

## Minutes of Manitowish Waters Lake Association Board Meeting

Monday, September 14, 2015

Discovery Center

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

Members present: Karen Dixon, Tom Joseph, Eleanor Butler, Jody Miller, Bob Becker, Jim Cagney, Tom Kramer, Jim Reichert, Bob Stowers, Greg Holt.

Members absent: Barry Hopkins, Paul Puccinelli.

Guest: Anne Kretschmann.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Motion made by Bob Becker, seconded by Jody Miller. Motion passed.

### **Approval of Minute**

Motion made by Jim Cagney to approve August 2015 minutes, seconded by Tom Kramer. Motion passed.

### **Approval of Financial Report**

Motion made by Jim Reichert, seconded by Bob Becker. Motion passed.

### **Water Ecology and Safety/AIS**

TAISP - Karen reported that she and Ann K. provided education at a booth at the recent Musky Classic. Volunteers and the River Alliance of Wisconsin provided a presence on August 29<sup>th</sup> at four local bridges for the Statewide AIS Bridge Day; the bridges included the bridges at Rice Creek, Gresham Creek, highway 51, and at H and K.

The Stake Holders Survey is now in Madison for review. A post card mailing will then go out per third party informing recipients to fill out the survey on-line. A paper copy can be requested for those who do not wish to fill-out the on-line form. A follow-up postcard will also be mailed as a reminder to complete the form.

TAISP will be providing a request to the Town for continuing funding for AIS for the Town's consideration as they work on the next year's budget.

Ann K. reported that almost 1000 hours have been logged for AIS monitoring; this includes hours related to the Purple Loosestrife project. Ann reported she is busy with issues relative to paperwork for grant reimbursements. Further AIS information will be provided at the separate afternoon meeting later this day for the Manitowish Chain of Lakes Management Project for phase II and III Lakes.

Fish Crib and Stocking Project - Tom K. reported that grants will be applied for to assist with costs for the placing of fish sticks. An e-mail will go out to inform folks interested in this program, and Tess May at the Discovery Center will be the contact person for this program; she will communicate with Tom K. Each lake in which fish sticks are placed will require a separate permit. The fish sticks can be tied off to the shore or weighted down. The question of landowner liability relative to the fish sticks was raised. There is no blanket immunity from liability known, but to date there have been no known liability problems with this program.

Tom K. also reported on the Walleyes for Tomorrow Program (W.F.T.). The state W.F.T. chapter has provided \$25,000 for stocking in one lake in Oneida County and four in Vilas County, none are in the Manitowish Waters area lakes. Fish are stocked at the density of 8 walleyes per acre. W.F.T. will be working on further studies with Northland College and the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point.

### **Government Relations**

Town Board, Planning Commission - the proposed agreement between the Town and Elizabeth Uihlein for maintenance of the Rest Lake Pavilion was discussed at the recent Town Board meeting. The proposed agreement includes an offer of donation for costs for maintenance of the pavilion and the surrounding grounds and signage at Rest Lake Park, with those activities to be done according to the "sole discretion" of the donor. Jim R. and others suggested a position be taken on this issue. Jim C. suggested a letter be written to Ms. Uihlein regarding the concerns of the MWLA Board. Bob B. offered and will write a letter re: the concerns raised by MWLA Board members. Board members will review and add comments prior to the letter going out.

MCDF - Rest Lake Dam - There was no new information on this subject.

Shoreland Zoning - the recent changes in shoreland zoning passed as part of this year's State of Wisconsin budget were discussed. The Plum Lake Association has asked the MWLA and other lakes associations to join efforts and contribute money to an escrow account as part of an effort to change portions of the new provisions in the budget relative to shoreland zoning. Ann K. indicated that the Plum Lakes Association is leading this effort rather than the Vilas County Lakes and Rivers Association secondary to the limited budget of the Vilas County Lakes and River Association.

Tom J. made a motion to contribute \$3000 dollars to the Plum Lake Association Inc. Shoreland Zoning escrow account. Greg H. seconded the motion. Further discussion followed with concerns as to how the money would be spent and what form the effort

would take. Jim R. suggested we have a representative on the steering committee of the Plum Lakes Association Shoreland Zoning group; Tom J. suggested an amendment to the motion stipulating an MWLA member on the steering committee and Jody M. seconded that motion. The amended motion was as follows: The MWLA will contribute \$3000 to the Plum Lake Association Inc. Shoreland Zoning escrow account contingent on a representative of the MWLA having a seat on the Plum Lake Shoreland Zoning group steering committee or equivalent.

A vote on the amended motion was taken. In favor: Karen D., Tom J., Jim C., Jim R., Eleanor B., Tom K., Jody M., Greg H. Opposed: Bob B., Bob S. Motion passed.

Jim C. will rephrase a letter he has drafted re: the MWLA board position on this matter; he will emphasize the need for local control. The new draft letter will be sent via e-mail to Board members for comment and will be sent as an e-mail alert to MWLA members. Jim C. also agreed to be the MWLA representative to the Plum Lakes group and attend the upcoming meeting on September 21, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. at the Rhinelander airport.

It was noted that the fall legislative session of the Wisconsin legislature is to begin September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

### **Public Communications**

Fall newsletter - Karen is working on the newsletter. It will include information re: eligibility for membership in the MWLA; Healthy Lakes Grant regarding the fish sticks program; AIS updated information; the decision for the MWLA to join efforts of the Plum Lake Shoreland Zoning group relative to shoreland zoning changes; and that the "Sensible Shoreland Lighting" brochure will be provided to the Planning Commission.

Jody will be helping Karen D. with the newsletter which will go out September 26<sup>th</sup>.

New brochure - A copy of the new MWLA brochure was presented to the Board: 2000 copies will be available and a flyer containing the same information will go out with the May Chamber mailing.

### **Community Outreach**

Plan for Cran-a-rama and Pontoon Tours - Bob B. won a F.Y.I. free advertisement through the Chamber after Five and has donated that ad space to publicize the Cran-a-rama and MWLA pontoon rides.

Set-up will be done Saturday morning by Karen D. and Greg H; and Karen will check to see if Jim Voelke is available and Tom J. will check to see if Jim Friedley is available. Take down will be by Karen D. Greg H. and possibly Jody M., Ann K. and Jim C.

Booth will be manned the booth as follows:

9:00-11:00 Karen will be talking with MWLA members who have in the past shown an interest in volunteering.

11:00-1:00 Karen will be speaking with MWLA members who have in the past shown an interest in volunteering.

1:00-3:00 Jim and Kim C.

Eleanor has the pontoon signs; Bob B. will recruit 2 people to be greeters and check the bathrooms for the possible need for clean-up at the end of the day.

Pontoon rides: Jim Higgins will provide a pontoon and drive; Tom K. will provide a pontoon and Bob B. will drive that pontoon; Bob B. will check to see if Jean Eales pontoon is available and see if Bud Kleinschmidt can drive that pontoon; Tom K. will check and see if there will be a pontoon available from Greer's Pier; and the Discovery Center pontoon may be available if necessary.

### **Administrative**

Discussion of bylaws re: officer succession, etc/discussion of filling leadership positions on the Board for 2016 - Jim C. presented a handout as a possible proposal for President, Vice-President and Past-president positions/descriptions. An ad-hoc group will meet to look at the by-laws relative to Board positions as well as to discuss recruiting new members. The ad-hoc group will include Karen D., Jim C., Jody M. and Greg H.

Conflict of Interest forms - Completed forms from Board members present were collected by Karen D.

Handout of Committee Assignments and Board Member contact information and proposed meeting dates for 2016 - Handouts were distributed.

### **Old Business**

None

### **New Business**

Online membership - Continues to be investigated.

2016 meeting dates - See "Administrative" above.

Items from the floor - Karen presented the idea for future consideration that the MWLA Board may wish to host a Chamber after Five meeting. This would provide a public relations opportunity, could be done in conjunction with the Discovery Center, and would involve securing a caterer.

**Correspondence**

08-02-15 received thank you from Koller Library for donation of \$150

08-13-15 received thank you from Discovery Center for Voyageur membership of \$100

08-19-15 received thank you from Camp Jorn for donation of \$500

Next meeting date - Monday, October 12, 2015 @ 9:30 a.m., Koller Library

Motion made by Tom J. and seconded by Jim R. to adjourn meeting. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 11:47 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Greg Holt