

## **Minutes of Manitowish Waters Lake Association Special Board Meeting**

Monday, March 7, 2016

NLDC Bobcat Cabin

Members present: Eleanor Butler, Jody Miller, Bob Stowers, Paul Puccinelli, Tom Kramer, and Bob Becker with Greg Holt, Karen Dixon, Jim Reichert, and Jim Cagney via conference phone.

Members absent: Tom Joseph, Marilyn Gabert, Barry Hopkins.

Guests present: Anne Kretschmann with John Richter (WSI) via conference phone.

### **Summary of Meeting:**

Karen Dixon, President, called the meeting of the MWLA Board to order at 1:03 p.m. Quorum verified. The purpose of the special meeting was to discuss whether the MWLA should continue to support the Wisconsin Shoreland Initiative (WSI) through financial donations. John Richter, representative of the WSI, was available by conference phone to answer questions and address concerns. Before John called in, there was brief discussion regarding the legality of a 501c3 organization contributing to a 501c4 organization and whether donating to the Wisconsin Shoreland Initiative (WSI) is a role that fits the mission of the MWLA. We all agreed that it was imperative that we check out all the legal aspects before moving forward and to have a roll call vote on whether to support the WSI.

John spent about 45 minutes addressing our concerns, answering questions, and updating us on the current bills that have put forth to the legislature and those they wish to put forth in the future. He explained that we cannot repeal Act 55, but the effort has been to repeal those sections regarding local control and lake classifications that would have the most negative impact on our lakes. Mary Panzer and Bill O'Connor have been working on behalf of the WSI to lobby for changes and there has been some success. John felt that chances of being successful in future are very good and that is why WSI needs more money from lake groups to help pay the attorney and lobbyist costs. Ongoing concerns that may impact us the most are bills that remove local control of rental properties, lighting, non-conforming properties, averaging of lot widths, etc. The WSI has a website containing all testimony given to date to the legislature by WSI. [www.wisconsinshoreland.org](http://www.wisconsinshoreland.org)

John emphasized several times how important it was to the health of our lakes for WSI to be the watchdog and fight for commonsense legislation that protects the waters of Wisconsin. There has not been an entity that has done this in the past because there was no need, but the current political situation has created such a need. A roll call vote was taken, after the phone conversation with John Richter, on whether the MWLA should continue its support of WSI efforts in Madison and, if so, to investigate legal avenues to provide funds. The vote was unanimously in favor.

Karen will call John back to inquire about the WSI's current designation as we were unsure of whether it was a 501c3 or 501c4 or undesignated. In the phone call, John explained that currently the WSI is a "for profit" corporation that is working on becoming a 501c4 and that the process could take up to 18 months.

Karen will talk to Tom Joseph about how to go about investigating all the legal aspects of donating to WSI. Meanwhile, board members will be thinking of creative ways to raise funds for this project. Further discussion is planned for our May 16 board meeting.

### **Updates from Anne Kretschmann:**

- May 11 – Purple Loosestrife Dig with NLS students
- May 17 and June 15 – CBCW training
- Deckhand trainings will be Tuesdays and Saturdays
- Education and Planning Grant was awarded to us and Winchester

- Clean Waters, Inc. will be doing the herbicide treatment in the Island – Spider channel. Divers will work in the bay south of the channel.
- The DC is interviewing interns, 65 have applied, 20 of them for water interns.
- The last check for the Rest Lake Grant has been received in the amount of \$6,250.
- Vilas County AIS Coordinator position grant was not awarded and it the current grant expires in June. Anne will keep us informed.
- We applied for a Healthy Lakes grant and should hear whether we got it sometime in April.

**Updates from Karen Dixon:**

- Quita Sheehan has agreed to give a 15-minute presentation at our annual meeting on the subject of shoreland restoration.
- The MWLA flyer has been developed by Scott Bertz and Eleanor has agreed to investigate the cost of printing.
- Scott has also updated our website to make it more user-friendly.

**Next meeting/adjournment**

Next meeting - The next MWLA meeting will be May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 9:30 a.m. at Koller Library.

Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 2:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Karen Dixon