

MWLA Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 16, 2016 - 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. – Discovery Center Bobcat Cabin

Call to Order - 9:54 a.m. (we gathered at 9:30 a.m. and John Hanson spoke from 9:30 a.m. – 9:54 a.m.)

In attendance: Karen Dixon, Marilyn Gabert, Tom Joseph, Bob Becker, Paul Puccinelli, Bob Stowers, Jody Miller, Greg Holt, Eleanor Butler, and by phone, Jim Reichert.

Absent: Jim Cagney, Tom Kramer, Barry Hopkins

Guests: John Hanson, Anne Kretschmann,

Approve Agenda – motion by Greg, second by Paul to accept agenda. Motion passed.

Approve Minutes of October 12, 2015 and March 7, 2016 – motion by Greg, second by Bob B. to accept minutes. Motion carried.

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

Dead Pike Lake Charrette – Town Chair, John Hanson reported to the MWLA board concerning the upcoming charrette for Powell Marsh and Dead Pike Lake (a charrette is an intensive process used for project resolution.) The stakeholders involved will be working with UW – Oshkosh to get a resolution over the conflict of the last 17 years. This started in the 1950's when the DNR dug ditches and tried to make a spot for geese and ducks at Powell Marsh, but have done destructive things to the marsh and Dead Pike Lake. The digging produced iron floc (a gooey red substance) that forms in ditches and has flushed into Dead Pike Lake for the last 60 years. Dead Pike Lake was at one time pristine, but now with all the pollutants flushing into the lake it's declared "impaired" water. You also get iron bacteria in the water which smells bad. The Dead Pike Lake Charrette starts Monday, May 23 from 6:30 pm – 9:00 pm. They will break out on Tuesday into committees. Wednesday afternoon another meeting. All sessions are open to the public. Friday is wrap-up day.

John said there are three main areas of concern. 1) The project needs new management; 2) There should be a restoration of the marsh – partially or in total will be big debate; 3) There should be a restoration of Dead Pike Lake. Need a plan to try to revive the lake. Amount of iron floc has destroyed spawning beds.

John will send more info to Karen about the meetings and times for this coming week so she can send it to the rest of the board members.

Rest Lake Dam - They have arrived at a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), signed by Chippewa and Flambeau Improvement Co. and the DNR. More details are available on the webpage.

Committee Reports

Water Ecology and Safety/AIS

- TAISP – Anne Kretschmann gave an update on the grants. The town of M.W. has allocated \$38,500 for work with Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). Anne has hired 3 interns for the summer – Katie Caldwell, Emma Jogodka and Blair Beyer. There is now money for treatment of AIS and divers to hand pull AIS where needed. We will have Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW) work for Rest Lake and will give all interns a chance to work on that.

We received a grant that will cover all lake management planning. Anne has set a number of trainings for CBCW, one at DC the other two in Winchester. AIS monitoring training dates are June 7, July 12, Aug 9 and Aug 16.

- Fish Habitat Project – Fish Stick Grant (Healthy Lakes Initiative) still working with Jane to get grant awarded. The grant will be awarded, it's basically just nailing down the numbers right now and Anne should know by the end of the week. There are 2 shoreline restoration projects and 6 fish stick projects.

- Walleyes for Tomorrow – Tom K. was not here to give us an update.

Government Relations

- PC (next meeting June 7, 7:00 p.m.); TB (next meeting June 14, 7:00 p.m.) Special TB meeting May 17.

- MCDF – Rest Lake Dam MOU – info above and on our webpage. Greg will send out some info to the board regarding chain and river data

- Wisconsin Shoreland Initiative – John Richter sent an email. The steering committee is meeting tomorrow. They are soliciting lake districts and following up with districts. They've put together a tri-fold handout. They want to form a coalition with other groups and will discuss plan for regional structure. Tom J emailed info on amounts that can be donated by non-profits.

- Vilas County and Oneida County are having a joint river and lakes meeting Friday, June 10 at Nicolet College from 9:00 am – noon.

- Rest Lake Boat Landing – Bob B., Greg, and Paul are on this committee and gave us an update. The current boat landing at Rest Lake is in need of repair. They had discussion on fixing it or just moving it further down the shore about 100'. Pros and cons are being further discussed but at this time, the vote was 6 to 3 to move the launch. The Plan commission has not approved or turned it down yet. Quita Sheehan, the Conservation Specialist for Vilas County, has come out to Rest Lake Park and looked at erosion issues. She will present a master plan for erosion control. The erosion issue on the lake might be a concern that the MWLA would be interested in.

Public Communications

- Spring Newsletter topics – Karen gave us all the topics for the next newsletter to be mailed on May 27.
- May Chamber mailing – sent out our nice new brochure in flyer format - \$272 to print, \$100 to include in mailing.
- Updated MWLA website – much more user friendly, looks great
- 7 email alerts sent since November regarding shoreland zoning issues and Rest Lake Dam MOU

Community Outreach

- July 4th – Karen handed out a preliminary planning sheet but we'll use our June 20 meeting to go over more detail. Karen talked to Tim Winkle and ordered fish for the trout pond this year. We are guaranteed to have fishing poles. We ordered 95 lbs of trout last year and was too much so this year ordered 75 lbs.
- 2016 Annual Meeting – Aurora Borealis will cater the meal. We have given down payment for use of DC.
- Roadside pick-up – Fred & Terry Theisen will continue to do this. Karen will get an update from Fred.
- Cran-a-rama is October 1 this year.

Administrative

- Discussion of filling leadership positions and adding new board members – Karen is leaving her position as president, but will stay on board as past president, Tom J. is off the board, Marilyn is off the board. Up for renewal – Greg and Jody agreed to stay on the board. Karen will contact Barry, Tom K, and Jim C. to see if they are willing to continue for another term. We need to find 3-4 new board members and need either current or new board members to take on the positions of President, Vice President and Secretary. We formed a nominating committee (Jody, Bob B., Paul and Karen) to fill the 3-4 board positions and figure out who will be the new officers.
- Budget – administrative team will meet to work on this coming year's budget.

Old Business

- Meeting dates and location – It was decided to try to have all our meetings at the DC so board members can conference call if out of town.

New Business

- Memorials – Any past presidents and board members that pass away will be recognized at our annual meeting and current board members can feel free to give a personal donation to any memorials.
- Proposed bottling plant in Presque Isle – MW Plan commission is working on their 10-year master plan and this issue could be brought up to the town to avoid a similar issue in MW.
- VCLRA Six County Conference for the Protection of Lakes and Rivers – Friday, June 10, 9:00 a.m. to noon at Nicolet College in Rhinelander. John Richter will be there.
- Year-round meetings – possible meet every other month through the winter. Add November 14, January 16, and March 20 to our five summer meetings.

Correspondence

- 11-12-15 received thank you from Relay for Life for \$150 (use of Blue Bayou dock for Cran-a-rama)
- 11-29-15 sent letter of support to DNR for AIS Prevention & Planning grant and CBCW grant
- 1-1-16 sent letter in opposition to AB 600 and AB 603
- 1-28-16 sent letter of support to DNR for Healthy Lakes grant
- 4-25-16 sent cover letter and check for \$45 to Skiing Skeeters for ad in summer program
- 4-27-16 received invitation to NLS Community Appreciation Breakfast on May 9, 2016
- 5-7-16 received invitation to Dinner on the Chain on June 6, 2016
- 5-14-16 Check sent to DC for use of their facility for Annual Meeting

Next meeting date - Monday, June 20, 2016 at 9:30 a.m., Discovery Center

Adjourn – 11:30 a.m. - motion by Bob S, second by Greg to adjourn. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by Marilyn Gabert, Secretary