

Minutes of Manitowish Waters Lakes Association Board Meeting

Thursday, May 24, 2012

Koller Library

Karen Dixon, President, called the meeting of the MWLA Board to order 9:35 a.m..

Members present: Karen Dixon, Jim Banovetz, Eleanor Butler, Tom Joseph, Jim Reichert, Tom Kramer, Merry Perkins, Bob Stowers, Marilyn Gabert, Greg Holt, Barry Hopkins.

Members absent: Fred Theisen, Bob Becker.

Guest: Anne Kretschmann, Discovery Center AIS Coordinator

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Tom J, second by Jim B. to accept the minutes of the August 22, 2011 meeting. Motion passed.

Approval of Financial Report

Motion made by Jim B., second by Jim R. to accept the financial report. Motion passed. To date we have 178 membership renewals plus \$1,715 in donations; Fish cribs, \$759; AIS \$391; Misc \$565.

Correspondence

9-8-11 received thank you for \$150.00 donation – Koller Library

9-15-11 received thank you for \$150.00 donation to American Cancer Society Relay for Life (for use of Blue Bayou dock for Colorama)

11-3-11 received request from Skiing Skeeters for donation to their fund-raiser project

11-21-11 received thank you for \$1000 Voyageur Membership in the Discovery Center

12-22-11 and 3-21-12 received requests from Camp Jorn for donation to Strong Kids Campaign

2-27-12 received letter re: Rest Lake Dam update from the MCDF

Old Business

- Board of Directors information sheet and committee assignment was handed out for an update. All officers, Karen, Tom J., Eleanor and Marilyn will again renew their positions, along with directors; Greg, Barry, Tom K. and Merry. Jim B. will let Karen know his decision in a few days.

New Business

- Gina Benson is the new secretary at Enzymes and should be able to help MWLA.

- Wisconsin Lakes Partnership Conference – Karen attended and reported that it was fabulous. She will compile her notes and give us a report at our next meeting.

- Federal tax exempt status 501(c)(3). Right now we have 501(c)(4) status. Motion made by Jim B., second by Merry to pursue 501(c)(3) status for the MWLA. Motion passed. Tom J. will look into this. Dan Johns, a local attorney, has offered to help us pro bono.

- Skiing Skeeters – Their request for money does not fit within our mission statement. Jim B. will draft a letter and Karen will talk to Dave Gouwens to discuss this.

- Camp Jorn – We need more information on a specific use for a potential donation. Karen will talk to Dennis Lipp. Jim B. suggested we draft rules that we only address donations once a year at a set board meeting.

- Chamber now charges for non-profit booths for July 4th and Colorama. They waived the fee for our July 4th booth since we spend over \$600 to run the trout pond for the town. Eleanor will talk to them about waiving the fee for our booth at Colorama since we offer free pontoon rides that day.

- North Central County Lakes Association Workshop will be held at Nicolet College on June 15.

Committee Reports:

Water Ecology and Safety

-Anne Kretschmann, AIS coordinator at Discovery Center gave a report on Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). In the August 2011 WDNR grant cycle we were awarded the MWLA-sponsored Lake Management Planning Grant – “Rest Lake Management Planning Project” (\$38,483). It received the highest score of all grant applications in its category in this cycle.

-In the February 2011 WDNR grant cycle, we were awarded the North Lakeland Discovery Center-sponsored Aquatic Invasive Species Education, Planning and Prevention (EPP) Grant – “Manitowish Chain of Lakes Management

Planning Project: Phase 1b" (\$66,645). This project, which has multiple phases in future years to cover the entire chain, received the highest score of all of the grant applications in its category for this cycle.

Part of the cost of these grants will need to be made up from volunteer hours. Anne has already started working with "Lake Captains" and giving them information for their "Deckhands". It is very important to get volunteers to track their time spent monitoring the water and talking about AIS to use towards grant hours.

-Spider Lake and the Spider Lake Channel's Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP) were already treated by Onterra. They will check the results soon.

- There are two dates for "Tuesday Trainings" for Deckhands, June 19 and July 17 at Discovery Center.

- Possibly we can talk to area Guides and have a training session with them. Anne thought up, "Guides on Guard".

- State programs are promoting "ice your catch" for fishermen – using ice instead of water in the live well to help prevent the spread of AIS. Jim R. will talk to Chuck Rayala and Jimmy Bertagnoli about putting up signage on ice chests.

- June 9 is the Bob McClellan fishing tournament. We will try to have AIS information available.

Fish Cribs – Tom K. and volunteers will start putting in the fish cribs next week. Eleven will be placed in Little Star, twelve on Manitowish Lake, and eleven on Alder Lake all in about 10'-15' of water. We will have maps available at the Annual Meeting that indicate crib locations.

Public Communications

- Spring newsletter and membership renewals were mailed out on 5-7-12. Eighteen people indicated on their renewal form that they are willing to help with AIS monitoring. Karen will get their information to Anne at the DC.

Reminder given to board members to make sure they pay their dues.

Next newsletter should go out by July 13, before the Annual meeting.

- A MWLA Annual Meeting Flyer/AIS was included in the May Chamber mailing.

- The Village Market is erecting a booth in the parking lot for non-profits to use for fundraising. If we ever want, we can sell Coke and brats to raise money for MWLA.

Community Outreach

- Roadside pick-up – Fred completed the first roadside pick-up along Hwy K.

- Preliminary planning sheets were handed out for our July 28 Annual Meeting. Our next newsletter will highlight our speaker, Tim Hoyman from Onterra. Tom J. will talk to Tim about our time frame for Annual Meeting and how long his presentation will be.. Board members will work on raffle and door prize donations by either donating something themselves or if they have a connection to someone who is willing to donate. It is our 20th anniversary so we would like extra special raffles this year. Board members should email each other as to whom they plan to solicit so we don't approach anybody twice.

- Preliminary planning sheets were also touched on for our July 4th booth. Fred has already started the process for our license for the trout pond.

Government

- MWLA members attended Plan Commission and Town Board meetings all winter and have reported back to the Board.

- Rest Lake Dam – The DNR is supposed to announce changes in the operating order of the dam this summer.

- MW Alliance – meeting is tomorrow (5-25-12). We will get a report at our next meeting.

Administrative

- Karen, Tom J. Eleanor and Marilyn will meet to put together this year's budget.

- At a future meeting, Karen will lead us through a discussion about our goals.

Next meeting – Monday, June 18 at 9:30 a.m. at Koller Library.

Motion made by Merry, second by Jim B. to adjourn. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Marilyn Gabert, Secretary