

MWA Board of Directors Meeting

4:30 p.m. Wednesday, 1 April 2020

President Dave Converse opened the meeting at 4:30 p.m. Present: Officers: Stan Chop (secretary), Jennifer Hopkins (treasurer), Board members – Hillary Potter, Beth Torpey, Bill Round, Doug Coutts, Member: Mary Pat Goulding and John Frye (We met via ZOOM.)

Secretary's Report

All read the notes. No corrections were required. Jennifer motioned to accept the notes and Bill seconded it. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

Jennifer stated available cash not committed is approximately \$16,000. Mary Pat referenced the AIS email, to be addressed later. Dave acknowledged the report on behalf of the Board.

Administrative Director

Jennifer suggested that we make John's salary retroactive to March 23rd. The pay period is every two weeks. Mary Pat mentioned that John reviewed the MWA Staff Policy Handbook and requested additional unpaid time as needed to align with his wife's vacation. Jennifer made a motion we offer John Frye a three quarters time position at a salary of \$32,000 per year starting 23 March. The benefit package is as detailed in the MWA handbook and includes one hour of sick leave earned for every 40 hours worked. Bill seconded the motion. The motion passed. John accepted the job!

Beth asked about tracking the comp time hours. Technically we are hiring him on a salary basis. Jennifer will send a hourly time sheet, which is used for tracking grant work hours, that can be used for comp time. "This is something we did with Kendall," said Mary Pat.

Updates to Staff Policy Handbook

Jennifer sent out a fact sheet regarding the staff policy handbook addressing sick time. Stan motioned that one hour of sick leave be earned every 40 hours worked. Jennifer seconded it. The motion passed. John is 3/4th time so he would earn 3/4ths an hour for every week worked.

Current Projects/Grants:

The aquatic invasive species project is pending. MWA heard from the state which is determining how to run the Greeter and Milfoil plant reduction program. MWA should communicate with all applicants that everything is fine. MWA is committing to be the regional applicant to funnel money to projects and is just waiting on state directives. All grant applications were submitted on time by Steven

Turn-out: Tom Bernier needs to source the materials. The city may do the work or turn the project over to a contractor.

Prouty Beach Design: Mary Pat saw Robert Gosselin and shared the new plant list. The cost of the plants will be well over 10,000. WUV grant goes up to \$20,000.

Marina project: The project should be completed by 1 June. Things are going very well.

Pending Projects:

Clean Water Service Provider

John had a couple phone calls yesterday. John explained the purpose of the Clean Water Service Provider Act. The major goals are to set limits and reduce phosphorus. Local organizations will do the job. It's a large role with a lot of parts. Nancy Everhart spoke with Ben and John. She is with Vermont Housing and Conservation Board. Ben said VHCB is in a good place for holding the money but they would have to outsource the projects. It is a permanent organization and is well respected. "How would work be subdivided on the local level," is a question. Mary Pat suggested that we give John the go ahead to pursue this project.

John said projects would be limited to 15% funding. Operations and maintenance. The organizations implementing projects would also get 15% costs. Everyone on the board consented to have MWA (John) pursue the initiative. VHC would like us and others to be involved.

Riparian

John will work with Ben to purpose project involvement to Pete during the next 12-18 months. Ben is meeting on 8 April with Pete. Maybe John will join the conversation.

Trout in the Classroom

Trout in the Classroom has been in a holding pattern. The goal of the \$5000 grant is to introduce the kids to clean water and fish life. MWA does not have the staff, perhaps an Americorps member could do the teaching? There is a website with lesson plans. It runs in the school year, fall through winter. We purchase one tank at \$1000. TU purchases three. The grant estimates a commitment of 169 hours at \$20 per hour. John says \$20 per hour seems a little lean. Beth wondered if it was too late to accept or not accept. We decided to defer the project to another year. Jennifer will give that notice and we will have to reapply.

Strategic Plan

The committee didn't get to meet on the 18th. Bill wants to compile input from everyone, and he will get it back to the board with the compilation. He wants to get back with the group mid-month. There have been great comments and great input. Mary Pat, Jennifer and Ben (and Steven) have been on the committee. Mary Pat said John has some input.

Report on canceled activities

We'll plan the "summer in winter" event again when we can!

The Annual meeting can be held at any time, date is determined by the board.

We need to think of what we will do for the 4th of July. We will need a trailer. Youth Discovery and Bird Walk have been cancelled.

Committee Reports:

Newsletter

John would like a copy of the newsletter. We can give the newsletter out at the invasive species program events. Hillary said it went out the last day of winter.

Water Quality - no report

Membership

7 new members, thanks to the newsletter.

Scholarship

There are several from the three high schools.

Other Business

None

The Next meeting will be 6 May. Zoom likely the venue.

We adjourned at 5:55.