

**WAPOA Board Meeting
July 21, 2016, 2:30P.M.
Ideal Town Hall**

Directors Present: Tom Watson, Gary Olson, Pat Loban, Pam Vaughan, Dave Topinka, Joe Brodil, Fred Strohmeier, Ken Neihart, Jeff Laurel, Brian Olson **Director Excused:** Jesse Eide

Directors Emeriti Present: Alan Sherburne, Dave Fischer, John Forney, Jim Schultz

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

Approval of Minutes:

MSC: Vaughan/Neihart to approve the minutes of the June 23, 2016 Board Meeting

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

MSC: Brodil/Strohmeier to approve check register with deposits and checks #2534-2551

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

COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION

Lake Associations

FOLH: Dave Topinka-They are looking at doing 3 rain gardens and some grading of the slope at the access with a proposal from Soil and Water for \$25,000. They will be looking for funding and possibly extending the project over a 3-4 year period of time.

Kimble Lake: Jim Schultz-They had their typical July 4th festivities and received their first ERC bill today.

Fifty Lakes: Fred Strohmeier-Annual Mtg. Aug. 20th. Approval received from Dick Fries for AIS mass mailing to property owners in Fifty Lakes.

Pine River Watershed Alliance: Written report provided by Ron Meyer. Memberships and donations for this year are at \$15,910. The Harvest Dinner is August 27th. Donations are needed for the Silent Auction. Tom Watson reported that PRWA received an award through the Lake Friendly Awards.

Land and Waters Preservation Trust: John Forney reported fund balance is \$225,500. \$4,200 available for grants. Analysis of donations for 2014-15 show 10% of donors gave 84% of the money contributed. They are considering moving grant application deadline from mid-summer to beginning of 4th quarter. They are looking at means of paying for fund raising rather than having parent organizations funding. Meeting with Initiative Foundation in September to discuss issues on donations and grant processing.

MN COLA: Tom Watson reporting. Two focus areas are mining in Ely and the pipeline. The next meeting is in Aug.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Tom Watson Reporting

Summer Seminar Series:

July: Jeff Insko, a Michigan resident who had an easement on his property and was directly impacted by an Enbridge oil spill, will speak on July 26th, 2:00 at the Cross Lake Community Ctr. Richard Smith will represent Friends of Headwater. Notices have been sent out. Refreshments will be served after the presentation. The media has been notified.

August: Sarah Fogderud AW Research Labs will be speaking on drinking water testing. Other possibilities are Gail Haglund with the State Health Dept., and Heather Byrd on easements.

Sandpiper: Canada is requiring Enbridge to come up with sites where they have installed

August: Sarah Fogderud AW Research Labs will be speaking on drinking water testing. Other possibilities are Gail Haglund with the State Health Dept., and Heather Byrd on easements. **Sandpiper:** Canada is requiring Enbridge to come up with sites where they have installed substandard pipes. Enbridge is planning on 14 miles of pipe to go from Carlton to Superior which will enable them to go to WI and connect proposed Sandpiper and Line 3 replacement with more pipelines.

2016-17 Officers-election September (new) Board Meeting: Tom reviewed the amended bylaws that read that directors can serve until their successor is in place. However, there is no similar provision for the President whose term is limited to a maximum of three years. The Board can call a special meeting of the membership to propose amending the bylaws.

Nominating Committee: Tom Watson reported they are looking for 3 directors and not labeling the positions. The Special Projects Director was previously the social director but might be the grant writer. Over the next years the demand for grants will be increasing. If you have anyone interested in being a director please let the committee know.

Land and Waters Trust Grant Application: Missed deadline due to no wake project.

Initiative Foundation: Nothing new on AIS grant application.

Volunteer Reception: Board agreed to continue. Date set for Thursday, September 15th.

Northern Water Alliance will hold a meeting Aug. 8, 9-11 at the Union Congregational Church, Hackensack, for a “Water Conversation” and pipelines and northern waters will be the topics. Government officials, lake associations, watersheds and the public are invited. Mary Ackerman of the Leach Lake Area Watershed Foundation is heading the meeting. Tom will do a presentation.

PROJECT REVIEWS:

Outreach: Ken Neihart asks that if anyone has anything for him to please send it as he has to leave.

Natural Resources: Jeff Laurel reports that he still plans to meet with 3 landowners within the Big Trout Lake watershed regarding forest stewardship management by July 31. Regarding the Highway 66 “defender” system, the county has met with the utility companies who have agreed to move the lines as needed. The next critical hurdle will be an August meeting with Manhattan Beach to discuss the funding for annual maintenance. Jeff will find out the annual cost. The WAPOA board to consider covering maintenance costs. Pine River Watershed would like to be included in the tree campaign next year. Jeff proposes that we open it up to them with a 50 tree limit. If larger plantings are appropriate, there is still an opportunity to engage them in planning with CWSWCD.

October Fisheries Update: 7160 lbs. Total @ 20lbs. = 143,200.

Marc Bacigalupi wants to know if WAPOA is interested in contracting with the landowner for DNR to have access to one of the top 5 fingerling rearing ponds in the Deerwood area. Annual cost is \$200, but if the DNR contracts for the access lease it gets tied up in state process. This request just came in and Jeff will follow-up on to get more information to determine what our appropriate contract exposures would be.

Water Quality: Fred Strohmeier reports they did 3rd testing on Monday of 39 lakes with 60 samples sent in. Decreased visibility noted in some areas due to heavy rains.

AIS: Joe Brodil reports that WAPOA could submit for \$500 Education/Awareness funds. Pam will provide ad copies and Gary Olson to submit invoice with documentation. A new COE volunteer starting Aug. 1st inspecting through September. The existing volunteer will complete approx. 90/hrs in July saving WAPOA around \$1,350 in July alone. State Aid dollars used through July 10th, WAPOA-87% of the 2000 hrs. allotted. FOLH 80% of the 400/hrs allotted. When we run out of state money ERC will start billing lake associations. To verify bills last year

through July 10th, WAPOA-87% of the 2000 hrs. allotted. FOLH 80% of the 400/hrs allotted. When we run out of state money ERC will start billing lake associations. To verify bills last year the county employee, who is no longer with county, used his personal Google Docs to track inspection hours. He would fill out a schedule from his inspectors and provide Joe with a copy which he could compare it to hours billed. His replacement does not have access to Google Docs and she has no way to provide a copy of the inspectors scheduled hours so associations have no way of verifying the bill. Alan Sherburne will look into other ways of getting reports. Joe has asked Jacob Frie for additional funding for inspections and he has said that he will look into it. Tom offered to have Northern Coalition of Lake Associations write the county a letter requesting additional funding. Joe gave an update on volunteers recruitment prompted by last month's discussion on the volunteer shortage. In Joe's review of the both the WAPOA and DNR websites, newsletters, and blasts Joe finds adequate exposure for volunteers to find information on training and signing up to volunteer at access areas. The most recent blast asking potential volunteers to contact Joe elicited zero response. Joe feels the problem recruiting volunteers is due to lack of interest not lack of information. PLM's first inspection is happening. WAPOA was by a resort member regarding how WAPOA will address swimmer's itch. Marv Erdman will check with PLM and Tom will check with Ron Duey for practical solutions.

Shoreland Restoration: Brian Olson reported projects postponed by rain and high waters. MCC crew labor scheduled for Aug. 1 and 8 delayed and may not be able to reschedule. Rules state that projects have to be completed this year but ½ of projects may need to be delayed until next year.

Membership: Dave Topinka reports business memberships are at 53, down 11 from last year and that regular memberships are at 1016, down 117 from last year. Business mailings went out July 1 and regular membership mailings went out June 29. 68 membership invitations mailed to the Old Log Landing Homeowners Assn.

Run for the Walleye: Dave Fischer reported the largest participation ever with 720 for the 5 and 10k and 120 kids; that is a 32% increase from 2015. They ran out of shirts with 50 entrants not getting shirts. It was agreed to reimburse Jenny Max \$300 in 2017.

Communication-Newsletter: Tom reports that the newsletter has gone to press.

Publicity: Pam Vaughan reports ads regarding Zebra Mussels and Starry Stonewort, and two about protecting the water by managing the forests were published in the Echo and Northland Press. An ad regarding conservation easements will be published in the same papers next week. Articles regarding the Shoreland Restoration Contest winners and the Pipeline Meeting were to be published in the Echo and Northland Press in July. An article about Camp Foley and Alli Faricy will be published in the WAPOA fall newsletter. Multiple emails were sent via VR: High Water Advisory, Pipeline Workshop, Harvest Dinner, and the MN Design Team's Crosslake Survey.

Business Relations: No report.

Land Use: Tom Reported he contacted CW County Sheriff Dahl on Thursday, July 14, following the heavy rains that week, who agreed to post a notice of a no wake advisory if WAPOA agreed to post at the accesses. Signs read, "High water, no wake advisory." Thanks to Dave Fischer, Joe Brodil, Alan Sherburne and Marv Erdman, we got the notices posted within two (2) hours of the Sheriff's confirmation on Friday, July 15.

Meeting adjourned: 4:40PM

Respectfully Submitted: Pat Loban, Secretary

