

Minutes of Manitowish Waters Lakes Association Board Meeting

Monday, June 13, 2011 Koller Library

Karen Dixon, President, called the meeting of the MWLA Board to order at 9:37 a.m.

Members present: Karen Dixon, Marilyn Gabert, Tom Joseph, Greg Holt, Eleanor Butler, Jim Banovetz, Barry Hopkins, Fred Theisen, Merry Perkins

Members absent: Jean Rein, Bob Becker, Tom Kramer, Jim Reichert

Approval of Agenda

Motion made by Merry, second by Jim B. to accept the agenda as presented. Motion passed.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Merry, second by Jim B. to accept the minutes of the October 10, 2010 meeting with one small correction. Motion passed.

Approval of Financial Report

There was no financial report.

Correspondence

5-31-11 received request from Leif Williams of North Lakeland School for funding of Water Resource Study Field Trips

6-2-11 sent letter to Steven Favorite, Chairman Vilas County Board of Supervisors with copies to Steve Rhode, Conover Town Chairman; Daniel Balog, Land O'Lakes Town Chairman; and Colin Snook, Phelps Town Chairman - re: MWLA opposition to ATV trails in Vilas County

6-3-11 sent email alert - re: AIS programs

Old Business

Liability Insurance for Board members – Jim Reichert was going to look into it for this meeting but he was out of town and unable to attend today's meeting.

By law amendment - Jim B. and Bob will review our by-laws and bring any potential changes to the next meeting.

Northwoods Property Rights Coalition (NPRC) – Motion by Jim B., second by Fred, that the sense of our meeting is that MWLA supports efforts of NPRC in so far as they relate to the protection and preservation of the quality of the water in Manitowish Waters Lakes and Rivers and to sustain and enhance the recreational attractiveness of the area. Motion passed.

Karen and Jim B will work on a statement for our connection with NPRC and Karen will contact Bob Richards to get their mission statement.

New Business

NLES request - We received a request from Leif Williams of North Lakeland School for funding of Water Resource Study Field Trips. The funding would cover a Stream Ecology Study Field Trip on the Manitowish River, an Ice Fishing/Fish Identification Tournament and a Manitowish River Canoe Trip as part of their Outdoor Education Program. Motion by Fred, second by Jim B. to fund the project for \$880. Motion passed.

Skiing Skeeters – We received a request from Andy Stowers to place an ad in the Skiing Skeeters Program. We will take out a small colored ad with our logo, mission statement and website address for \$45.

Rotary Youth Program – Miles Daniels sent us a request for a donation towards his trip to Brazil with the Rotary Youth Program. The Board decided it didn't fit our mission. Some of the Board members would like to personally donate but need a mailing address.

Committee Reports:

Public Communications

June Newsletter - Karen had the draft June newsletter ready for review. She did a fabulous job of reporting an update of all the many MWLA projects. The newsletter will be printed on Wednesday and Eleanor will prepare the mailing labels. We should be ready to assemble the mailing on Thursday morning.

Community Outreach:

4th of July – Planning sheet was handed out and looked over. Fred has already applied for the trout pond permit, lined up the MW Fire Company to fill the pond and has contacted Tim Winkle about fish prices and delivery. We all signed up for shifts to set up, work the booth or trout pond. Karen will call a few more people to help with booth shifts. Marilyn will make some copies of the Annual Meeting Flyer to have in the booth as handouts.

Annual Meeting – We looked briefly at our Annual Meeting planning sheet. Karen will get a small paragraph about our Annual Meeting and Picnic Party to Jodi McMahon to include in her next email newsletter to MW Chamber Members. Marilyn and Fred will meet soon to plan for the food, supplies and raffles. Karen will check with Vern Lahart about nominating new Board members. Tom J. will check with Discovery Center to see if we can borrow their sound system. Karen will contact a few people for help with the check-in table.

Water Ecology and Safety:

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) - Tom reported that we now have Captains for all of the lakes on the chain. Six lake captains were able to attend the workshop along with two Discovery Center staff. Anne Kretschmann is the new Water Educator and Manitowish Waters Aquatic Invasive Species Co-coordinator at Discovery Center. She plans to be available to take Captains and their Crew from each lake out on the pontoon to do some AIS training.

Purple Loosestrife – P.L. eating Beetles were collected and are growing on plants at the Discovery Center. On June 24 there is a Purple Loosestrife workshop at the Discovery Center.

Real Time Water Quality Monitoring – There was discussion on equipment that can be installed in the lakes to keep track of nutrients in the water at the inlet and outlet of cranberry bogs. This is something to keep in mind for the future.

Loon Nesting Platforms – A project the MWLA may want to take on is sponsoring Loon nesting platforms. Zach at the Discovery Center builds the platforms and has area students help put them out on the lakes.

Papoose Bay – Barry prepared packets on the Papoose Bay and Rest Lake Management Plan Grant for discussion at our meeting today. This will need to be a study for all of Rest Lake, not just Papoose Bay. We had some concerns and Barry will get answers for us on - how long the plan is good for, what is the cost of a “tune-up” study, who files for reimbursements, how much money are the Papoose Bay residence willing to pitch in? Tom J. is willing to be on conference call or email with Barry and Kevin with the DNR to discuss further.

There was also discussion that at a future meeting, the MWLA should develop a policy or our responsibility for Lake Management Plans.

Government Relations

Plan Commission and Town Board – Those that attended the most recent Town Board meetings gave us an update on Tom Baer's status with his proposed cranberry beds. T. Baer is holding an informational meeting on June 16 at the Koller Library. On Tuesday, June 21 the town is having a public hearing on the T. Baer proposals. An email alert will be sent out to encourage people to attend or write to the Town Board to voice their opinion.

Rest Lake Dam – There is nothing new right now on the issue of the Rest Lake Dam.

Administrative

MW Alliance – The Alliance has also sent out an email alert urging people to show up at the T. Baer hearing and/or write the Town Board to request they do not change the zoning to allow the new cranberry beds. The Alliance has changed their policy for donating money and you must now give them a written request for any donations.

Budget – The Administrative Committee will meet and fine tune the budget to bring to our next meeting. We need the budget to be ready for our Annual Meeting in July.

Elections – Karen presented a list of expiring Officers' terms. All officers, Karen, Tom J., Eleanor and Marilyn will renew their terms. Bob and Jim R. will need to be contacted about their terms. Fred will let us know if he will renew his term. Jean Rein has moved out of the area and will not be renewing. We need to find one more board member to take her place.

Next Meeting -

The MWLA will meet on Monday, July 11, 2011 at 9:30 a.m. at the Library.

Motion by Merry second by Jim B., to adjourn the meeting at 12:20 p.m. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn Gabert, Secretary