



Manitowish Waters Lakes Association, Inc.
Annual Meeting and Picnic
July 30, 2016, 4:00 P.M. to 6:30 P.M.
North Lakeland Discovery Center

Call to Order and Welcome by Karen Dixon, Board President at 4:05 p.m.

Introduction of Current Board of Directors:

Present: Karen Dixon, President; Eleanor Butler, Treasurer; Marilyn Gabert, Secretary; Bob Becker; Greg Holt; Tom Kramer; Jody Miller; Paul Puccinelli; Jim Reichert.

Absent: Tom Joseph, Barry Hopkins, Bob Stowers.

Approve Agenda – Motion made by Ann Higgins, second by Mary Bowlus, motion passed.

Approve Minutes of 2015 Annual Meeting – Motion by Tom Young, second by Carl Sevey, motion passed.

Financial Report – was handed out. There were no questions.

Adopt Budget – Motion by Bob Becker, second Nancy Wenten, motion passed.

President's Report and recognition of departing board members: Tom Joseph, Marilyn Gabert, Barry Hopkins, and Jim Cagney. A thank you to departing board members. The MWLA works to abide by our mission statement which is to "maintain, protect, and enhance the quality of the Manitowish Chain of Lakes and other Township waters". Therefore, the number one goal continues to be the strengthening of our partnership with the North Lakeland Discovery Center, the Towns of Manitowish Waters and Boulder Junction to protect our waters from Aquatic Invasive Species, namely Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP).

Karen thanked Anne Kretschmann, Water Specialist and Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator, and Summer Water Interns, Blair Beyer and Katie Caldwell from the North Lakeland Discovery Center for all the work they have done this summer to educate others about how to prevent, combat, and monitor AIS. They responded rapidly to the discovery of CLP in Rest Lake and helped to pull enough to fill many large garbage bags. Please visit the AIS table for any questions. Thank you to members who have been monitoring our lakes. Please remember to turn in your volunteer hours monitoring our waters as it helps to decrease the cost of our grants.

Karen acknowledged people at the meeting by the body of water they live on. She asked if they have specific concerns about their body of water to please let us know.

Karen gave a thank you to all the MWLA members who have volunteered their time to monitor for AIS – Lake Captains, deckhands, and anyone else who has turned in hours to help decrease the cost of the grants.

Your membership dues allow us to fund the water ecology field trips for the NLES 7th grade science students, support educational programs at the Discovery Center and Camp Jörn that emphasize stewardship of our lakes and rivers and water safety, sponsor the trout pond on the 4th of July, provide free pontoon cruises for Cran-a-rama, donate to the Skiing Skeeters Program which provides public service announcements during their ski shows that encourage water safety, educate about AIS, and lobby for legislation that protects our lakes and rivers.

As our president steps down, she encourages all the attendees to step up to do their part to protect our most valuable resource – our water. With an analogy of putting your toes in cold water and slowly getting used to it, Karen reminded us how volunteering will make you feel wonderful!

Nomination and Election of Officers and Directors by John Hanson – recommendation for officers (1-year term): Bob Becker, President; Paul Puccinelli, Vice-President; Eleanor Butler, Treasurer; and Jo Ann Miller, Secretary.

Recommendation for directors (2-year term): Greg Holt, Tom Kramer, Mary Bowlus, Angela Dombrowicki, and Delp Schafer.

Motion to close nominations by John Hanson, second by Penny Benson. Motion passed.

Motion to elect officers as stated by Jackie Eggebrecht, second by Barb Kramer. Motion passed.

New MWLA president, Bob Becker, introduced Tom Kramer who gave an update on MW Chain walleye stocking. Tom is chairman for the local Walleyes for Tomorrow (WFT) chapter. WFT has had fundraisers for habitat for walleyes and now stocking walleye. They are currently doing a Minocqua Chain study and planting walleyes. MW Chain has been low on walleyes so the WFT met with the local fish biologist who said they can't stock the MW Chain of Lakes because they are classified as naturally reproducing lakes. Tom and WFT went to higher management and were given permission to plant extended growth walleye.

WFT is meeting with the tribe to talk over with them to plant back into the lakes the same number of walleyes they spear. Their hatchery will be revamped to handle the number of walleyes for restocking and will be ready in 2017. WFT will also be asking the tribe to cut back on the number of walleyes they spear on the MW Chain to help bring the population back. MW Chain is 4,200 acres so they can put in 42,000 walleyes and will put them in every lake. At \$1.80 each, it will cost about \$75,000 to \$80,000 dollars to stock the MW Chain.

Walleye start as fry, then fingerlings, then get to 6-9" fish by the fall of the year to qualify as extended growth. It takes two years for them to grow to adult walleyes. MWLA will be not be doing any fish cribs, but will be installing six tree drops this year. WFT will be installing more rock in the Minocqua chain for improving fish spawning areas.

Introduction of Tim Hoyman, Aquatic Ecologist and founder of Onterra, LLC. Update on Lake Management Grants for the MW Chain. They have been working on the planning project on the entire chain and AIS management specifically CLP. They are working on phase 4 planning on Manitowish Lake and Little Star Lake. They are now one year behind because of a lag year in the grants. Other lake planning is completed. They have been working on CLP since 2012.

CLP starts to grow immediately after ice is off lakes so it gets a jump start compared to native aquatic plants. Mid-June CLP naturally dies back, but not before it grows turions. The turions start to grow early the following spring. The key to manage CLP is to remove the plant, or kill it prior to it making the turions. Year after year, slowly we start to deplete the turion bank. Tim had a presentation with drawings of the areas of CLP over the years and how chemical treatment and hand pulling has reduced the CLP. They will continue to monitor those sites. Overall, the MW chain is a healthy system.

Introduction of Quita Sheehan, Lake Conservation Specialist Vilas County Land and Water Conservation Dept. presentation on Shoreland Preservation and Restoration. Quita discussed shoreland buffer zones and why they're important. Tim and his group will do a GIS lake Shoreland Inventory to identify areas of shoreland that may need protection or restoration.

Restoration options: protect your existing natural lakeshore, can wait for natural recovery, or can do accelerated recovery. There is restoration assistance available. Quita had before and after pictures showing restoration for shoreline erosion. Grants are available for putting fish sticks back into the lake, small restorations for open areas, rain gardens, and French drains.

Anne Kretschmann pointed out the Discovery Center's rain garden, and shoreline restoration area. We were awarded a healthy lakes grant for the Chain. We'll put in six fish sticks and some shoreland plantings on the Chain.

Acknowledgements and words of appreciation to those who helped with tonight's meeting and picnic. Thank you to Kevin Theisen and Aurora Borealis for providing the food and donating the wine.

Meeting adjourned to picnic at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Marilyn Gabert, Secretary