

WAPOA Board Meeting
October 22, 2015
2:30 p.m.
Ideal Town Hall

Directors Present: Tom Watson, Gary Olson, Jeff Laurel, Brian Olson, Ken Neihart, Fred Strohmeier, Dave Topinka, Jessie Eide, Joe Brodil, Pam Vaughan

Directors Emeriti Present: Alan Sherburne, Ron Meyer, Jim Brandt, Pat Hecker

Others Present: Jim Schultz,

Directors Excused: Pat Loban

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

MSC: Topinka/Strohmeier to accept additions to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes:

MSC: Eide/Vaughan to approve the minutes of the September 17, 2015 Board Meeting

MSC: Topinka/Laurel to approve the minutes of the September 17, 2015 (New/Incoming) Board Meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Gary Olson reviewed the monthly reports provided to the Board.

MSC: Brodil/Neihart to approve check register with deposits and checks #2466-2488

MSC: Brodil/Eide to approve the 2015 Year-to Date Financial Report

Gary Olson reported that he registered WAPOA as a non-profit with Amazon Smile making us eligible for a 0.5% donation on purchases from buyers who list WAPOA as their charity of choice when ordering from Amazon. Members will be notified.

Communication and Information:

Friends of Lower Hay (FOLH): Alan Sherburne and Dave Topinka reported there will be no fireworks on Lower Hay in 2016.

Kimble Lake Association: Jim Schultz reported they provided 942 inspection hours. Three members attended the October 2 Round Table in Baxter.

Fifty Lakes Association: Fred Strohmeier reported they provided 652 inspection hours. They gave a donation to Ruth Lake for the fight against Zebra Mussels.

Pine River Watershed Alliance (PRWA): PRWA is meeting to begin the process of prioritizing the areas of the watershed to address as part of WRAP (Watershed Restoration and Planning). Seven projects have already been identified as priority.

Land and Waters Preservation Trust: Tom reported for John Forney, who was unable to attend, that a fundraising mailing was sent out September 28, to 9000 riparian property owners in

Cass and Crow Wing that are in the PRWA. The Initiative Foundation has begun to receive contributions.

Sandpiper Pipeline: Tom Watson reported that Enbridge has filed an appeal with the MN Supreme Court over the ruling by the Minnesota Court of Appeals reversing the Public Utilities Commission's June decision approving Enbridge's Sandpiper pipeline certificate of need.

Initiative Foundation Grant Application: Tom Watson reviewed a grant application Pelican Lake Association submitted for AIS Initiative funding and wants to reconsider submitting our grant application if done in partnership with the Pelican Lake Association. This would resolve the manpower issue we face. He will arrange to discuss with Art Weaver, President, PLA.

Review WAPOA's database system: It was decided to appoint a "database task committee" to determine how to manage the database during the next six months. The task force will also review our current database system and look into other software systems available to best manage our membership information. The task force will then make a recommendation to upgrade File Maker Pro or obtain a new software system.

County 2016 AIS Plan: 2016 DNR (50/50) grants will be reduced. The proposed County AIS Plan has been submitted for comment with comments due by the end of November.

2015 Seminars Series: The board is in favor of continuing the seminar series in 2016. Suggestions for topics to present and ways to approve attendance were discussed.

Newsletter Options: We need to think of other options for our newsletter since we do not have anyone on board to organize and produce the WAPOA Newsletter. At this time we are not sure if we will be able to publish a January newsletter.

Planning Retreat Meeting and Agenda: Tom Watson presented a draft agenda for the meeting. Group 1 will cover Natural Resources and Group 2 will cover WAPOA communications. Topics were discussed for what Group 3 will cover. The planning meeting is at Camp Knutson, Thursday, November 12. Coffee will be served at 8:30AM and the meeting will start at 9:00AM

Program Reviews:

AIS: AIS Round Table was held on October 2. LGU inspections are done for the season with over 4000 hours and 8,318 inspections. This does not include any DNR or volunteer hours. Joe met with Mitch Brinks and Mike Smith to plan for a better 2016. The counter information gathered this year will help with planning hours and coverage at the launches next year. It was agreed by all that we need to better publicize the decontamination stations and ideas were discussed.

Water Quality: Fred Strohmeier reported the test data has been compiled and a draft copy of the map has been made.

Membership: Dave Topinka reported there have been no changes in the last three months. He is working on the 2016 Business Membership mailing.

Outreach: Ken Neihart reported the treatment plan for Zebra Mussels has started on Ruth Lake.

Shoreland Restoration: Jim Brandt reported all projects are complete and everyone has been paid. Everyone is extremely happy with the results and the work crews made a major difference this year.

Business Relations: Jess and Tom are planning to meet with our local chamber.

Natural Resources: Jeff Laurel has met with Mike Winkels regarding transitioning into his new position and preparing for the Planning Meeting. He is still trying to meet with Marc Bacigalupi.

Publicity: Pam Vaughan reported on the AIS communications grant and receipt.

Newsletter: no report.

Land Use: Tom Watson reported that Crow Wing County and Crosslake are holding discussions regarding the ATV ordinance.

Meeting adjourned: 5:05 PM

Respectfully Submitted: Pat Hecker, Secretary

Executive Committee Meeting – Thursday, November 5 at 9:00 AM
Planning Meeting Camp Knutson – Thursday, November 12, 8:30 AM