

**WAPOA Board Meeting
August 18, 2016, 2:30P.M.
Ideal Town Hall**

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

Directors Emeriti Present: Alan Sherburne, Dave Fischer, John Forney, Jim Schultz, MJ Schneider, Judy Wallschlaeger, Jim Brandt, Ron Meyer

Guests: Tony Coffey, Nick Phelps, Becca Nash

President Tom Watson called the business meeting to order at 2:32 p. m.

Tom introduced Tony Coffey, incoming Director of Outreach

Approval of Minutes:

MSC: Topinka/Strohmeier to approve the minutes of the June 23, 2016 Board Meeting

Treasurer's Report: Tom Watson reviewed the monthly/annual reports provided to the Board.

MSC: Vaughan/Neihart to approve check register with deposits and checks #2552-2562

MSC: Brodil/Strohmeier to approve 2016 Year-to-Date reports

COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION

Lake Associations

CBLA-MJ Schneider-They now have 501 C status as a Private Charity

FOLH: Alan Sherburne-Concerned that access is polluting the lake. Various members present when DNR came out to the access and stated they are not a priority on the list, however, if they can come up with 15-20% of matching fund it could move them up on the list. DNR engineers would need to come up with definitive plans which may not be as complicated and could cut the cost. They are waiting for more information from PRWA regarding grant funding.

Kimble Lake:-Jim Schultz-Found 2 infestations on Eurasian Milfoil which have been spotted and treated. They had their board meeting and have adequate AIS funding for the remainder of the year. Having a discussion regarding how Board handles AIS and what LID should be doing.

Fifty Lakes:-Fred Strohmeier-Annual Meeting this Saturday. Just did a large AIS mailing. Ken Neihart brought up issue with PLM survey requesting that if they do find invasive species to identify where. Tom recommended that this be brought to the attention of Marv Erdman.

Pine River Watershed Alliance: -Ron Meyer-Activity to identify project plans for WRAP projects continues. They include Arvig and Willow Creeks, Lower Hay access, Trout Lake Forest Management, and Bungo Creek. Once the WRAP is completed grant funding will be pursued. They are updating their membership list and will meet with organizations next year to present information about PRWA and solicit membership. PRWA has sent in a grant request to the Larsen Foundation to again support this activity for the next two years. WAPOA can use the PRWA website to post activities. The Harvest Dinner is August 27th.

Land and Waters Preservation Trust: - John Forney-They meet next week and continue to work with the Initiative Foundation on administrative issues. They are working on fund raising issues.

MN COLA: Working on a petition with copper-nickel mining matters in the Ely Area.

Swimmers Inch: Two resort owners voiced concern. Marv Erdman checked with PLM and Tom checked with Ron Duy Central MN Aquatics, a professional who treats swimmers itch and aquatic weeds. Each owner has to get their own permit. Tom and Dave might meet with the concerned owners and tell them what they know; perhaps there is a way of getting a membership

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Guest Speakers: Dr. Nick Phelps, Director and Becca Nash, Association Director, MAIS Research Center

Dr. Phelps presented a power point presentation, “Reducing Risks by advancing research-based solutions.” The center was founded in 2012. Dr. Phelps outlined the centers mission, goals and outcomes. He also emphasized that their State of MN funding runs out in 2019. He stresses that they are working where they can make the biggest impact and identified those areas...”there is a bigger risk to work on too many species than too few.” He was excited to acknowledge that they now have a ZM specialist who is looking for the ZM molecular weakness so they can exploit it. Asked what we can do? Come to the AIS Detector and Tracker Program Workshop. Get the mailings and emails, be an advocate, donate...research takes time...be patient.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Tom Watson Reporting
Summer Seminar Series:

August: Sarah Fogderud AW Research Labs will be speaking on drinking water testing. Health Dept. canceled, looking into DNR hydrologist. Might bring in person who did research for Pelican.

September: Spoke with Becca Nash from MAISRC, may do something in conjunction with the Northern Water Alliance and do it here with the topic possibly AIS.

Land and Waters Trust Grant Application: Application process will go into the fall for next year so WAPOA may still apply for grant for ground water testing.

Sandpiper: Sandpiper is going to be suspended but the action has not resulted in any change in the application at the state. Line 3 is the push right now. FOH has a petition out to the Dept. of Justice that Tom will circulate to everyone. Per the Federal Government the replacement line is to be up and running by the end of 2017. Minnesota does the regulatory work on citing certificate of need and routing, it’s not a federal government responsibility. Enbridge is saying that MN needs to move. The petition is to challenge the Dept. of Justice’s authority on Line 3.

The scoping document is due out of the Dept. of Commerce by the end of Aug for public comment. MCEA has filed a piece with the State saying they have no obligation to follow the Dept. of Justice in this consent decree.

MSC: Vaughan/Laurel to approve WAPOA to solicit its members for donations for Friends of Headwaters to oppose the pipeline.

Volunteer Reception: MJ will coordinate; Pat Loban, Secretary, will circulate last year’s volunteer list for members to edit.

Conferences: AIS conference, St. Cloud-Oct. 5-6; MAISRC Showcase, UM – Sept 12
Contact Tom if you want to attend.

Run for the Walleye: Jenny Max is resigning; Tom and others will be meeting with her.

2016-17 Officers-election September (new) Board Meeting: As a result of our most recent newsletter, 2 persons have come forward with interest in director positions. Tom stressed we will match the person to needs and skills rather than to a titled position as needs of the organization are changing.

PROGRAM REVIEWS:

Membership: Dave Topinka reports Business Membership is at 55, just 9 short of 2015. Regular membership is at 1069 just 64 short of 2015.

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Water Quality: Fred Strohmeier reports that July testing data is not in yet. Fred noted that his phosphorus levels went from 18 to 29 due to high water levels.

Outreach: Ken Neihart reports that they have found Eurasian Milfoil on south side of Roosevelt Lake and they are developing a treatment plan. Ruth Lake has asked for an increase in their tax levy for their LID. Emily Lake is currently or will be treating Milfoil in the near future.

Publicity: Pam Vaughan reports an ad regarding conservation easements was published in the Echo and Northland Press the last week of July. August ads (2) focus on Forest Management and Protecting the Watershed. Two ads will be published in September regarding working with other lake associations. Articles regarding the Pipeline Meeting and the Ground Water/Drinking Water Workshops were published in the Echo and Northland Press in July and August. A Vertical Response email notice was sent regarding the Ground Water/Drinking Water Workshop. No VR was sent about the Summer Newsletter. Pam gave a reminder to provide stores and resorts with WAPOA brochures this summer.

Newsletter: Tom's ideas for the next newsletter include articles on the origin of the Old Boat Show, Old Cabins, Old Resorts and the history of some of the old retailers.

AIS: Joe Brodil reports the \$500 100% Education/Awareness invoice has been submitted for payment. New COE volunteers are now active and will inspect well into September. LGU inspector cost increased one dollar per hour. WAPOA now pays \$16.14 for new employees and \$17.58 if experienced. New AIS found near WFC: Starry Stonewort in Turtle Lake close to Bemidji and EWM in Roosevelt and Kimble. There are 5 new ZM lakes. PLM reports no new invasive plants in lakes inspected in July. Lakevertising has 50 CWC maps for us to pick up. They would like WAPOA to be part of a video, Joe is opposed.

Natural Resources: Jeff Laurel reports that he accomplished 2 of 3 one-on-one meetings on conservation easements with landowners in the watershed with one landowner having sold their property. One landowner has a forest stewardship plan in place, but is not ready to commit to a permanent easement. The third landowner is just getting started understanding the program. A de-briefing will be held with Sheila Carleton, Ron Meyer, and Darren Mayers to discuss feedback gained and form a plan to approach remaining landowners. One (un-named) landowner has started the registration process to place their land into a Conservation Easement status. The August 22nd Manhattan Beach Council Meeting was attended by Melissa Barrick, Tom Watson, Ron Meyer and Jeff Laurel with Melissa giving on update on the status and timeline of the Big Trout Storm Water Runoff Project. An agreement was reached on the maintenance of the project. Manhattan Beach will support the project by paying 25% of the estimated maintenance costs starting year 3, with WAPOA covering 75% for the same time period. The first 2 years will be covered in the Clean Water grant. Maintenance of storm drains for future years will be an issue pursued with the county by Crosslake, Manhattan Beach and WAPOA. The current timeline calls for bids and construction to take place in 2017.

MSC: Strohmeier/Topika to approve Tom Watson's correspondence with Melissa Barrick and MHB Mayor Paul Allen to confirm the decisions reached among WAPOA, City of Manhattan Beach, and SWCD, regarding the Big Trout Storm Water Project and the maintenance agreement as outlined above.

Shoreland Restoration: Brian Olson reports that half of the projects are completed and half are near completion. Applicants are concerned if maintenance agreement is still valid due to high waters, however, act of God does not negate the agreement.

Business Relations: No report.

Land Use: There is an on-going issue with people seeking approval to put in decks in the bluffs setbacks.

Meeting adjourned: 4:44PM

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Respectfully Submitted: Pat Loban, Secretary

Next Executive Committee Meeting: September 9, 2016 at 9:00
Next Board Meeting-Thursday, September 15, 2016 at 2:30PM Ideal Town Hall
Volunteer Recognition Event: September 15, 2016 at 5:30PM Ideal Town Hall