

WAPOA Board Meeting
April 23, 2015
2:30 p.m.
Ideal Town Hall

Directors Present: Tom Watson, Dave Fischer, Gary Olson, Ken Neihart, Fred Strohmeier, Jessie Eide, 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: Jack Riordan, Jim Schultz, Brian Olson, Christine Reichl

Directors Excused: Joe Brodil

President Tom Watson called the business meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. The guests present introduced themselves.

Approval of Minutes:

MSC: Brandt/Strohmeier to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2015 Board Meeting

Treasurer's Report:

MSC: Vaughan/Schrupp to approve check register with deposits and checks # 2380-2388

MSC: Strohmeier/Neihart to approve the 2015 Year-to Date Financial Report

MSC: Fischer/Eide to approve the contents of the 2014 IRS tax document

MSC: Topinka/Brandt to approve the contents of the MN tax document and to certify that the Board of Directors has assumed, and will continue to assume, responsibility for determining matters of policy, and have supervised, and will continue to supervise, the finances of the organization

Communication and Information:

Clamshell Lake Association: will be holding their first meeting next month.

Friends of Lower Hay: Annual meeting and picnic will be held next month

Kimble Lake Association: will be holding their first meeting in May.

Fifty Lakes Association: will be holding their first meeting in May. Sending out AIS flyers.

PRWA: Ron Meyer reported the PRWA board is working on a process to address the long term sustainability of the organization. They are in the process of redoing their website. The CW Forage Basin Seminar will be held June 23rd. LLAWF is active with easements from the Tullibee Forest initiative. A video on the watershed has been created and will be used to kick off the shoreland management presentation. Information on the seminar was distributed. MPC PR Watershed Project assessment is completed. The Watershed Restoration and Protection (WRAP) plan is being generated. The US Forest Services has identified the PR Watershed as the most important watershed in MN for protecting clean water.

Land and Waters Preservation Trust: Dave Fischer reported the Endowment Balance is \$146,700. The committee is meeting with Initiative Foundation Staff and Vela Strategy consultant April 27, 2015.

Executive Committee Report:

Annual Meeting: Plans and the agenda for the meeting were shared with the board.

Crow Wing County-Iowa Baptist Conf. EAW and CUP appeals. We lost both appeals. Our lawyer met with both parties. We agreed not to file an appeal. The county and the Baptist conference agreed to waive payment of court costs. All bills for the appeal have been paid. Tom Watson will write a letter to the leaders of the Baptist conference and the camp in hopes we can establish a good working relationship.

Initiative Foundation Grant Application: Deadline to submit application is June 10. We are still working on the application and would like to set up a meeting with the advisory board.

AIS legislation: Two legislators from southern Minnesota, whose districts include very few lakes, have introduced legislation to repeal the \$10 million state appropriation to combat AIS. WAPOA's 2015 planning has earmarked this money to pay for AIS inspection programs that were previously funded by lake associations. We have contacted several of our local legislators and they support us in opposing repeal of the 2014 AIS legislation.

Nominating Committee: Reported the committee will be meeting again tomorrow. They are still looking for candidates.

Action Items:

Amendment to the By-Laws: The following changes will be presented to the membership for approval at the Annual meeting. 1. Terms on directors can be extended. 2. Redefine board positions.

Annual membership in MN COLA: Membership to MN COLA now includes lake association. We have been asked to join. MSC: Fischer/Brandt to approve membership for June 2015-May 2016. The cost is \$150.

Program Reviews:

Shoreland Restoration: Jim Brandt said this is our seventh year for the Shoreland Restoration Contest. There will be an open house at Moonlite Bay on Wednesday June 3 from 5-7:30 PM. The final judging will take place at Ideal Town Hall on Wednesday June 17 from 5-8:00 PM. Winners will be notified shortly after June 19. Jim reviewed the program guidelines with us and asked for suggestions to improve the contest.

Membership: Dave Topinka reported that to date we have 57 business memberships and 932 regular memberships for 2015. The first business membership mailing went out February 2. The second regular membership mailing went out February 6. The spring newsletter went out by VerticalResponse to 394 households.

AIS: Alan Sherburne reported inspections will start on May 10 and will continue until September 7. We are planning on Big Trout, Lower Hay, Cross SW and Cross Campground to have inspectors 7 days a week for 10hrs/day. The schedule for Clamshell and Upper Whitefish will be Friday, Saturday and Sunday for 10hrs/day. Volunteer inspection training will be held Saturday May 2 in Baxter and Wednesday May 20 in Ideal. Pam Vaughan applied for and received a \$1,950 grant for AIS prevention. WAPOA committed for 6 timer/counters for major accesses at a cost of \$222.50 each.

Newsletter: Ann Schrupp reported the newsletter has been edited and will be in the mail the end of next week. The Crosslake Community School has been doing water testing and will be the feature story for this issue. Mike Holst, a local columnist and novelist will be writing articles for us in future issues of the newsletter. Articles for the next newsletter are due by the middle of June.

Publicity: Pam Vaughan reported that 17 ads will be submitted this year. Three Ads have been submitted focusing on Natural Resources and AIS. The WAPOA brochures have been revised, thanks to the Communications committee. They will be at the May board meeting. Alli Faricy, Director Camp Foley has agreed to help get us on Social Media.

Business: The Classic Wood Boat Show will be held June 20, 2015. The Cabin Calendar has been ordered and should arrive shortly. The Crosslake Chamber has a new logo. The Crosslake Community School will be holding their annual fundraiser soon.

Outreach: Ken Neihart is updating over 30 different lake associations on the happenings in and around the area.

Natural Resources: Mike Winkels reported the tentative property exchange between the DNR and McGuire at the walleye trapping sight on Pine River has moved into the evaluation process. Of all the invasive problems currently affecting MN lakes the Spiny Flea is of the most concerning to the DNR. The DNR has heard the issues with the Northern Pike and changes to limits and slot sizes will be enacted for 2017. The PCA completed a study on the creeks directly impacting Whitefish. Arvig and Willow creeks were impaired, which means the two creeks had no living organisms in them as they entered the Pine River water shed. Bungo creek got a pass which means it is not on the PCA watch list. Mike handed out a graph of the Young-of-the-Year Catch per hour electrofishing covering 2001-2014. He also distributed a map of the Whitefish chain of lakes 2014 walleye fingerling stocking locations and amounts.

Run for the Walleye: The event will be held on July 4 this year and will start a half hour earlier. There will be a 10K in addition to the 5K race. Jenny is getting the 10K course certified. New shirts have been ordered for the event.

Water Quality: Fred Strohmeier reported that the Kick-off meeting will be held at the Army Corp building, Monday May 4 at 9 AM.

Land Use: Tom Watson reported we are no longer getting notices from the county on land use issues.

Other: A group of area lake association is meeting tomorrow to discuss common issues and county allocations.

Meeting adjourned: 5:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted: Pat Hecker, Secretary

Executive Committee Meeting – Thursday, May 7 at 9:00 am
May Board Meeting – Thursday, May 28, at 2:30 pm Ideal Town Hall
Annual Meeting – Saturday, June 6 at 7:30 am: 8:45 am meeting