

**WAPOA Board Meeting
January 26, 2017
Ideal Town Hall**

Directors Present: Tom Watson, Gary Olson, Pat Loban, Pam Vaughan, Dave Topika, Jeff Laurel, Tony Coffey, Brian Olson

Excused: Joe Brodil, Fred Strohmeier, Jess Eide

Directors Emeriti Present: Judy Wallschlaeger, Alan Sherburne, Dave Fischer, Jim Brandt, MJ Schneider, Marv Erdman

Others Present: Jim Schultz

President Tom Watson called the business meeting to order at 2:30PM

Approval of Minutes:

MSC: Vaughan/Topinka to approve the minutes of the November 10, 2016 Board Meeting Minutes.

In the President's Report are recommendations for donations. A \$5,000 to the MN AIS Research Center and a \$5,000 donation to Friends of Headwaters.

MSC: Coffey/Laurel to approve donations to AIS Research Center and Friends of Headwaters.

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

MSC: Laurel/B. Olson to approve 2016 Year-to-date and Year end Reports

MSC: Vaughan/Coffey to approve 2017 Year-to-date Reports

COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION:

Kimble Lake: Jim Schultz reported that they met with Star and Bass Lakes and wrote a letter to residence on these lakes to check their docks, lifts and shoreline for zebra mussels. They would like to know if the zebra mussels came down stream or were introduced into Kimble. They are starting to drill through the ice to check for zebra mussels.

CBLA: Marv Erdman reported that the association did an electronic filing but had to resubmit as they were still listed as a Private Foundation.

Lower Hay: No report.

Land and Water Preservation Trust – Dave Fischer:

The current Endowment balance is \$239,600. Two new grant applications have been received.

Pine River Watershed:

A \$30,000 donation was received from Karen and John Larsen to be used over the next 3 years to build membership and support project efforts. No planned activity for Arvig Creek until spring when the cover crop is evaluated, the revegetation, and a revisiting of the process for cover cropping the row crop land. Jim Brand has taken on the Willow Creek project for PRWA. Willow Creek dumps an estimate 300 tons of sediment into upper Whitefish. Estimates are as high as \$750,000 to rebuild the creek channel.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT:

Crow Wing County 2017 AIS Plan

President Tom Watson provided copies of the letter sent to the Crow Wing County Board of Commissioners regarding their AIS plan. The letter was written with the input of 12 lake associations and signed by these associations. They stated their objection to the plan and the allocation of state aids for inspections. For the last 3 years a portion of the annual state aid amount has remained unspent. They have spent monies outside of the county which is not in accordance with the law. The letter was sent to our legislators and to former Representation Denny McNamara who is very interested in the matter. The

letter was also sent to Senator Carrie Ruud who co-chairs the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources. The more she hears from people in this area the better it is for her and/or the others who received copies of the letter.

MSC: Coffey/B. Olson to approve letter submitted on behalf of NCWCLA

Northern Crow Wing Coalition of Lake Associations (NCWCLA)/AIS Roundtable: It is scheduled the end of April at the Ideal Township Community Center. The agenda could include speakers Rima Smith-Keprios who runs an effective inspection program in Cass County and Jeff Forester who could address what you can and can't do under the laws. Discussion groups will follow. Video taping is a possibility. We will host the 12 lake associations and invite the staff from the Crow Wing County as well as people in the lakes area.

Land and Waters Preservation Trust Grant Application –expanded water quality

A copy of the grant application was provided to the Board. The grant funds will pay for the expanded water testing with RMB Labs, along with additional calcium testing and conduct a fall workshop to explain the research they have done and assist lake associations and groups to determine what they can do to improve water quality. The grant proposal would subsidize WAPOA and other lakes associations with the expanded testing in 2017 and start to build a baseline ~~in~~ for the 39 lakes so that we can identify AIS, what trends we see, and what should we be doing. We are developing a cost sharing proposal for those associations that are active in water testing that are not members of WAPOA. The cost of testing is \$220 per lake.. He recommends that members participate at no cost but if non-members want their lakes tested that they pay 50% of the cost of this expanded program. WAPOA spends roughly \$4,000 a year and the expanded program will cost \$12,000. There is also a proposal for shoreland work on Willow Creek, which WAPOA proposed to fund using the Run for the Walleye money. The resources available are \$10,000 in special projects, and \$7,200 from the Trust, and the 2 grant proposals total \$13,000. Tom's recommendation is that we support both expanded water testing and the Willow Creek Project.

MSC: Topinka/B. Olson to approve submission of grant application for water testing, which includes the WAPOA proposal and offer for the Willow Creek project.

PLANNING MEETING PLANS – NOVEMBER 12:

Next year's format will be the same as previous years. A summary of planning items was provided to the Board of Directors.

ANNUAL MEETING: Tony Coffey gave his input from his experience and from others comments and recommended that the meeting be condensed. The breakfast and social time from 7:30 to 9:00, meeting from 9-10:00 with a power point of what we have done followed by the speaker. Tom will put an agenda together for people to review at the next board meeting. Director Nick Phelps from the MN AIS Research Center has been invited to speak, along with Becca Nash who is also with the Center.

ENBRIDGE PIPELINE UPDATE: The Soil and Water Conservation District has been submitting a series of grant applications. Tom feels this it is unethical to oppose the routing of the pipeline and seek their money and advertise Enbridge about the Whitefish Chain of Lakes. In summary of the discussion it will be made clear to SWCD that we oppose the Enbridge routing of their pipelines through the watershed, WAPOA not be identified with the grant application, and that SWCD and us look for State funding for the long-term funding for the project.

HWY 66 STORMWATER PROJECT: Melissa Barrick, CW SWCD, appeared before the CW County Board to present the Stormwater Project and the need for \$2,000 to \$2,500 per year to maintain the system once installed. Chris Pence made the suggestion for the meeting feeling that the County has responsibility for run off into the lakes as written into their water plan. It was reported that a County Board member present did not feel there was a water quality issue on Big Trout Lake and the request was denied. Construction cannot go forward until maintenance agreement is approved and funding is found. Tom asked the for-Board approval to reissue the proposal that WAPOA had stating we will spend 75% of

the \$2,200 and Manhattan Beach spends 25%. WAPOA will use Run for the Walleye funds to cover the WAPOA expense allowing the project to move forward.

MSC: Laurel/Coffey to approve resubmitting proposal to Manhattan Beach for assistance in funding maintenance of the CH 66 Defender System.

PROGRAM REVIEWS:

Tom recommended that starting today that since we have written program reports at the Board Meetings that members go through the reports and act on motions if needed. Dave Topinka requests that we get Drop Box going again.

AIS: Report submitted by Joe Brodil. Under the proposed CWC AIS plan the WFC will again receive 2,400 hours of inspection time. WAPOA AIS proposed budget included an addition \$4,000 for increased inspections by PLM. A 2nd COE campsite upgrade will not take place in 2017. The Crosslake Police Dept. is not very positive about helping with inspections. Crosslake Mayor Patty Norgaard has been very helpful and will continue to pursue the issue. Mandatory inspection will not be possible in 2017.

WAPOA will continue to review and hope the DNR, CWC and others involved can help make the process easier. MN DNR has a new AIS specialist, Tim Plude, covering our area replacing Dan Swanson, who retired.

Natural Resources – Jeff Laurel: The State Cost Share Program approved \$1,300 for the WAPOA tree program WAPOA is proposing to buy \$2,600 of trees (approx. 2200 trees). We will order approximately 1200 tree protection kits @ \$1.00 each. The net cost to WAPOA should be approximately \$1,000 plus ad costs. Trees are available to anyone planting in the Pine River Watershed. The Minnesota Design Team had their first group meeting with their water quality work group team leader Bob Perkins on January 4th. The objective of this meeting was to share current knowledge of PRWA, WAPOA CW SWCD, and the Whitefish Area Lodging all of whom were in attendance. The MPCA and DNR were unable to attend.

Shoreland Restoration – Brian Olson presented his revised 2017 Action Plan with a recommendation to move the contest to the fall. Five objectives were outlined. CWSWCD did get approved for grant money.

Water Quality – Tom Watson reported in Fred's absence: The contract from RMB Environmental Laboratories, Inc. was provided to the Board.

MSC: Laurel/B. Olson to approve the RMB contract phase 1 and 2. Phases 3 and 4 are subject to further review.

Business Relations – Jess Eide: Money has been given to the Crosslake Community School and the first student has completed her report on phosphorus levels. She has been asked to find out what to do with this problem.

Communications Newsletter – Tom Watson: The next newsletter will go out-in April.

Communications-Publicity – Pam Vaughan: Within the next two months a meeting is planned with Northland Press and the Echo staff to share the 2017 schedule. There will be a reduction in ads. We can continue with free articles regarding water quality, seminars and events. Some time and money will be used developing and paying for radio ads to be aired weekly from May through Sept/Oct. on each of the 3 local stations. We also air an add June-August on the Brainerd Outdoors radio show on Saturday and Sunday. Pam asks from assistance from the Communication Team. She is currently working with Discover Racks on locations for displaying brochures. She will meet with Alli Faricy in the near future and discuss additional focus on posting information on social media.

Membership – Dave Topinka: There are many memberships from 2017 yet to be processed. The business memberships are coming in nicely.

Outreach – Tony Coffey: Nothing new to report.

Action Plans for 2017; 2017 Budget

MSC: Coffey/Topinka to approve action plans for 2017 as revised

MSC: Laurel/Vaughan to approve 2017 budget

2017 Grandpa's Run for the Walleye

Tom provided a brief update on plans for the 2017 Grandpa's Run for the Walleye. Jenny Max will serve as Race Coordinator. We will explore engaging a Cross Country Team from the High School to help run

the race. WAPOA will make a donation to their program. WAPOA will also be advertising for a coordinator to shadow Jenny in 2017.

MSC: Topinka/Coffey to approve Run for the Walleye Plan as presented

Meeting adjourned at 5:15PM

Respectfully Submitted: Pat Loban, Secretary

Next Executive Meeting: April 20, 2017

Next Board Meeting: Thursday April 27 at 2:30PM Ideal Town Hall