jim Reichert, and Bob Stowers.

By Phone – Jim Cagney

Absent – Barry Hopkins

Guest – Anne Kretschmann

Approve Agenda – Motion made by Bob B., second by Greg to accept the agenda. Motion passed.

Approve Minutes Motion by Tom J., second Tom K. to accept the minutes of the September 15, 2014 meeting. Motion passed.

Approve Financial Report – Motion by Tom K., second by Jody to accept the financial report. Motion passed.

Committee Reports

Water Ecology and Safety/AIS

- TAISP – Grant update; Lake Planning meeting June 15; Stakeholder Survey; Volunteers; etc.

Anne Kretschmann reported that we received one grant out of two. Treatment for the next 3 years of two channels is covered by the grant. The speaker at our annual meeting was part of the grant we did not get. So we are now open to entertain an idea Jim C had about gathering the attendees by lake at the Annual Meeting and discussing issues that are important to all of us. Anne will have a short slide presentation for the Annual Meeting that will take only 10 min.

The grant we did receive was cut by quite a bit. The DNR took out Skeeter donations and announcements, the NLES Outdoor Ed donations, intern time and Anne's time. Some of Onterra's items were also not covered by the grant, but Onterra said they will now do them for us at their cost such as the Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP) survey in Rice Creek. Onterra doesn't want a break in the data so they will continue with their survey. We still need to get volunteers to help right now with some intense AIS surveys in June. Onterra will come out in June to verify the volunteers' findings. Anne passed around handouts with upcoming workshops and events.

Last week 19th grade students from NLES went out to dig up Purple Loosestrife (PL). The plants were brought back to Discovery Center and put in pots. In June a group of volunteers will go out to collect beetles. Ten beetles will then be placed on each plant, the plant put under a net until the 10 beetles multiple to 100 beetles. At that point, the plants will be put back into the wild.

Anne handed out a map of the CLP areas on the Chain that are to be chemically treated and hand pulled. Spider island channel is dense and will need to be treated. Rest/stone channel, not enough CLP to be treated so we will need to send in divers to hand pull. Less chemical needed this year so the cost will be down, and hand pulling is cheaper so we have a bit of a savings. The CLP on the Rest/Stone channel was detected early before it spread too much so that will be a spot for the divers. This week Onterra will be doing the treatment in Spider/Island channel and they are looking to send out divers the week of June 15th. This is the same day that there is a lakes planning meeting with Onterra

On June 29 Onterra will verify CLP locations, do the maps and do a CLP survey in Rice Creek. A stake holders survey will go out in June. Anne hired 3 interns for this year. Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW) need 200 hours for the grant. We will be teaming with Presque Isle and Winchester with the interns. Maggie and Brad will do CBCW and surveying. Jason will be full time in Winchester.

Bouys to mark and warn boaters of the CLP in Rice Creek are not in the grant. Maybe MWLA can pay for bouys at Rice Creek. Tess May is in charge of volunteer program at NLDC. She will help get AIS volunteers coordinated with MWLA.

We exceeded our volunteer hours last year. With budget cut we need to figure out how to get more hours for this year. We need to spend some time this year to rekindle the interest in AIS. We also need to work on captains per lake, good data base by lake, by person with contact info and volunteer hours. We make several contributions to other groups in the area, but with the cut in the grant, we are going to discuss if we can still make those contributions or if we need to use the money for our own AIS programs.

Lake captains list was passed around and we added Jim C. to Island Lake. A list was handed out of volunteers that have monitored and brought in samples. We still need a captain for Fawn Lake. Fishermen should be an excellent resource for monitoring and identifying AIS. We gave a big thank you to Anne for all her hard work on this project.

- Fish Habitat Project - Tom K. reported that 18 fish cribs were built, 16 will go out on Island Lake. They'll go out in a couple weeks, around the first week in June. He needed letters from homeowners to use their shoreline and that took a little while. Big thank you to Tom K.

- Walleyes for Tomorrow – They want to stock some lakes in Minocqua. High Lake had a portable fish hatchery, but they couldn't get any males. WFT is working with the tribe and fish biologists about the imbalance of males to females. It will take a few years to get back to where we want to be with a higher walleye population. Fish population is very low. MWLA supported WFT last year. The WFT banquet is Thursday, June 11 at Chippewa Retreat. On June 13 there will be a fishing tournament on MW Chain to raise money for WFT.

- Water ski hours – the MW Town Board will have one more meeting on this issue and will look at a possible compromise.

- Bladder boats – not sure there's anything we can actually do about this but the issue has been brought up. Bladder boats cause larger waves, shoreline erosion, and is a concern. Transporting AIS is another concern with this type of boat.

Government Relations

- PC (next meeting June 2, 7:00 p.m.); TB (next meeting June 9, 7:00 p.m.)

Not much from PC concerning the lakes. Henry took Chuck's place on PC, since Chuck won the election for the position with the TB. A new second water safety patrol was hired, Luke Kozisek.

- MCDF and Rest Lake dam – They are trying to work on Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The DNR told everyone not to give the MOU out to anyone as it is still a draft. The MOU will try to find a compromise that works for most people. MCDF has been meeting with the Chippewa Flambeau Improvement Company (CFIC) and the DNR to work on a MOU for the operation of the Rest Lake Dam.

Public Communications

- Spring Newsletter topics and date for mailing – Karen has put together the spring newsletter and she is looking for volunteers for Thursday, May 28 at 10:00 a.m. for assembly and mailing.

Community Outreach

Preliminary planning discussion of July 4th, Need help in the morning to help set up booths and trout pond.

Annual Meeting July 25, Annual meeting is at DC this year.

Cran-a-rama Oct. 3 - it is late again this year so we'll discuss if we can offer pontoon rides or not.

Roadside pick-up - Fred & Terry Theisen have already done the first of three roadside pick-ups.

Administrative

- Elections – Board members whose terms end in July of 2015 are officers (1-year term) Karen, Tom J., Marilyn, Eleanor, and directors (2-year term) Bob Becker, Jim Reichert, Bob Stowers, and Fred Theisen. We need to find at least one new board member as Fred Theisen is unable to return. Per our bylaws, we can replace Fred and add one more board member.

- Budget for 2015-16 – Administrative team will meet and put together our new budget.

Old Business

- Review Committee descriptions and assignments – Karen asked that board members review their responsibilities listed in the handout that emailed to them.

New Business

- 2015 Lakes Partnership Convention report – Karen attended this convention and sent out a report to all the MWLA board members.

- Chamber After 5 – Request from Tomahawk Community Bank to co-host with us. We decided it does not meet our mission statement to co-host a Chamber after 5 with the bank.

- Liability Insurance – Premium went up from \$220 to \$500 which is the new “minimum” for insurance companies and liability insurance. Bob B. will ask the Town if there is a way we could be part of their policy.
- \$500 grant from James W. Reichert Fund – board thanked Jim for his generosity.
- VCLRA Celebrating Lakes & Rivers Day on Friday, June 12 from 8:15 am to 12:00 pm. At the Conserve School in Land O’ Lakes.
- Ad in Skiing Skeeters program guide - The decision was made not to put an ad in the program. We would rather give them a donation (so that the full donation goes right to the ski club) once we discuss our donations and our own need for funds.

Correspondence

11-26-14 received notice of \$500 grant to MWLA from James W. Reichert Fund
12-3-14 received thank you from Rita Mazur
12-12 14 sent letter of support to DNR for VCLRA request for handbook grant
12-22-14 sent thank you letter to Jim Reichert for the \$500 grant to the MWLA
1-7-15 Sent letter to Ted Ritter thanking him for his many years of service
1-12-15 and 3-3-15 received donation request from Camp Jorn – Strong Kids Campaign
1-29-15 sent letter of support to DNR for lakes grant
4-1-15 sent email to MW Town Board opposing change in water ski hours
5-12-15 sent thank you letter to Henry Bauers for his years of service to Town and support for AIS funding

Next meeting date - Monday, June 15, 2015 – 9:30 a.m. The lakes planning meeting with Onterra will be that afternoon. Both meetings will be held at the Discovery Center in the Bobcat Cabin. Lunch provided

Motion made by Jim R., second by Tom K. to adjourn meeting. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Marilyn Gabert