

WAPOA Board Meeting

April 21, 2016

2:30 p.m.

Ideal Town Hall

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

Directors Emeriti Present: Alan Sherburne, Jim Brandt, MJ Schneider, Marv Erdman, Pat Hecker, John Forney, Dave Fischer, Ron Meyer

Others Present: Jim Schultz, Gordon Reller, Todd Holman, Jim Chamberlin, Dan Steward, Melissa Barrick

Directors Excused: Jesse Eide, Pat Loban

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

Approval of Minutes:

MSC: Laurel/Strohmeier to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2016 Board Meeting

Treasurer's Reports: Gary Olson reviewed the monthly/annual reports provided to the Board.

MSC: Vaughan/Neihart to approve check register with deposits and checks # 2506-2517

MSC: Topinka/Laurel to approve 2016 Year-to Date reports

MSC: Strohmeier/Brian Olson, Resolution to approve and submit the 2015 Federal 990-EZ Information Return and the Minnesota Annual Report.

COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION

Lake Associations

CBLA, Marv Erdman – 1st meeting in May, Annual meeting in July.

Kimble: Jim Schultz – Working on the “Access Program” and a handout for “Vacation Rentals”.

50 Lakes: Fred Strohmeier – Received an extra 200 hours for a 2016 total of 800 inspection hours.

Pine River Watershed Alliance

Ron Meyer reported the Harvest Dinner is set for August 27. They are working on a brochure and the Watershed WRAP plan. Pelican Lake Association (PLA) asked if PRWA would be a co-sponsor on a grant for an early detection program for AIS.

Lakes and Waters Preservation Trust

Dave Fisher reported that they will be awarding a grant to a worthy project this spring. Projects that protect and preserve the waters of the Pine River Watershed are eligible for a \$3,000 grant.

PRESENTATION

Dan Stewart, Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Comprehensive Protection Strategy. Melissa Barrick (CWSWCD) explained what a Conservation Easement is, the benefits of establishing an easement, the

importance of receiving state money up in the Northland and the process to apply/receive approval for the easement.

She also gave a presentation on the County Highway 66 Stormwater Project. Melissa reported \$325,000 has been approved from the Clean Water Fund for the project. Construction will hopefully begin next year. Plan includes a ditch, curb and gutter system: along with Defender system installed along the east side of Hwy 66 to serve the 3 locations. Todd Holman, (The Nature Conservancy) handed out a brochure titled “Healthy Waters Protection through a Conservation Easement”. Todd also spoke about the funding being created for these matters at the Nature Conservancy.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT: Tom Watson Reporting

2016 State of Water Conference sponsored by Freshwater Society was April 14-15 at Arrowwood Resort in Alexandria, MN. A number of WAPOA members attended.

Initiative Foundation: Hickman from the foundation made a passionate appeal to reconsider applying and extended the deadline. Tom has a draft ready and will meet with him on May 21st. Tom still wants to get Art Weaver from Pelican involved. We can also partner with the Army Corp.

Sandpiper Pipeline: The DOC has scheduled public meetings across the state as part of the scoping process for the Environmental Impact Statement for the Sandpiper and Line 03 Pipeline. WAPOA would like a meeting scheduled closer to the Whitefish Chain. There are meetings scheduled in Little Falls, Park Rapids and Carlton. The public input from these meetings will assist the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for each project.

WAPOA Annual Meeting: Dr. Patrick Welle, retired professor of economics and environmental studies at Bemidji State University will be the guest speaker this year. Dr. Welle has completed a great deal of research on property values and water quality.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Tom Watson is the chair of the six member nominating committee. Joe Brodil’s and Fred Strohmeier’s terms are up this year. We are also in need of Correspondence, Vice President, Outreach, and Special Events positions.

PLM Contract

MSC: Topinka/Neihart to authorize Marv Erdman to sign the 2016 PLM contract.

2015 Annual Planning Meeting

Ken Neihart provided everyone with a summary of the 2015 Annual Planning Meeting.

PROGRAM REVIEWS:

AIS: Joe Brodil reported that last year WAPOA was allotted 1640 inspection hours from the DNR. This year’s we are allotted only 532 hours from the DNR. This includes travel time. The total inspection hours needed for 2016 is 5680 hours. We are short 1692 hours: At \$15/hour this will cost WAPOA \$25,380 for 2016.

Shoreline Restoration: Brian Olson reported on significant dates regarding the 8th Annual WAPOA Shoreline Restoration Contest with June 1: Informational Open House @ Moonlite Bay, 5-7 PM. Pre-registered contestants will present their proposals before the judges.

Brian provided the final outline for the Shoreline Restoration Contest. After much discussion it was decided to use the following wording regarding the money available: Contestants will compete for potentially up to the budgeted \$10,000.

MSC: Topinka/Laurel to authorize Brian Olson to sign grant application for \$13,000.

Membership: Dave Topinka reported we have 46 business memberships and 925 regular memberships for 2016 memberships to date.

Business Relations: no report.

Water Quality: Fred Strohmeier reported that he is ready for testing to begin with the Kick-off meeting and Bottle Distribution on May 9th

Natural Resources: Jeff Laurel reported the tree planting campaign to protect the watershed was a huge success. The demand exceeded the inventory! Jeff attended the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting to discuss the need to limit accesses for boat launching. The Walleye stripping for the year will be completed tomorrow. Their quota for this year is 650 quarts of fertilized eggs.

Outreach: Ken Neihart-no report

Communication-Newsletter: Alan Sherburne and Tom Watson with the help of Ann Schrupp have been working on the newsletter. Hopefully it will be ready for distribution next week.

Communication-Publicity: Pam Vaughan reported articles regarding the Shoreland Restoration Contest and the Annual Meeting will be published in May. The contract with Discover Racks to display our ads in 15 locations has been renewed. Bags of brochures are here today for those of you that have volunteered to deliver brochures to the 15 locations. Pam has clips and WAPOA fish rulers for giveaways at the annual meeting.

Land Use: Tom Watson reports nothing new in this area.
Meeting adjourned: 5:25PM

Respectfully Submitted: Pat Hecker, Temporary Secretary

Executive Committee Meeting – Friday, May 6, 2016 at 9:00AM
Board Meeting – Thursday, May 19, 2016 at 2:30PM Ideal Town Hall

2016 Annual Meeting – Ideal Town Hall, Saturday, June 11
7:30AM doors open; 8:00AM breakfast; 8:45AM meeting