MWLA Board of Directors Meeting

June 21, 2021

Minutes

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

Board Members Present: Jody Miller, Eleanor Butler, Karen Dixon, Gale Wolf, Delp Schafer, Mike McKeon, Tom Kramer, Dennis Wilm, Greg Holt, Angela Dombrowicki

Members Absent: Paul Puccinelli, Carla Biwan Hameister, and Mary Bowlus

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

Gale moved to approve the minutes of the May 17, 2021 MWLA Board of Directors meeting. Jody seconded. The minutes were approved. There was one typing error that will be corrected on page 4 of the minutes.

**Water Ecology and Safety**

AIS-Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP)-Emily Heald

The Discovery Center (DC) staff and interns have been monitoring CLP. There was no CLP found on Clear, Little Star, Manitowish, or Wild Rice Lakes. There was CLP found on the Manitowish River. Staff and interns have been removing CLP by hand. In addition, there have been CLP removals using Diver Assisted Suctioning or DASH. The funds approved by the MWLA Board of Directors ($5,000) will be reimbursed to the Discovery Center for DASH.

One of the DC intern’s personal project’s will be to develop a list of rentals in the Manitowish Waters area to help educate the public on AIS. All three DC interns will be available for the July 4th booth and Trout Pond.

Walleyes for Tomorrow-Tom Kramer

Walleyes for Tomorrow will hold a fund-raising banquet at the Whitetail Inn on Thursday, June 24, 2021.

The portable fish hatchery for Alder Lake will be stationed at the Blue Bayou. Fingerlings will be deposited in Alder Lake from other lakes on the Manitowish Chain.

The Rice Lake Fish Hatchery will be located on the Minocqua Chain of Lakes.

 A study of extended size walleyes from several fish hatcheries in the Minocqua area have shown that almost all walleyes from those hatcheries were females. It is unclear why this is happening.

Fertilizing on Rest lake-Karen Dixon

There have been several complaints from MWLA members about people using fertilizers on lawns. The fertilizers then end- up in the lakes.

Greg will bring-up the issue of fertilizers and pesticides ending up in the lakes at the next Manitowish Waters Town Board meeting.

Water Safety Committee-Greg Holt

There are several issues regarding buoys that Greg will bring up to the Town Board’s Water Safety Committee:

1. A missing buoy at the Spider/Stone Lake intersection
2. A buoy laying down at Stone and Fawn Lakes
3. A buoy at Wild Rice Lake and the Trout River not being replaced
4. A buoy at the start of Island Lake

**Administration**

Financial Report-Eleanor Butler

Eleanor presented the Financial Report which includes the June 1-June 19 Profit and Loss Budget vs Actual and the Balance Sheet as of June 21, 2021. Karen moved to approve this Financial Report. Tom seconded. The Financial Report was approved.

**Community Outreach/ Communication-All**

There was some discussion about membership renewals (65 out of 330 memberships have been renewed to date). There was considerable discussion about MWLA members actually receiving newsletters and emails. Several Directors indicated receiving their MWLA email and/or newsletters as spam or promotions. The Directors expressed concerns that many MWLA members may not be receiving newsletters by email. The Directors discussed several options for ensuring that MWLA newsletters and email are received, and if received, are not identified as spam or promotions.

Several options were discussed including:

* temporarily paying for a service to ensure that email and newsletters to members are sent and received accurately.
* temporarily sending out newsletters via regular mail and electronically until the issue around emails is resolved.
* meeting with the Chamber of Commerce (Amanda) to learn how the Chamber uses their email service.

During this discussion several concerns were raised in general that many Manitowish Waters temporary and permanent residents and visitors don’t know anything about the MWLA. One suggestion was made to hire a consultant to help with community outreach. Another suggestion was to distribute brochures at community functions such as the Lion Club dinners.

* The Board of Directors decided to have several Directors (Greg, Mary, Angela, Karen (as available) to look into the issues of nonreceipt of email and improved outreach/communications.

**Government Relations- Greg Holt and Mike McKeon**

Town Board Meeting

There were no new items to report related to the MWLA. The Water Safety Committee will print updated safety cards.

**Old Business-Greg Holt**

Board of Directors Terms

As noted at the May meeting, Dennis Wilm will be leaving the Board of Directors as of July 31, 2021. There were eight people identified as potential Board members. Jody Miller will contact those persons to assess their interest and skills. Officer positions of Vice President and Secretary will be available. Greg asked the current officers and directors to decide on their role after July 2021 by the July MWLA Board of Directors meeting.

Discovery Center Donation

This issue was discussed at the last meeting. Dennis moved to donate $5,000 to the Discovery Center’s Capital Campaign. Mike seconded. The motion was approved.

Possible Rest Lake Land Donation-Mike McKeon, Jody Miller and Delp Schafer

Mike and Jody presented the MWLA Board of Directors’ Land Donation Committee’s recommendations.

Dennis moved to accept the Land Donation Committee’s recommendation. The Committee’s recommendation stated that “Contingent upon the estate trustee and advisors accepting our terms, it is this committee’s recommendation that necessary changes be made to the MWLA articles of incorporation and/or bylaws and that we accept this property and future properties, as deemed appropriate, and that we restrict these donations to remain in their natural state or follow the directions and/or restrictions of the donor.”

In addition, it was recommended that the current Land Donation Committee continue working on the remaining outstanding issues.

Gale seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Cran-a-Rama Pontoon Rides-Greg Holt

The Board of Directors discussed the challenges around offering these rides (the October date, insurance, limited interest, etc.) and decided that it would forego pontoon rides at Cran-a-Rama. Jody moved to eliminate MWLA pontoon rides at Cran-a-Rama. Angela seconded. The motion was approved.

July 4th Planning-Greg Holt

Directors signed up for shifts at the Trout Pond and the MWLA Booth.

Annual Meeting-July 31, 2021-Greg Holt

Angela will chair the Planning Committee for the annual meeting. She will ask Mary Bowlus to co-chair the Committee. Jody Miller, Delp Schafer, and Karen Dixon will assist.

Greg also suggested that for a speaker the Board of Directors could present a history of the MWLA. Emily Heald could also present on AIS efforts.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 pm. The next meeting will be July 19, 2021 at the Discovery Center, Bobcat Cabin at 9:30 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Angela Dombrowicki,

Secretary