

President Dave Converse opened the meeting at 4:30 p.m. Present: Officers- Stan Chop (secretary), Jennifer Hopkins (treasurer), Board members – Tom Latta, Hillary Potter, and Beth Torpey. Members: Valerie Dillon, Mary Pat Goulding, Ann Hrubby, Karen Hrubby. Staff: Bevin Barber-Campbell, Patrick Hurley. We met by ZOOM.

Secretary's Report – Hillary made the motion to accept the minutes of the 3/2 meeting. Tom seconded the motion to accept the minutes and the motion passed.

Treasurer's Report – There is nothing really new to report. We are getting some of the money that is due us. We have a positive net income for March. Jennifer explained for our guests the role Patrick plays in MWA.

Executive Director Report:

Bevin has been working for two months with MWA. She took time to go through the strategic plan and review some documents regarding our retreat. Bevin put together two documents for the board to review, and has asked for feedback either by email or a telephone call. One document is a MWA Work or Implementation Plan with information that she feels needs visibility or exposure. She has broken the information into stewardship, education, organizational stability, and water quality. Bevin explained that she determined objectives and action items. David suggested for members to look at the plans and come back at the next meeting to discuss issues. Bevin is working on an overall communication plan. There is a redesign of our website in process, Jethro from NEK Info is volunteering his time to assist. Bevin asked for critical suggestions for the website to restructure the content and the look.

The other document, a ED work plan, specifically outlines what she should be doing. Three areas for her to address are visibility, organizational stability and project management. She needs input from the board on how she should manage her time.

It was mentioned that we are actively looking for three board members. Bevin doesn't mind asking folks for funding!

Current Grant Status Updates:

Regional Aquatic Nuisance Control-All the applications are in. We are waiting for the state to announce the awards.

Riparian Buffers – VT F&W/GLRC -We submitted the final invoice on our initial Great Lake Fisheries Commission grant. They have agreed to an additional three year contract/grant for \$295,000 to perform additional project development on the Johns and expansion of the project to the Clyde River. Five hundred residents will get letters regarding upcoming stream assessments. Patrick hopes to have an intern from NVU. There are 4 properties that are being appraised for Fish and Wildlife to possibly purchase as a result of his previous work.

WUV Tactical Basin Planning Workplan Grant- Public participation is required. Ben Copans will be expecting a report in late May. Patrick is currently looking for gullies that have potential for restoration.

WUV Project Development Grant – Barton, Glover, Wetlands - Patrick is just waiting for final approval for OCSU which hopefully will enable the Glover project to be wrapped-up by June. Patrick has identified 90 potential parcels, he will be tracking down the landowners, producing maps for direct landowner outreach. Patrick feels that being able to develop two projects out of the 90 would be a success.

WUV Implementation Grants – Barton - held the project kick-off meeting. Patrick mentioned the names of all the stakeholders present for the two hour meeting. Patrick said the contract is looking good. Assembly of God Church in Barton is an adjacent landowner who needs to be contacted, he needs help tracking down a contact.

Newport- Patrick says we still need the notice to proceed from the landowner. City's attorney is working on the easement. Patrick has not wanted to rush the issue. We have time on the project. All the details and concerns need to be ironed out before we can go out for bid on the project.

Committee Reports/ Other Activities Updates:

Ducks Unlimited - Mary Pat spoke with Patrick Raney who said the Corps of Engineer came up with a management plan that precludes a building or parking area other than the limited pull offs currently available. The land had been an active farm, and is being renaturalize as a development offset project. DU develops a management plan for another entity to follow. Two year ago when MWA took a tour, it was thought a piece of land could be used as an educational project, however not even trails can be built. DU does provide \$2 to 3,000 in annual maintenance funding, but the taxes of about \$8000 are not included.

Dave and others, feel we don't have the wherewithal to take on that responsibility without being able to generate enough income to cover the taxes. DU does not appear to be willing to approach the Town for tax exemption, and the board is concerned about doing so. Mary Pat will give Patrick a heads-up regarding our thoughts. Dave suggested we could make a formal decision at the next meeting.

Youth Discovery Program- Bevin and Mary Pat have been working very hard on the Youth Discovery Program. There are 6 schools and Coventry School interested. We are meeting on the 25th with Northwoods to address the curriculum. The program is scheduled for the last week in May and the first week of June.

Partnership Updates:

MCI- Doug said there wasn't too much new with MCI, but Jennifer talked about the collaboration with MCI regarding the zebra monitoring. Our part of the lake doesn't have zebra mussels but there are numerous mussels on the Canadian side. MWA will be deploying (Canadian) monitors this summer and should be reporting results to both the Americans and Canadians. Ariane from MCI has offered to assist, even though MCI is not directly participating this year - as it is clear that the mussels are definitely on the Canadian side.

MCM -David mentioned that MCM got a grant of \$20,000 from the EB5 funding grant for renting the Gateway, the secondary grant for developing the educational center was not funded. However, without additional grants MCM doesn't have the wherewithal at this time to rent out the Gateway Center. The downstairs area still needs to be available for public functions. MCM needs more money for starting-up the education center. MCM has applied for funding via Vermont Housing Conservation Board for the education center, no word has been heard.

Other/New Business:

ANR Outreach-Nothing new to report, except there will be a new person to contract regarding upcoming co-events. Most likely Oliver Pearson will be the contact.

Eagle Point Bird Walk – June 4 - Bevin mentioned that the Friends of the Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge will handle most of it. No registration required.

Membership Plea- Stan said he was willing with the board's approval to send out membership pleas to the owners of lakeside property. He was wondering if a self-enclosed envelope should be included. It was mentioned to include events coming up. We need to make sure to set up at the events.

Barriers- Tom has spoken with Misha Cetner about the permits needed to put down benthic barriers. David mentioned the damage caused last year by the mats, which were put down too late. There still may be mats down there. Tom said they were put in the wrong place under the boats instead of out where the sun can get to the mats.

Valerie thanked our guests and David closed the meeting at 6:00 pm.

Next Meetings:

Every month on the First Wed – upcoming dates:

May 4, 2022 04:30 PM

Jun 1, 2022 04:30 PM

Computer link above, or dial by your location

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)