

MWLA Board of Directors Meeting
July 20, 2020
Minutes

President Greg Holt called the meeting to order at 9:35 am. Due to COVID -19, this was a phone meeting.

Board Members Present: Greg Holt, Delp Schafer, Paul Puccinelli, Carla Hameister, Jody Miller, Eleanor Butler, Dennis Wilm, Angela Dombrowicki, Gale Wolf, Karen Dixon, and Mary Bowlus

Board Members Absent: Tom Kramer, Mike McKeon

Gale Wolf moved to approve the agenda; Dennis Wilm seconded. The agenda was approved.

Karen Dixon moved to approve the minutes of the June 15, 2020 Board of Directors meeting. Dennis Wilm seconded the motion. The minutes were approved with several spelling corrections and the addition of the Secretary's signature.

Committee Reports

Administration

Financial Report and Budget-Eleanor Butler

Board members were sent the June 19, 2020-May 31, 2020 Financial Report of Assets and Expenditures and the proposed July 2020-July 2021 Budget prior to the meeting.

My guess is Eleanor will suggest this be changed, but I think what we sent were the following: the Profit and Loss Report for June 2019 through May 2020; the Profit and Loss Report for June 1 through July 18, 2020; the Assets and Liability Balance Sheet as of May 31, 2020; the Assets and Liability Balance Sheet as of July 18,2020; and the proposed Budget for fiscal year 2020 through 2021.

Financial Report-Greg questioned why there were no expenditures for donations for fish habitat and stocking this past fiscal year. To date this fiscal year, the MWLA has received a number of donations in that category from individual members.

Currently, the MWLA annual membership form includes multiple categories for donations. There was some discussion about listing donations as one category vs. allowing donations to be made to specific categories, i.e. fish habitat and stocking or AIS. Karen mentioned that if the membership form goes on-line, we can revise the form at that time. There were concerns expressed that donations made to specific categories should be honored and that many members feel strongly enough about specific issues to donate to them. Eleanor suggested running a report of several years of fish habitat and stocking donations and expenditures for information at a future Board meeting.

With respect to membership renewals, the MWLA has received 234 membership renewals for the July 2020- July 2021 fiscal year (approximately 2/3 of anticipated renewals) and \$6,000 in donations.

July, 2020- July 2021 Budget-The July 2020-July 2021 Budget is the same as last fiscal year. The Board decided at its June meeting to send the budget to MWLA membership since there would be no in-person annual meeting this year. Karen will send the 2020-2021 Budget to the MWLA membership in a separate email.

Again, Eleanor may make a suggestion on this, but I think it should be called the 2020—2021 budget rather than July 2020 through July 2021 budget.

Dennis Wilm moved to accept the financial report for the June 2019 to the May 2020 period. Angela Dombrowicki seconded. The motion was approved

AIS Update- Emily Heald

The Board expressed thanks to Emily for the YouTube videos and newsletter article.

The Discovery Center Intern, Jerod, has been monitoring the Rest Lake boat landing on weekends and reported that it was busier than last year. He has been able to talk to many boaters regarding the Clean Boats/Clean Waters initiative.

Purple Loosestrife will begin blooming soon and the Discovery Center staff will begin pulling those plants.

Dead Pike Lake Update-Gale Wolf

The Dead Pike Lake homeowners met with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Director for the Northern Region on Thursday, July 16, 2020. An additional \$60,000-\$80,000 is needed for the Dead Pike Lake Restoration Project. Permitting from the federal and state authorities is currently in process. There will be a public hearing most likely on-line and construction is expected to begin October 1, 2020. Gale will write an article about the Project for the MWLA Newsletter.

Community Outreach

Newsletter-Karen Dixon

Comments on Current Draft. A draft of the upcoming newsletter was sent to the MWLA Board prior to the meeting for comments. There were a number of positive comments on the newsletter especially the article about volunteer Judi Zawojewski. Thanks to Dennis and Karen for meeting with her for the article and to Emily for bringing Judi's volunteer efforts to the attention of the MWLA Board.

There may also be an article on shoreland restoration by Mariquita Sheehan, Conservation Specialist with Vilas County,

Angie, the article on shoreland restoration may be in the next newsletter, with input from Mariquita Sheehan.

Based on MWLA Board members' comments, the Town of Winchester handout on healthy and safe lakes will be used instead of the checklist in the current draft. Carla mentioned that we might want to draw attention to people mowing their lawns near lakes causing grass clippings to be deposited into the lakes.

After some discussion, the Board decided to include the membership renewal form in this newsletter to all members, including those who have already sent in their renewal donation and form, encouraging those who have renewed to pass on a membership form to homeowners who are not members.

Status of On- line Membership-Karen Dixon

After some research, Karen noted that the least expensive vendor she found charged \$20/month plus 5% and a \$0.30 transaction fee with a 20% discount for non-profits. Some members thought that price was too high. Paul Puccinelli suggested talking to the local snowmobile club. After some discussion, Greg suggested that the Administrative Committee of the MWLA Board explore options for on-line membership and report back to the Board.

Government Relations-Jody Miller

Town Board Meetings-The following topics of relevance to MWLA were discussed at the most recent Town Board Meeting:

- A proposal for a boat landing at Alder Lake was voted down unanimously.
- A second boat landing at Clear Lake (mainly expanding the parking lot at the current landing) was discussed.
- Water Patrol-The patrol made approximately 240 stops in June and issued 2 warnings with no citations. There were complaints from some lake homeowners on Clear Lake that the water patrol was spending too much time on other lakes and should log their hours spent on each lake. No decision was made on that proposal. Also, one Town Board member reported receiving several complaints about discourteous water patrol staff while others heard reports that the water patrol were courteous.
- ATVs/UTVs-There were proposals discussed at the Town Board to allow ATVs and UTVs in Vilas County. The proposals were vague as to which roads in Vilas County would be allowable for ATVs and UTVs. No decisions were made at the Town Board Meeting. Dennis moved that the MWLA Board send a letter to the Manitowish Waters Town Board expressing concerns about ATVs and UTVs on lakes-related issues. Karen seconded the motion. The motion was approved.
Angie; I wasn't at the Town Board meeting but I believe the proposal discussed was regarding Town roads in Vilas County, not all roads in Vilas County.

Town Water Safety Committee-Carla Hameister

There are several areas the committee is working on at this time:

- A map of the lakes showing no- wake zones, possibly including no -wake rules and a definition of no-wake, for production next year.
- Buoy locations and a survey on buoy locations and the number of buoys.

- A GPS unit for water patrol to move buoys back where they belong.

Other topics the Committee discussed:

- Clear Lake Bridge-rocks are a safety hazard. Dennis suggested whether a sensor could be installed warning boats passing through the bridge of upcoming traffic.
- Tubing, Skiing, and Jet Ski Hours on Lakes-There are conflicts in the different state and local rules on hours. State statutes and the Town of Boulder Junction's hours are from sunrise to sunset. The Town of Manitowish Waters hours are from 9 am to 7 pm. This issue will be discussed at a future Water Safety Committee meeting.

Rest Lake Dam/ MOU Update-Greg Holt

The DNR has not yet scheduled any MOU review meetings for 2020. Greg emailed Keith Patrick, DNR Basin Supervisor, regarding this but has not received a reply. Eleanor was also unaware of any scheduled meetings.

Membership Outreach Initiative-Greg Holt

The Manitowish Waters Chamber of Commerce will allow the MWLA to enclose a mailer in the Chamber's next mailing since none was included in the Chamber's last mailing.

2020 Cran-a-Rama-Greg Holt

As requested, at the last MWLA Board meeting, Greg checked into insurance for MWLA for pontoon rides during Cran-a-Rama. He learned that the MWLA would need a special events policy to cover pontoon rides and canoe trips and that the MWLA is currently not covered for Cram-a-Rama pontoon rides.

Eleanor suggested that the MWLA Board look into a different insurance company for pontoon rides and canoe trips for 2021. She noted that the MWLA has an indemnity policy for the MWLA Board through the Wisconsin Lakes Association and that we could check with them. Greg will check with the Wisconsin Lakes Association insurance company, Horton Group, on possible policies for the MWLA pontoon rides and canoe trips for 2021. Dennis will also check with his insurance contacts.

Dennis moved, that due to COVID-19 and insurance concerns, the MWLA would not participate in Cran-a-Rama this year. This includes both pontoon rides and a booth. Gale seconded the motion. The motion was approved. Greg will send a letter to the Manitowish Waters Chamber of Commerce informing them of the MWLA Board's decision.

Town Ground Water Initiative-Greg Holt and Gale Wolf-Update

There are 56 participants signed- up to participate in this initiative. The MWLA is waiting for information on how it can help with the next phase of the project in terms of delivering test kits and providing information.

Vilas County Lakes and Rivers Association (VCLRA) "Greet Your Neighbor" Initiative-Karen Dixon

Karen needs to hear from VCLRA on who the new neighbors are in Manitowish Waters. When she obtains that information, she will get back to the MWLA Board at a future meeting.

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

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Monday, August 17, 2020 and will be by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Dombrowicki,
Secretary