

MWLA Board of Directors Meeting
October 21, 2019
Minutes

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

Board members Present: Greg Holt, Delp Schafer, Paul Puccinelli, Carla Hameister, Eleanor Butler, Gale Wolf, Dennis Wilm, Angela Dombrowicki and Karen Dixon

Board Members Absent: Mike McKeon, Mary Bowlus, Tom Kramer, and Jody Miller

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

Paul Puccinelli moved to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2019 Board of Directors meeting. Dennis Wilm seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Committee Reports

Administration

Financial Report- Eleanor Butler

Eleanor presented the financial report for the period of June 1-October 12, 2019. There were two questions/comments. Eleanor noted that the donations category is \$375 over budget due to a decision made by the MWLA Board to donate \$500 to the roof in Koller Park after the budget was approved. Dennis questioned whether the \$11,000 donated to the Discovery Center for AIS could be spent prior to the end of the MWLA budget year which ends May 31, 2020. If the money is not spent by that date, the Board could approve spending the funds in the next budget.

2020 Meeting Dates

A list of MWLA Board meeting dates was distributed. Meetings will be on the third Monday of every month from May through October 2020 as in prior years.

Water Ecology and Safety/AIS

Dead Pike Lake Update-Gale Wolf

Gale expressed his appreciation for the support given to the Dead Pike Lake owners by the Manitowish Waters Town Board. RFPs were issued for local companies to construct a dam to control the water level in Dead Pike Lake. There is \$50,000 already raised in private funds; \$175,000 is needed for dam construction. There is an effort to

obtain federal funds for the remainder. The expected start date for dam construction is the spring of 2020.

Community Outreach

Membership Outreach—Karen Dixon and Dennis Wilm

There is a MWLA Membership Committee meeting on Wednesday, October 23 at 3:30 pm at the Pea Patch. Recommendations from the Committee will be presented to the MWLA Board.

At a recent county-wide meeting that Karen attended, the Vilas County Lakes and Rivers Association (VCLRA) handed out business-size cards to realtors to give to new homeowners which offer them a free one-year membership to the VCLRA and the statewide Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers Association. Board members discussed offering a similar deal to new homeowners regarding MWLA membership. This will be one of the ideas considered by the MWLA Membership Committee.

Cran-a-rama and Chamber After 5 Recap

Given the rainy and cold weather the past few years, Board members discussed whether we should stop offering pontoon rides or make that decision year by year. It was also discussed whether Cran-a rama should be held a week or two earlier than the first Saturday in October.

Dennis moved that the MWLA ask the Chamber of Commerce Board to change the date of Cran-a-rama to the last Saturday in September or earlier and to consider possible alternative names for the event. Paul seconded. The motion was approved

Greg Holt will send a letter to the Chamber on behalf of the MWLA Board requesting that the date of Cran-a-rama be changed and that the Chamber consider changing the name of the event.

The Chamber after 5 event with the Discovery Center went very well. As a result, Board members discussed sponsoring other events with the Discovery Center.

Possible Joint Initiatives with the Discovery Center

The MWLA discussed sponsoring a speaker on water issues at the Discovery Center's Nibbles and Knowledge event tentatively scheduled in January 2020. It was suggested that Quita Sheehan speak about wetlands.

Dennis moved that the MWLA donate up to \$300 for sponsorship at the Discovery Center's Nibbles and Knowledge event this winter; Gale seconded. The motion was approved.

Greg suggested that the MWLA, in conjunction with the Discovery Center, sponsor a canoe and kayak trip on the Manitowish River followed by a barbecue or similar event at the Discovery Center. Board members seemed supportive of this idea which will need to be developed further this spring.

Dennis also suggested the MWLA sponsor monthly pontoon boat rides during the summer around the Manitowish Chain. Dennis volunteered to use his boat. The rides could possibly start and end at the Blue Bayou.

Carla suggested that the MWLA sponsor a kayak/canoe/paddle boat trip to different businesses on the Chain.

Greg and Dennis will talk to the Chamber Executive Director about these ideas.

Public Communications

WXPR-Greg Holt

Ben Meyer from WXPR in Rhinelander called Greg with questions about the drawdown and MOU and how the MOU is working for people. After some discussion among Board members, it was decided that the MWLA would be neutral on the MOU and that Greg would convey this position to WXPR on behalf of the Board. Greg will also talk to John Hanson prior to contacting WXPR.

Government Relations

Planning Commission and Town Board Meetings- Greg Holt

There was one item of interest to the MWLA functions. The Boardwalk at Koller Park will be built over the winter.

Old Business

Committee Participation List-Angela Dombrowicki

There will be two changes to the list of MWLA Committees that was distributed with the agenda- changing Greg's number and adding Gale Wolf to the membership of the Water Ecology and Safety /AIS Committee.

Boat Wakes- Greg Holt

The MWLA Boat Wakes Committee will meet immediately after the October 21st MWLA Board meeting to discuss the recommendations distributed to Board members and discussed at the September 16th MWLA Board meeting. The committee will also send a representative to the November Manitowish Town Board's Water Safety Committee meeting. The MWLA Board's Wakes Committee will give the Town Board's Water Safety

Committee as much information as possible to help inform their recommendations to the Manitowish Waters Town Board.

MOU Relative to Drought –Greg Holt

Greg distributed the current MOU on the Rest Lake Dam as well as pictures showing the impact of various flow levels on the Manitowish Rivers water level. The purpose of the presentation was to provide information to the MWLA Board about the possible impact of the MOU in times of drought on the waters below the Rest Lake Dam.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 am by President Greg Holt.

The next meeting is Monday, May 18, 2020 at 9:30 am at the Bobcat Cabin at the Discovery Center.

Respectively Submitted,

Angela Dombrowicki,
Secretary