

WAPOA Board Meeting

August 24, 2017

Ideal Town Hall

Directors Present: Tom Watson, Pat Loban, Dave Topinka, Jeff Laurel, Fred Strohmeier, Tony Coffey

Excused: Jesse Eide, Joe Brodil, Brian Olson, Gary Olson, Pam Vaughan

Directors Emeriti Present: Dave Fischer, Jim Brandt, Ron Meyer, Alan Sherburne

Others Present: Darren Mayers

President Tom Watson called the business meeting to order at 2:32 PM

Approval of Minutes:

MSC: Topinka/Strohmeier to approve the minutes of the July 27, 2017 Board Meeting

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

MSC: Coffey/Laurel to approve check register with deposits and checks #2668-2681

MSC: Strohmeier/Laurel to approve 2017 Year-to-Date reports

COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION:

Lake Associations: Fred Strohmeier/Fifty Lakes and Dave Topinka-Alan Sherburne/FOLH reported on activities of their Lake Associations.

Land and Water Preservation Trust: Dave Fischer reported assets of \$259,000 with good return on investments. The next Committee meeting is in 1 ½ weeks.

Pine River Watershed – Ron Meyer: Written report provided.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT: President's written report provided.

-Highway 66 Storm Water Project: Excavating and moving utilities have begun with completion scheduled for 10 weeks. The initial Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed by all Parties with County Attorney reviewing WAPOA's modifications to the MOU. Under the terms of the initial MOU, WAPOA has no say in the number/timing of clean-ups and payment amounts. WAPOA's Attorney, Joe Christensen, has concerns regarding WAPOA's liability for the project and feels the County needs to release WAPOA from any liability. The County Attorney and Crow Wing County-are objecting to signing a release. We have been assured by CW SWCD that the CW County Attorney will prepare an addendum to the MOU to address the WAPOA modifications.

-Enbridge Pipeline Update:

Tom provided a handout on the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) with links to the report, important dates and Line 3 Summary of changes from DEIS and FEIS. The FEIS was released August 17th. The deadline for written comments on the FEIS is September 25th with decisions to be made April 30th. A Public Hearing will be held at the Crosslake Community Center October 25th, 1:00-4:00 PM and 6:00-9:00PM. The FEIS still does not provide an economic analysis. The MN Dept. of Commerce stated that the FEIS will not address the project's need, a CON requirement. MN Public Utilities Commission is considering appointing a second Administrative Law Judge, expected to be Judge Eric Lipman, who conducted the Sandpiper Pipeline hearings. Several groups plan an appeal to remove Lipman from the case.

-Summer Series:

August: RMB Labs re: water testing. Presenter: Moriya Rufer, Aquatic Ecologist, RMB Lab.
September (tbd): Board agreed to have AIS research update by Mike McCartney with invitations extended to the Northern Coalition of Lake Associations.

-**“Love our Waters”** Attendance at the event and WAPOA’s booth was good. Owners on lakes that are not being tested are voicing an interest.

Action Plans: Manhattan Beach Villas still believe that running the rain gutter water into a PVC pipe into the ground is still the better option to a raingarden.

-Volunteer Recognition Event: Board approved holding the event on September 28th.

Election of Officers: Nominations/Elections postponed until the next Board Meeting due to the absence of five Directors at the August Board Meeting. Officers elected need to be Directors. Discussion held on hiring an Executive Director. It was questioned how we would qualify the cost and a job description was needed. A discussion was held on having a Governmental Affairs position; however the By-Laws do not include such a position. It was recommended that these possible changes should be on the agenda for the November Planning Meeting.

Shoreland Restoration: Darren Mayers of Crow Wing County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) presented WAPOA with a \$18,000 check from the Clean Water Legacy Fund, thanked WAPOA for their Shoreland Restoration Program and for including SWCD on their Shoreland Restoration project signage.

PROGRAM REVIEWS:

AIS – Joe Brodil: Written report provided. No action items.

Business Relations – No report. No action items.

Communications Newsletter – Tom Watson: The Board approved to continue printing the cover in color. No action items.

Communications-Publicity – Pam Vaughan: Written report provided. No action items

Membership – Dave Topinka: Written report provided. A method to determine why some members have not renewed their membership was discussed. No action item.

Natural Resources – Jeff Laurel – Written report provided. No action items.

Outreach – Tony Coffey: Written report provided. No action items.

Run for the Walleye – Tom Watson: A race coordinator still needs to be appointed.

Shoreland Restoration Contest – Brian Olson: Written report provided. Discussion once again held on changes to contest name and dates. No action items.

Water Quality – Fred Strohmeier: Fred reported that Kay Rezenka will have WAPOA’s water quality data inputted by the end of September and then upload to the MPCA’s Environmental Quality Information System. No action items.

Land Use - No report.

Other Matters: Tom Watson

-Cormorants reported on the chain. Thousands have been seen on Upper Whitefish. They are feeding in preparation for migration and they are a protected species.

-2017 Minnesota AIS Research and Management Showcase, University of MN, Wednesday September 13. Tom will send link.

Meeting adjourned at 4:55 PM

Respectfully Submitted: Pat Loban, Secretary

Executive Committee Meeting: Friday September 1, 2017

Board Meeting: Thursday September 28, 2017 at 2:30PM Ideal Town Hall

WAPOA's Volunteer Recognition: September 28, 2017 from 5:30-7:30 Ideal Town Hall