

MWA January Meeting

4:30 p.m. Wednesday January 5, 2021

President Dave Converse opened the meeting at 4:39 a.m. Present: Officers- Stan Chop (secretary), Jennifer Hopkins (treasurer), Board members –Doug Coutts, Beth Torpey. Members: Ben Copans, Valerie Dillon, Mary Pat Goulding, Patrick Hurley. (We met via ZOOM.)

Secretary's Report Meeting Minutes – 12/1/21

Jennifer made the motion to accept the minutes. Doug seconded the minutes. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report-Financials for 12/31/21

We received \$5000 from the Newport Marina Condo Association. We also received \$3,000 from Sphagnum P. Moss Fund. We also got an anonymous donation of \$1,000 and \$2,000 from retirement funds of two members. Newport Center returned the ANC Grant funds they received because the contractor failed to perform the work.

Report on Executive Committee Meeting

We discussed Patrick's request for assistance with his health insurance costs. An increase can't be made at this time in the riparian grant work, but we can increase his salary for other MWA work he performs. Stan made the motion to provide an increase of \$2.00 an hour to his salary to assist with his health insurance costs. Mary Pat mentioned that we have a person, Bevin Barber-Campbell, who is interested in the vacant directorship position. Mary Pat suggested paying \$35 an hour. The High Meadows grant will take her through 6 months. We are looking at a work week of 15 hours. Mary Pat and Jennifer will be meeting with her tomorrow at the Work Commons. Patrick explained that Pete Emerson, from Fish and Wildlife, suggested we purchase a canoe for work on the Clyde. Patrick gave details of one he would like to purchase from the Great Outdoors. The Executive Committee approved all three items.

Current Grant Status Updates

Regional Aquatic Nuisance Control

We have submitted all the reports for the year and we are waiting for the state to review them. The state is changing the program a bit, again.

Riparian Buffers – VT F&W/GLRC

Patrick updated us on the canoe earlier in the meeting. Patrick is scheduling meetings with landowners. He mentioned that he and Pete will be pitching the purchase of a parcel of land from Derby at the next Selectboard meeting. He is working on a Conservation Binder, a document outlining the various conservation programs along with their available funding. He has almost finished the Batch Import File due to Ben. Pete wants Patrick to keep up the momentum with landowners and riparian restoration.

WUV Tactical Basin Planning Workplan Grant

Patrick said we are still coordinating with partners. He mentioned how the Clean Water Service Provider organization wants involvement from watershed associations.

WUV Project Development Grant – Barton, Glover, Wetlands

Quarterly report is due this month. Barton has moved onto design. Glover is stagnant. The wetlands portion is requiring a lot of follow-up. Sarah Damsell will look at the parcels that he has identified as feasible for restoration. He mentioned an intern could be great for developing maps.

Patrick asked the board for permission to ask for continuation of this WUV project. The board agreed.

WUV Implementation Grants – Barton and Newport

The Barton project is moving along nicely. On the Marina Project, Patrick has clarified with Laura and Tom that the City does not have the time to do the construction, so it will be “put out to bid.” The City feels there is a need for an easement to assure long term access for maintenance. They are willing to review the bids. Patrick would like the City or a PE to approve the construction. Patrick is working on clarifying the bid documents and developing the RFP. Mary Pat said we hope to get this project completed this year.

Committee Reports/ Other Activities Updates

Ducks Unlimited has approached us again. Patrick said they gave him 5 steps (documents) that would be followed in a hand-over. Patrick thinks they are ready to hand the property over. This is a wonderful opportunity for wetland mitigation education, etc. Doug said that whatever it takes, this would help with MWA capacity. It was agreed to follow up with DU, as there are a number of unanswered questions.

Leachate Symposium

Mary Pat has 6 panelists for the forum. Jennifer Knauer will moderate the forum. This will be a totally remote meeting. (7-9 PM on 31 January) Pre-registration is required. Mary Pat would like Bevin to work on public relations. The cost of the moderator is not to exceed \$1000. Valerie wondered if Jennifer K would provide a summary.

Partnership Updates: MCI, MCM

There is nothing much new with MCI. The folks of MCI are very interested in attending the Leachate Symposium.

MCM is the only association that submitted the paperwork for a \$100,000 grant from the Newport Economic Development Fund; this must be matched. MCM is also applying to the

Newport Discovery Fund grant (\$20,000) this Friday. Adam Kane, consultant hired with NCIC & MWA funding, is helping with the proposed Maritime Museum business plan.

Status update of MCM's Coventry Educational Project

MCM still has K-3 to work with according to their contract. Mary Pat asked if it was going to be two pronged - boat and river or lake. The kindergarten teacher preferred Prouty Beach. There are major staffing issues. Doug mentioned the U of Maine tourism folks and their enthusiasm for Phil White's Kingdom Games.

Other Business:

Cross country ski & snowshoe event – Feb 27

This will be an outdoor event and is scheduled the weekend of Newport's winter festival and Phil's swim. The Vermont Land Trust asked about a date change due to their Covid restrictions on their property, various accommodations are being discussed.

Phil's Parade- Do we want to support his parade for the summer? Dave thought he could work with Phil and MCM on this parade. It was suggested that we clarify what the request is and address it at the next meeting.

Because of Covid, let's forgo our **March beach party**.

Dave recommended an article about phosphorus in University of Vermont fall newsletter.

Next Meetings:

Every month on the First Wed – upcoming dates:

Feb 2, 2022 04:30 PM

Mar 2, 2022 04:30 PM May 4, 2022 04:30 PM

Apr 6, 2022 04:30 PM Jun 1, 2022 04:30 PM