

MWLA Board of Directors Meeting  
August 19, 2019  
Minutes

President Greg Holt called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.

Board members Present: Greg Holt, Dennis Wilm, Delp Schafer, Jody Miller, Mary Bowlus, Gale Wolf, Carla Biwan Hameister, Mike McKeon, Angie Dombrowicki and Karen Dixon

Board Members Absent: Paul Puccinelli, Tom Kramer, and Eleanor Butler

Dennis Wilm moved to approve the agenda; Jody Miller seconded. The agenda was approved.

Mary Bowlus moved to approve the minutes of the July 15, 2019 Board of Directors meeting. Gale Wolf seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

### **MWLA Board of Directors Standing Committees**

Greg Holt asked members to review the list of standing committees and think about committees they would like to serve on for the August 2019-July 2020 period. Committee assignments will be discussed further at the September MWLA Board meeting. Below is a list of committees and members who have agreed to serve on them as of this date (membership to be completed at the September meeting):

Public Communications- Karen Dixon and Jody Miller

Community Outreach-

Government Relations-

Water Ecology and Safety-

Administration- Members of this committee will be the officers which include Greg Holt, President; Dennis Wilm, Vice President; Eleanor Butler, Treasurer; and Angela Dombrowicki, Secretary.

### **Financial Report**

In lieu of the financial report at this meeting, Greg presented correspondence the MWLA received regarding donations:

- The Island Lake Homes Association donated \$100 to the MWLA on behalf of Grant Densing.

- The MWLA did not contribute to Camp Jorn for their pancake breakfast this year. This was on oversight. The Board decided to give the same amount as last year and the amount in the current budget which is \$300.

## **Water Ecology and Safety**

### Dead Pike Lake Update-Gale Wolf

Gale reported that the DNR approved a \$100,000 lake management plan but a snag has been encountered with implementation and in who will construct the dam. There is a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Manitowish Waters Township to pay for the dam which includes \$50,000 in private donations and \$150,000 in funding from the DNR and the federal government. Ownership and maintenance of the dam between the Township and DNR is yet to be decided.

MWLA members asked for regular updates and voiced support for the efforts of the Dead Pike Lake owners.

### Lake Management Planning and AIS Update -Emily Heald

Spiny Waterflea (SWF) was found on Plum Lake. Cathy Higley is working with the lake committee in Plum Lake to determine what steps they would like to take. Emily asked MWLA board members to volunteer as Clean Boats, Clean Waters (CBCW) inspectors, or if not yet certified, to become certified to be an inspector.

Last year Discovery Center (DC) staff sampled the entire chain for SWF. This year they are doing Manitowish, Little Star, and Clear Lakes. Each lake will be placed on a 2-3 year sampling cycle.

Emily will begin working on funding requests and summer updates for the towns in the area soon. On August 27, 2019 there is a meeting at 6:30 pm with the Boulder Junction Town Board at the Boulder Junction Community Center.

Purple Loosestrife (PL) was found on Rice Creek and on the Manitowish River to Island Lake in heavy amounts,; as well as on the Manitowish River below the dam, on Stepping Stones Lake, and on wetland on the western side of Rest Lake, the Spider-Manitowish Channel, and the island on Manitowish Lake. The DC will finish the Chain next week. PL Surveys are being combined with a thorough DNR early detection protocol. These include, for each lake, a sample of 5 sites of 10 minute snorkel surveys; 20 minutes at boat landings.

There are new Secchi disk volunteers on Island and Manitowish Lakes. The Lake Management Plan has been sent to DNR. The DNR will review it in the spring.

## **Committee Updates**

Boat Wakes-There was a town meeting held on August 13, 2019. Several MWLA members attended. Total attendance was over 100 people. The Town Board will establish an ad hoc committee to study reasonable solutions. Several MWLA Board members recommended that MWLA set-up a committee to study options for dealing with boat wakes for approval by the MWLA to send to the Town Board. Dennis Wilm, Carla Biwan Hameister, Karen Dixon, and Greg Holt will be on that committee. Gale Wolf will talk to John Hanson about official MWLA representation on the Town Board's ad hoc committee.

Increasing MWLA Membership-The Board discussed ideas for getting more lake and other property owners to join the MWLA. Several ideas were discussed including mailing a newsletter to all landowners once a year, preferably in the spring. Emily Heald also suggested door-to-door canvassing with a one-page handout describing the benefits of MWLA membership in addition to mailing the newsletter. Emily volunteered to review other ideas for effectiveness based on her outreach work experience. Mary Bowlus, Karen Dixon, and Dennis Wilm agreed to work on ideas for increasing membership and report back to the Board.

Community Outreach-Annual Meeting Review-There were many compliments on the food and presentations. Approximately 70 people attended, comparable to last year. Most MWLA Board members suggested keeping the same date and approximate time but adding pictures from members' lake homes and experiences displayed in a revolving slide show at the annual meeting.

Fall Newsletter- Karen Dixon-Karen asked Board members for ideas for articles for the newsletter. This topic will be discussed in more detail at the September meeting. Some possible topics are articles on water patrol, new MWLA Board members, and the drawdown.

Drawdown MOU-This MOU will be updated and signed for four years effective April 2020. There will be a meeting in November 2019 to discuss possible changes to the MOU. MWLA Board members who have comments/suggestions should contact John Hanson.

Government Relations-Greg Holt-In addition to the Town Board meeting on August 13<sup>th</sup> about boat wakes, a request was made by the water patrol staff for a breathalyzer, first aid kit, and sound meter at a cost of approximately \$800-\$900. The breathalyzer would only be used in situations where the boat driver appeared to be intoxicated, not for random stops. There may be an additional patrol officer next year (Phil Horten) who is volunteering part-time this season.

## **Old business-Greg Holt**

New Shirts-There will be no more information about the status of these shirts until the spring.

Downtown Sewer Drain- Bob Becker contacted the highway department about whether there is a filter in the downtown sewer and if, or how often, it is cleaned. He hasn't heard back from the highway department as of the time of the MWLA August Board meeting. Greg contacted MSA, the contractor for the downtown road and renovation program, which included the drains. MSA said that the drains have sump pits, not filters. Heavy sediment collects at the bottom of the drain allowing the water to flow over the sediment into the Chain. MSA did say that the sediment should be vacuumed periodically. Greg will talk to John Hanson as to whether the sediment can be vacuumed.

### **Cran-a- Rama Planning-Greg Holt**

Cran-a-Rama is October 5, 2019. Greg went through a list of tasks he handed out at the meeting for Cran-a-Rama. The Board decided to have 2-3 pontoon boats available for Cran-a-Rama, weather permitting. We will discuss Cran-a-Rama at the next Board meeting in September. Greg will send Board members the list of tasks for Cran-a-Rama as a separate email.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 am by President Greg Holt.

The next meeting is Monday, September 16, 2019 at 9:30 am at the Bobcat Cabin at the Discovery Center.

Respectively Submitted,

Angela Dombrowicki,  
Secretary