

**MEMPHREMAGOG WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 12, 2013**

The meeting was held at 4:00 PM at the North Country Career Center. Present: Bill Round, Karen Lippens, Ginnie Bowman, Perry Thomas, Maria Young, Lynn Jenness, Don Hendrich. Absent: Chet Greenwood, Pat Vana, Gail Lynch, Paul Dreher
Also present: Frank Antonelli, Seymour Lake Association

The minutes of January 15, 2013 were amended to read that the Newport Renaissance Committee is going to make a web link for MWA, not a web page as stated. They were approved as amended.

MWA memorandum in support of VT-ANR DEC Act 138 Report.

Since the memo was drafted, legislation has been introduced in the Vermont House (H.223) in relation to lakeshore development and protection. The bill gives the Agency of Natural Resources rule making authority concerning lakeshore development and protection. It was decided to add wording to the memo to reflect MWA's support of H.223. Echo Lake Association and Westmore Association (Lake Willoughby) have stated their support of the memo. Seymour Lake Association will be having a board meeting on February 15th and will discuss their support. Don H. will send a final draft of the memo to the board before sending it to local legislators. Those legislators include Sen. John Rodgers, who is on the Senate Natural Resources and Energy Committee, Sen. Robert Starr, and Reps Lynn Bachelor, Duncan Kilmartin, and Michael Marcotte. Perry Thomas stated that there was interest in having a regional information session and that Steve Massicatte of Morgan hopes that MWA will organize it. Frank A. will take the idea of Seymour organizing it to their meeting. Perry Thomas will be at the State House on Thursday testifying on H.223.

Focus on Wetlands and WatershedFest 2013

Don H. reported that MWA did not get the Watershed Grant. The grants that were funded focused more on specific, boots on the ground, water quality projects. There were 46 grant applications and only 13 were funded. Of those only 2 focused on outreach and education. Because we did not get the grant, there is a need to go back and look at next summer's proposed programs. In terms of WatershedFest 2013, Amy Picotte has already been booked as a keynote speaker. She will speak on DEC's Lakewise Program. It was decided to scale back on the WatershedFest and have a morning workshop on the Lakewise Program followed by a meal and socializing. The target audience will be representatives from watershed lake associations. It was also decided to cancel Prouty Beach and try to book the Gateway Center. The event will be RSVP. We will look into the possibility of BYOB. It was suggested that it be called Watershed Workshop. Don H. expressed concern about getting a good turn out for the WatershedFest as originally planned. Others said they had the same concern.

The original plans for the Focus on Wetlands (Wetlands Wednesdays) called for 4 field trips and a keynote speaker at the annual meeting. It was decided to go ahead but again scale back to at least a couple of field trip/paddles that would be open to the public in addition to the Willoughby Bog walk. Don H. noted that there was a comment on the Watershed Grant application that it didn't focus on wetland regulations and that the Northeast Kingdom has violations. One field trip will be at Eagle Point. There is a need to get a guide (Paul Hamelin was mentioned) and to organize a put in/take out spot. Don H. also reported that he recently attended a conference on Community Matters, representing MWA, and that at a workshop it was stated that the success of activities/programs reflects 10% organization and 90% recruitment. MWA will need to focus more on recruitment for the field trips by contacting local groups such as the Garden Club, Ducks Unlimited, Trout Unlimited, and scouting groups. For a second field trip, Tracy Shadday of Seymour had expressed an interest in collaborating with Echo Lake. Don H. will follow up with that. It was decided to help promote the Willoughby Bog walk as that is already an annual event.

The Focus on Wetlands had originally planned to contract with NorthWoods for the making of a map of wetlands in the watershed. It was suggested that perhaps H.S. students could create a map. It was questioned whether they would have GIS capabilities. Perry Thomas mentioned contacting an ecologist, Kevin Johnston, and will make the contact. Lastly, it was decided to keep wetlands the focus of the annual meeting. Two keynote speakers were mentioned; Liz Thompson of VLT and Shannon Morrison of DEC. Don H. will follow up. Target dates for the events will be as follows; annual meeting- late June, Eagle Point field trip- second half of June, second field trip- second half of July. It was noted that the FOVLAP annual seminar will be June 7th. For the field trips there may be some cost sharing.

Eagle Point WMA and NorthWoods Summer Projects

Don H. contacted Ken Sturm, USF&WL, and Paul Hamelin, VT F&WL, about summer projects at Eagle Point that the projects committee could work on and/or that MWA could help support financially. Paul reported that NorthWoods is being contracted to build a bridge and provide drainage at a wet spot on the new trail. There is a need for matching funds for the project. Don suggested \$500, subject to the review of the draft budget. Maria Young emailed Don with a list of proposed projects for NorthWoods, including removal of invasive species, Trees for Streams (NorthWoods needs more landowners to participate in the program), a survivability study, and an educational program with an area school. It was noted that if MWA helped fund the educational program it would fit into our focus on wetlands. MWA can also help promote the trees for streams, perhaps in the spring newsletter. Maria also shared a map of Clyde River natural communities, which is part of the NorthWoods' Clyde River Wetlands Natural Community Mapping Project final report and can be found on their website.

Treasurer's Report and 2013 Budget draft

Karen Lippens gave the budget report and then led a review of the draft budget. She will prepare another draft for the next meeting. The next draft will include money for the Eagle Point project and for NorthWoods' educational program.

Other Agenda Items and Business

Perry Thomas described a program with Master Gardeners on buffer plantings in which interns would do projects. She said there may be a cost for purchasing plants. MWA could collaborate on the program. She will look into it more and also check with Ben Copans.

It was voted to take a year off from the Home Show. Ginnie B. made the motion and Karen L. seconded it.

The idea was proposed of having a cruise on the lake this summer on either the Newport Belle or the new Northern Star. Ginnie will talk to Doug McKenny.

Dayna Cole is organizing buffer plantings this summer and contacted MWA about support. It was decided to help promote this in our spring newsletter.

Two names were mentioned to fill board vacancies, Tom Wagner and Sarah Gluckman. Don H. will follow up on the first, Maria Y. on the second. Dayna Cole is no longer an honorary board member.

Interest has been expressed by Peggy Barter (Seymour Lake Assoc.) in having MWA collaborate on a Septic Social program that has is available through VT DEC. The program reflects concern about aging septic systems, particularly on lakeshores. Don H. will follow up with Peggy.

Bill Round reported that a decision has been made about the VT baitfish rules.

Fishermen can keep bait for 96 hours to be used in the same waters. The watershed approach (allowing bait to be used on any water in the watershed) was rejected. He also showed the board some sample forms for MWA members to keep track of volunteer hours so that they can be displayed on the website. The forms will be on the agenda for next meeting.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is tentatively set for March 18th or 19th. Don H. will poll the board and report.

Respectfully submitted by Lynn Jenness for Gail Lynch (with thanks to Don H for typing it up)