

Minutes of Manitowish Waters Lakes Association Board Meeting

Monday, August 18, 2014

North Lakeland Discovery Center, Bobcat cabin

Karen Dixon, President, called the meeting of the MWLA Board to order at 9:42 a.m.

Members present: Karen Dixon, Marilyn Gabert, Greg Holt, Tom Joseph, Eleanor Butler, Bob Becker, Bob Stowers, Jody Miller, Jim Cagney

Members absent: Barry Hopkins, Jim Reichert, Tom Kramer, Fred Theisen

Guest: Anne Kretschmann

Approval of Agenda

Motion made by Greg, second by Bob B. to approve the agenda. Motion passed.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Marilyn, second by Bob B. to accept the minutes of the July 14, 2014 meeting with a few corrections on spelling. Motion passed.

Approval of Financial Report

Motion made by Greg, second by Bob B. to accept the financial report. Motion passed.

While we have 331 current active members, we noticed our membership is slightly down. Karen and Eleanor will work on sending out a renewal reminder to those (109) who have not yet renewed.

Committee Reports

Water Ecology and Safety

TAISP – Anne reported that the official first draft of the Manitowish Chain of Lakes Comprehensive Management Plan has been sent to the DNR for review. Onterra is moving forward and working on the plan for Fawn and Clear Lakes. That plan should be ready around the beginning of October.

- Diane Daulton, Lake Superior Coordinator for the DNR out of Ashland, has been working on AIS early detection and monitoring on Island and Alder Lakes.

- Anne stressed that we need everyone to turn in their volunteer hours for lake monitoring. We need 400 hours to satisfy the grant and we are only at about 200 hours to date. Karen will send out an email blast reminding members and volunteers to turn in their hours to Anne.

-The MW Chain's Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP) is starting to die off but is still visible. Right now everyone should keep their eyes open for Purple Loosestrife (PL) as it is still in bloom. The crew has been out clipping the blossoms and seeds off the stem to reduce further spread of PL.

-The Volunteer Appreciation Dinner at Discovery Center will be held this Thursday, August 21.

- AS new program is starting this fall on Sept. 13 called Bridge Snapshot where bridges in Vilas County will be surveyed for invasive species.

- A draft copy of the Stake Holder's Survey was handed out by Anne. This survey will be sent out this fall to a group as yet to be determined – either all MW residents, or MWLA members, or MW waterfront property owners. Anne wants the MW board members to review the survey and get any suggestions to her by this Friday. The survey will then go to a sociologist in Madison to check for statistically significant information we hope to retrieve, then a postcard will be mailed out. Recipients should be able to respond to the survey online. The survey is part of the requirement of the grants that have been received and will give Onterra information to feed into the management plan.

-This spring there was discussion of placing buoys at the mouth of Rice Creek to warn people about the CLP in the creek. The approvals for the buoys are in except for the one from the DNR. Hopefully we will have all approvals by spring of 2015 and can get the buoys in place.

- The algae found in Papoose Bay doesn't appear to be coming from upstream, but the AIS crew will paddle upstream this fall to check for any further information.

Fish Crib & Fish Stocking Project – Tom K. provided Karen with the minutes from Walleyes for Tomorrow (WFT) who met with some of the Lac du Flambeau (LDF) Tribe. They plan to work together to help build up the walleye population on area lakes. It will take both sides working together to "back off" from harvesting walleyes on these lakes and will make efforts into restocking the lakes. At this point both sides are agreeable to working together on this issue. WFT held a fund raiser at Red Crown Lodge and raised almost \$30,000 to help fund the efforts.

Government Relations

Rest Lake Dam – The Manitowish Chain Defense Fund (MCDF) held an informational meeting on August 9 with about 175 attending. Neil O'Reilly presented information. MCDF's attorney, Duffy Dillon, suggested waterfront owners take

pictures of their shoreline now so if the need arises, they will have “before” and “after” pictures. At the MCDF meeting, there was discussion of legal action if the DNR proceeds with their current proposed plan for the dam, but there was also talk of discussing a compromise. There was discussion of all the above at the MWLA meeting today.

TB, PC meetings – The Town Board (TB) has the one-way signs for the boat landing at Clear Lake landing, they just need to put them up. They discussed hiring another water safety patrol officer for next year.

-The large bass fish statue at Kohler Park needs to be repainted.

-There was discussion of moving the Rest Lake Park boat landing to avoid potential hazards of boaters using the boat landing during water ski shows.

-The TB wants to place a hazard buoy in the channel between Spider and Stone Lake. One side of the channel has a sand bar that boaters keep running into.

The Plan Commission (PC) discussed the possibility of removing the curb on one side of the bridge at the Rest Lake Dam. It has been a safety problem and they can get Federal grant money to take care of the problem.

Public Communications

Karen will start work on the fall newsletter and will include information on MWLA membership renewal and will encourage people to get in their AIS hours. She will also include an article about the loon platform grant.

Community Outreach

Annual Meeting – We looked over the minutes from this year’s Annual Meeting. Eleanor had a few corrections for the minutes. Karen will make those changes and the minutes will be up for approval at next year’s Annual Meeting. Karen talked to Lynn at Discovery Center and confirmed our reservation at DC for our Annual Meeting next year on Saturday, July 25. The fee for use of the facility is \$350 and we need to send half now for a deposit. Karen sent pictures and an article about our Annual Meeting to the Lakeland Times and the FYI papers. We have not yet seen them printed. Jim C. had a suggestion for next year’s meeting to get the people to intermingle more. We want members to get to know who else is on their lake and we want them to talk to us about any concerns or issues.

Cran-a-rama – Anne said the MWLA can use the AIS pontoon on Cran-a-rama for free pontoon rides. Bob B. said Bud Kleinsmith would be willing to drive a pontoon if we can find one for him. Bob B. will work on finding at least two more pontoons and drivers for Cran-a-rama. Jean Eales has offered the use of her pontoon. Bob B. will talk to Rita at the Blue Bayou about using her dock.

Roadside pickup – Fred and Terry have completed another highway pickup.

Administrative

Alliance – will meet in August to determine to whom they will donate money.

By-laws – The Administrative Committee will email each other over the winter to discuss any updates that need to be made to our bylaws

Conflict of Interest form – Karen handed out the policy for everyone to keep in their files. She also handed out a form for each board member to sign saying they received and read the policy.

Committee Assignments and contact information – Three forms were handed out to each board member, Board Self-Evaluation Questionnaire, Performance of Individual Board Members, MWLA Board of Directors Expectations and Responsibilities which are all for our own use. MWLA Committee Descriptions and Assignments sheet was handed out and our new board members, Jody and Jim C., signed up for committees that interested them. Karen will redo the form and hand it out at the next meeting. The board contact information sheet was handed out and will be updated. Karen requested that board members email her their new MW addresses.

Loon Platforms – Anne brought up that Citizen Based Monitoring, thru the DNR, was awarded a \$5,000 grant to place 10 loon platforms on the MW Chain. In order for this to happen, a land owner needs to be the applicant. Heather, at Discovery Center, is in charge of this program and will hopefully be able to attend our next meeting to give us more information. We would love to help get the word out on this program and find 10 people willing to apply for a loon platform out from their property.

Old Business

Program to print names – Eleanor is still going to talk to someone to see if we can automatically print names on our renewal forms.

Pontoon Cruise sign - Eleanor will check into prices of signs advertising the free pontoon rides at Cran-a-rama. We have one large sandwich sign now, but thought it would be good to have a smaller sign ¼ mile either side of Blue Bayou to give people a heads up for the turn. Sign would say "Free pontoon rides ahead". Eleanor is still going to look into the price of such a sign.

Revise brochure – While we didn't have time to discuss this, we will keep it on our agenda.

Free membership – It was decided to allow each board member to give one new person/family a free MWLA membership each year. This will be a great way to introduce new people to our organization. They will receive all the benefits of a full membership for one year. Four board members have already taken advantage of this offer.

New Business

ATV's – There is a meeting in Phelps on Tuesday, August 26 to address a potential referendum to vote on whether to allow ATV's in Vilas County.

VCLRA Blue Heron Award and Lake Steward Program – Karen nominated Sue & Bob Austin for this award for their work to keep their property and shoreland natural. Karen suggested that all of should consider nominating anyone we think has done work to be honored with this Lake Steward Program Award.

Correspondence

7-27-14 – sent email thank you to Annual Meeting volunteers, donators, Leif Williams and NLES students

7-28-14 - sent thank you letters to Kathryn Dumas, Trig's Village Market, and Aurora Borealis Restaurant

8-2-14 - sent letters and checks to Camp Jorn (\$500), Library (\$150), Skiing Skeeters (\$500), MW Fire Co. (\$250)

8-6-14 - received thank you from Camp Jorn for \$500 donation and 5 tickets for the pancake breakfast

8-16-14 - sent thank you cards to Jim Banovetz and Merry Perkins for board service

The next MWLA board meeting will be Monday, September 15, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. in the Koller Library meeting room.

Motion by Karen, second by Bob B. to adjourn meeting. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Marilyn Gabert, Secretary