

Minutes of Manitowish Waters Lakes Association Board Meeting

Monday, August 27, 2012

Koller Library

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

Members present: Karen Dixon, Tom Kramer, Merry Perkins, Bob Stowers, Marilyn Gabert, Greg Holt, Fred Theisen, Bob Becker, Jim Banovetz, Jim Reichert, Eleanor Butler, Tom Joseph

Members absent: Barry Hopkins

Guest: Anne Kretschmann, AIS Coordinator at the Discovery Center

Approval of Agenda

Motion made by Merry second by Bob B. to approve the agenda. Motion passed.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Greg, second by Bob B. to accept the minutes of the July 23, 2012 meeting as amended with one correction. Motion passed.

Annual Meeting minutes

We looked over the minutes from the Annual Meeting. They will be approved at next year's Annual Meeting.

Approval of Financial Report

Motion made by Bob B., second by Jim B. to accept the financial report with the correction of moving one payment to the Water & Ecology account. Motion passed.

Correspondence

7-25-12 sent letter of support to Kevin Gauthier for DNR AIS grant

7-25-12 sent email thank you to Annual Meeting donators and volunteers

7-25-12 received invitation to Camp Jorn's Annual Pancake Breakfast

7-25-12 sent news release re: Annual Meeting to Lakeland Times and FYI Northwoods

7-27-12 received thank you and certificate of appreciation from Camp Jorn for donation of \$500

7-27-12 received letter from the MW Alliance asking for a written request for donation to a worthy project

7-27-12 sent letter of request to MW Alliance for donation of \$200 to AIS and \$200 to Fish Crib Project

7-30-12 sent letter and check for \$250 donation to the MW Fire Co. for help with the Trout Pond

7-30-12 sent letter and check for \$150 donation to the Koller Library for use of meeting room

7-30-12 sent letter & \$150 check to Rita Mazur for donation to Relay for Life for use of Blue Bayou Dock for Colorama

8-21-12 sent thank you card to Kathryn Dumas for raffle donations

Old Business

Colorama – Eleanor talked to the Chamber and got the new booth fee removed for us for Colorama since we offer free pontoon rides to area visitors that day.

Boating Safety – Since they could not find anybody to run the Boater Safety class, Mary Propernick gave the life jackets. to the Discovery Center that had been donated to the class by the MWLA.

MWLA Goals for 2012-13 – tabled at this meeting. The executive committee will meet to discuss our goals for next year and bring the results back to the board.

New Business

World Musky Classic Sept. 7-9 Discovery Center will set up their AIS booth at the Musky Classic – Anne and Karen will man the booth.

First Annual Northwood's Bad-Dash – volunteers are needed to help run this event.

Board meeting dates for 2013 – Karen printed out a schedule of dates for next year's board meetings. Hopefully this will help the board members plan ahead.

DNR Cathy Stepp Listening Session (Thursday, Sept. 23, 2012) Jim R., Eleanor, Greg and Karen attended this session. They were quite impressed with Cathy and said she is trying to change the culture of DNR. She touched on many different subjects during her session. The Rest Lake Dam report/order should be released on September 6. There will be a 45 day "listening" period for people to respond. The biggest impact we can have will be citizen communication.

Leaves in lake – Karen received a phone call reporting that a lake resident has been dumping their leaves into the lake. Anne will contact Quita Sheehan, Vilas County DNR Water Conservationist, to see if there are any regulations about this and then get back to Karen.

Committee Reports:

Water Ecology and Safety

- TAISP - Anne Kretschmann, AIS Coordinator at the Discovery Center, provided an update on Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). The next grant was submitted on August 1 for Clear & Fawn lakes. Also, a request for an early AIS survey was sent in for Stone Lake, Rest Lake and the Rest/Stone Channel. Letters of support were sent in from Vilas County, Manitowish Waters, Boulder Junction and MWLA.

Onterra met with the DNR and GLIFWC to tour Rice Creek. Onterra wanted to show the DNR the types of tracking they are capable of and to check out the wild rice situation. The next step is to meet with the Intertribal Task Force to discuss the wild rice. Another grant application will be submitted in February to stay on track with the grant cycle. Anne reported that they had a spectacular summer for work on AIS. The amount of volunteer hours required by the grant was exceeded and the perimeters of all the lakes on the chain were checked to get a baseline. They didn't find any huge new purple loosestrife patches, just a few small areas. They did find a few new areas of curly leaf pondweed.

Fish Cribs – Tom K. reported that the fish cribs for Alder Lake were put in last Saturday. They will put the cribs in Manitowish Lake when they get all their helpers gathered. They may have to wait until next spring to put the cribs in Little Star Lake. Tom K. will get the GPS coordinates to Karen for posting on the MWLA web site.

Blue Heron Award for shoreline restoration – Wisconsin Association of Lakes & Rivers (formally known as WAL) gives out several Blue Heron Awards every year for shoreline restoration or for somebody who has left their shoreline natural. Steve Bartling on Alder Lake was suggested as a nominee as was Rita Mazur at Blue Bayou. Any other potential candidate's names should be given to Anne at Discovery Center.

Public Communications

- Fall newsletter – The fall newsletter should go out sometime by the end of September. A list of possible topics was discussed.

Membership renewal form – We reviewed a draft membership form. There was discussion on different ways to make sure people notice it, e.g. stamp the outside of the envelope, send a separate mailing. Eleanor will ask her computer programmer if he can export our database information to an Excel spreadsheet so we can expedite the membership form and mailing labels. Jim B. suggested we think about the option of accepting credit cards.

Community Outreach

- Annual Meeting – The Lion's pavilion has been reserved for next year's Annual Meeting on July 27, 2013. However, Karen suggested we look into the possibility of holding our Annual Meeting at Discovery Center. The board liked the idea and she will talk to Lynn at DC to find out availability and cost.

Colorama – We reviewed the Colorama handout to plan for the booth and pontoon tours. The Chamber has our booth spots for us. Discovery Center will have an AIS booth set up. Bob S and Jim R will captain their pontoons for free rides out of Blue Bayou. Bob B. will contact potential pontoon drivers. Many board members are unavailable that day so we need to find more helpers for the booth and for greeters at Blue Bayou. Karen was asked to send out an email alert asking for Colorama volunteers.

Government

- Town Board meetings – Nobody was able to attend the last Town Board meeting or Plan Commission meeting. Greg volunteered to send out email notices of the meetings to members of the Government Relations Committee when he is unable to attend.

MCDF – Rest Lake Dam – as stated earlier, the DNR report on the dam should be released on Sept. 6

MW Alliance – They held their Administrative Meeting on August 18. Decisions were made about donations to worthy causes/organizations. New board members are Joyce Vogel, Barb Kramer and Steve Blakeslee. New president, Jo Ann Klug, presented a number of suggestions for fund-raising activities.

Administrative

501(c)(3) - Tom will meet with Dan Johns after Labor Day in regard to MWLA obtaining their 501(c)(3) status.

Next meeting – Monday, Sept. 10 at 9:30 a.m. in the Koller Library meeting room.

Motion made by Greg, second by Fred to adjourn. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Marilyn Gabert, Secretary