

WAPOA Board Meeting
April 24, 2014
2:30 p.m.
Ideal Town Hall

Directors Present: Tom Watson, Dave Fischer, Gary Olson, Ken Neihart, Fred Strohmeier, Joe Brodil, Mike Winkels, Dave Topinka, Jim Brandt, Ann Schrupp, Pam Vaughan, Pat Hecker

Directors Emeriti Present: John Forney, Ron Meyer, Judy Wallschlaeger, Marv Erdman, Alan Sherburne, MJ Schneider, Sandy Melberg

Others Present: Tom Hecker, Jim Schultz

Directors Excused: Jessie Eide

President Tom Watson called the business meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

MSC: Vaughan/ Strohmeier to approve the minutes of the January 23, 2014 Board Meeting

Treasurer's Report:

MSC: Winkels/ Schrupp to approve check register with deposits and checks # 2255-2266

MSC: Topinka/Neihart to approve the 2014 Year-to Date Financial Report

Executive Committee Report:

The appeal on TLC's EAW was filed with the Court of Appeals last Thursday. The Principle Argument states that by State Law a parcel that exceeds 80 acres requires an EAW for future development. The CUP appeal has been filed Crow Wing County has not filed a response to date. It is expected that the appeal will not be heard until the end of the summer.

A letter will be sent to WAPOA members indicating that their donations which they requested be used for the TLC Appeal, were being placed in the Legal Advocacy Fund. Expenditures from this fund are approved by the WAPOA Board of Directors. At this time there is \$5850 in the Legal Advocacy Fund contributed by members for the TLC Appeal.

MSC: Fischer/Strohmeier that: between today and the next meeting, funds limited to \$5800 may be used for payment of bills for the Crow Wing County TLC appeal.

Sandpiper Pipeline: The date for public comments and to submit alternative pipeline routes has been extended from April 4, 2014 until May 31, 2014. WAPOA will provide a sample letter on our Website and a Vertical Response message will be sent to our members with pertinent information on the issue.

Nominating Committee: Sandy Melberg reported that the committee has lots of work to do. They are still looking for candidates. They are checking with board members that are eligible to serve a second term to see if they are interested in doing so.

Annual Meeting: is set for Saturday, June 7, 2014. Tom Watson has secured two speakers for this event. Dr. Mike McCartney, University of MN, will talk about zebra mussel research. Henry Erdman, lobbyist for the MN Lakes and Rivers Alliance will provide AIS legislation update.

PRWA: Ron Meyer reported the PRWA is presently involved in the MPCA Watershed Evaluation and Management process for the Pine River Watershed. The DNR has created a Value Model process which solicits input of people involved in the watershed to determine what is considered the most important issues facing the watershed. There will be two groups. One group will be made up of technical people who work in the watershed. The second group will be from the general public. This process will take place Saturday, April 26, 2014 at the Warehouse in Pine River from 9AM – 1PM. A follow-up meeting will be held June 21, 2014 to present the results.

Land and Waters Preservation Trust: Dave Fischer reported we met our goal with total donations and pledges in the amount of \$65,635. With the Initiative Foundations match the total Endowment is \$120,148.

Reports from Other Lake Associations and Groups: Jim Schultz reported that Kimble Lake Association is trying to improve the access monitoring program for the season. They will not be receiving any DNR money this year. Fred Strohmeier reported the City of Fifty Lakes has given the lake association \$3,500 for AIS inspections this season. The Burma Shave Signs are now up.

2014 Waters Conference: The conference will be held May 1 & 2 at Cragun's. We have 12 members registered to attend.

Program Reviews:

AIS: Joe Brodil reported the DNR boat inspection training dates will be Saturday, April 26th 9:30 AM and Wednesday, May 21st 9:30 AM. Our DNR watercraft inspection grant hours have been reduced considerably for 2014. We will again contract with LGU for inspection hours. Dave Fischer is working with the Army Corp to get an additional 20 hours a week of volunteer inspections hours. We will have decontamination stations in our area at various locations this summer. The DNR will keep us informed of their locations and dates when they are in the area.

Business Relations: Tom Watson reported for Jessie Eide that WAPOA will be invited to a New Chamber Member event sometime in June at Moonlite Bay. The Classic Wood Boat Show will be held June 21, 2014. Sandy Melberg will be in charge of the scheduling of volunteers.

Membership: Dave Topinka reported that to date we have 50 business memberships and 897 regular memberships for 2014. Membership and the money received from members has increased this year.

Communication and Information: Pam Vaughan reported that Communication Committee Members are: Ann Schrupp (Newsletter), Jessie Eide (Business Liaison), Pam Vaughan

(Publicity), Alan Sherburne (Website), Dave Fischer and John Forney. They plan on integrating WAPOA's mission/focus/core message throughout all activities. The Communication Focuses for 2014 are AIS, Shoreline Restoration/Protection and Water Quality. They will need additional help and support from WAPOA members, non-members and businesses.

Newsletter: Ann Schrupp reported the final edited newsletter will be delivered to Lakes Printing tomorrow and will be out to members sometime next week. All households on the Whitefish Chain will receive copies of this issue. Main focus for the Summer Newsletter will be on Shoreline Management. We are looking for a Business Member to interview for an article in the summer issue.

Publicity: Pam Vaughan reported that 17 ads will be submitted this year (5-6 less than last year). The dollars "saved" on ads will be used to support other forms of communication (decals, flags, radio/TV spots, etc.) Ads will occasionally be submitted to the Shopper, in an attempt to get our messages to the weekenders and visitors. We may need to update and order new WAPOA brochures. Dave Fischer, John Forney and Pam will look into this.

MSC: Fischer/Schrupp: Pam Vaughan is authorized to sign the 2014 Contract with Discover Racks.

Natural Resources: Mike Winkels reported that the annual Pine River walleye egg take is anticipated for the week of April 28 and into May. Walleye stocking will proceed as called for in the management plan. The John McGuire Land Exchange for part of the property adjacent to the trap sites is ongoing.

An investigation of options to replace the Norway Lake-City of Pine River Dam is underway. The DNR proposal is to replace it with a rock arch rapids for ecological, recreational and economic benefits.

Outreach: Ken Neihart updated us on the Emily mine. Core samples have been sent to a lab in Butte, Montana. The entire process is taking longer than anticipated but, it is important to assure the extraction process is viable and is environmentally and economically feasible.

Shoreland Restoration: Jim Brandt reported the Shoreland Restoration Contest will have an open house at Moonlite Bay on Wednesday June 4 from 5-7:30 PM. The final judging will take place at Ideal Town Hall on Wednesday June 18 from 5-7:30 PM. He made contact with Ken Meyers and, as agreed last fall, the residents on Upper Hay are invited to compete.

Big Island received a Conservation Partners Legacy Grant (CPL) for \$15,000. Work is planned for May 21 and June 3.

The Firewise Program is a program where the DNR forestry division works in cooperation with local fire departments and the community to identify areas at risk for wildfires and develop strategies to reduce these risks. After several meetings Ideal Township has agreed to head an

effort to set up a meeting with Lake Associations/Property Owners Associations and others in Ideal Township and see if there is sufficient interest to move forward.

Water Quality: Fred Strohmeier reported that the Kick-off meeting will be held at the Army Corp building, Monday May 5 at 9 AM. Dates for testing in 2014 are: May 19, June 16, July 21, August 18 and September 22. We will be doing an additional calcium test in June and August for zebra infested lakes.

Run for the Walleye: The race is July 5th 2014

Land Use: Tom Watson reported the DNR is doing a study on the survival rate of Lake Trout in Big Trout Lake.

Website: Alan Sherburne is authorized to look for a new host for the WAPOA website.

Other: Crosslake Presbyterian Church will be holding an Earth Care Fair this weekend. Dave Fischer will set up a WAPOA information table for this event.

Meeting adjourned: 5:27 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted: Pat Hecker, Secretary

Executive Committee Meeting – Thursday, May 8 at 9:00 am
May Board Meeting – Thursday, May 22, at 2:30 pm Ideal Town Hall
Annual Meeting – Saturday, June 7 at 8 am: 8:45 am meeting