

MWLA Board of Directors Meeting
September 16, 2019
Minutes

President Greg Holt called the meeting to order at 9:31 am.

Board members Present: Greg Holt, Delp Schafer, Paul Puccinelli, Jody Miller, Mary Bowlus, Carla Biwan Hameister, Mike McKeon, Angela Dombrowicki and Karen Dixon

Board Members Absent: Dennis Wilm, Tom Kramer, Gale Wolf, and Eleanor Butler

Paul Puccinelli moved to approve the agenda; Delp seconded. The agenda was approved.

Paul moved to approve the minutes of the August 19, 2019 Board of Directors meeting. Delp seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Administrative Issues-Greg Holt

Financial Report- The financial report will be presented next month.

Merchandise-An inventory was taken of sweatshirts, t-shirts, and hats for Cran-a-rama. Based on the past few years of sales, there appears to be sufficient inventory for Cran-a-rama.

Tent-Dennis Wilm donated a tent to the MWLA for use at Cran-a-rama and other events.

Water Ecology and Safety-Emily Heald

Emily updated the Manitowish Waters Town Board on the Discovery Center's (DC) water ecology and safety activities and the DC's budget request for the 2019-2020 period.

Two fish biologists from the Department of Natural Resources asked for someone to monitor lake quality on Alder Lake as part of their research as to why Alder Lake's walleye population has declined. Angela Dombrowicki will do the Secchi disc monitoring in 2020 for Alder Lake.

Committee Updates

Community Outreach- No report this month on efforts to increase MWLA membership.

Public Communications-Karen Dixon

Fall newsletter-Karen is working on articles for the newsletter. Articles are due on September 19th. Greg prepared an email on the drawdown that was sent to all MWLA members. Karen updated the MWLA website with current minutes and other materials.

Water Safety and Boat Wakes

Manitowish Board Water Safety committee- Greg Holt

As a result of the public meetings and discussion on boat wakes and related issues, the Manitowish Water Town Board appointed a Water Safety Committee to determine ways to improve water safety practices on the Chain and to make recommendations to the Town Board. The members of the Committee are Greg Holt, (representing the MWLA) John Butler, Frank DiLeonardi, Dan Stella, and Patrick Solar. Bob Becker will chair the first meeting until a permanent chair can be appointed. The first meeting of this Committee is tentatively scheduled for November 14, 2019.

MWLA Boat Wakes Committee-Karen Dixon

Last month, the MWLA created a committee of directors to discuss solutions to recommend to the MWLA Board for input and then be sent to the Town Board/Water Safety Committee with emphasis on education and enforcement. The MWLA committee members are Karen Dixon, Greg Holt, Dennis Wilm, and Carla Biwan Hameister. The committee made the follow tentative recommendations:

- There should be reasonable enforcement and reasonable rules and laws.
- Town needs to stop telling Water Patrol not to give out tickets.
- Education of locals and tourists- Post rules in all rental units and on rental boats (laminated)
- Send out rules with May Chamber mailer or in a separate mailing from the MWLA.
- Survey of current buoys and signs—GPS locations, condition, message, etc. Do we need more? Do they need replacing? Can they be secured in place so they can't be moved?
- Use reflective writing on buoys.
- Reward for information about those who are moving buoys
- Use current State and Town rules and regs-pick top 10.
- Perform CPR-R-Courteous, Polite, Respectful-Reasonable.
- Investigate a rule regarding pulling tubes down the channel and at Greer's Pier.
- Have a speed limit of 5 mph and supply Water Patrol with radar guns.
- There is a need for two patrol boats, with two patrol boats out on weekends.
- MWLA could offer help to fund buoys or radar gun.

Discussions of Tentative Recommendations-All

Some Board members suggested that it would be difficult to enforce no wake zones by speed limit and that different boats create wakes at different speeds. The MWLA should be concerned about erosion, although it was suggested that most private properties have shoreline protection. There was some discussion that additional no wake zones are unnecessary. It was mentioned that if the 100 -foot shoreline rules are enforced, there would be no need for additional no wake zones. A suggestion was made to educate people on all boating rules and include maps of no wake areas. A suggestion was also made to research what other communities such as Minocqua and Eagle River do regarding compliance with no wake zones. Emily suggested that the MWLA create a trifold board on water safety with handouts to use at town events.

If members have additional suggestions or comments please let Greg know and he will send them out before the October MWLA Board meeting.

Old Business

Cran-a -rama Planning-Greg Holt

A Cran-a-rama assignment sheet was sent out and distributed at the meeting. Pontoon boats are needed. Mike McKeon will talk to Water Marine for a possible rental and then Greer's Pier if Water Marine does not have pontoon boats available. If those options fail, then Greg will email the MWLA membership for pontoon boats. Jody suggested that we keep track of ridership on the pontoons. Karen will contact membership for assistance at the booths and for greeters.

MWLA Standing Committee Participation-Greg Holt

Greg distributed a handout on committee responsibilities and assignments. Angela Dombrowicki will update the handout on Committee descriptions and assignments. Below is a summary of each committee and the MWLA Board members who volunteered:

Public Communications: Jody Miller (Coordinator), Karen Dixon

Community Outreach: Karen Dixon (Coordinator) Mary Bowlus, Tom Kramer, Dennis Wilm, and Angie Dombrowicki

Government Relations: Greg Holt (Coordinator) Eleanor Butler, Karen Dixon, Paul Puccineelli, Delp Schaeffer

Water Ecology and Safety/AIS: Karen Dixon, Tom Kramer, Paul Puccinelli, Mike McKeon, and Carla Biwan Hameister

Administration-Greg Holt (Coordinator) Dennis Wilm, Eleanor Butler, Angie Dombrowicki

October Meeting/Periodic Winter Meetings/Next Season's Meetings

The Board decided to schedule a meeting in October with periodic winter meetings as need. A list of next season's meetings will be distributed at the MWLA October Board meeting.

New Business

Chamber After 5- Greg Holt

The MWLA is working with the Discovery Center to co-host Chamber After 5 on October 8th.

Jody moved that the MWLA donate proceeds from the raffle prizes at Chamber After 5 to the Discovery Center's Water Display. Mike seconded the motion. The motion was approved. The MWLA will donate merchandise to the Chamber After 5 and will bring its brochures to the event.

Mary Bowlus moved to spend up to \$500 on the Chamber After 5 function for food and beverages and related expenses. Angela Dombrowicki seconded. The motion was approved.

MWLA Membership Dues-Karen Dixon/Jody Miller

The MWLA should investigate allowing people to pay for MWLA memberships on-line with a fillable form. Karen will investigate this option with the MWLA website contact person.

Correspondence- Greg Holt

The Muskie Classic Tournament rules require fish to be transported to measuring points away from where the fish are caught. This harms the fish and is opposed by many fishermen. Greg will look into changing this rule and report back to the MWLA Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:17 am by President Greg Holt.

The next meeting is Monday, October 21, 2019 at 9:30 am at the Bobcat Cabin at the Discovery Center.

Respectively Submitted,

Angela Dombrowicki,
Secretary