

## **MWA Board of Directors Meeting**

**4:30 p.m. Wednesday, January 8, 2020, Work Commons**

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 (via phone), Ben Copans (via phone), Bill Round, Marnie MacKenzie Andy Major; Member: Mary Pat Goulding; Administrative Director- Steven Poulos

### **Secretary's Report:**

Because of some problems Stan had with printing good copies, we will review the minutes next meeting.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Jennifer gave a brief explanation of the report. Bill motioned to accept the treasurer's report and Marnie seconded it. The motion passed.

### **Employee's Report:**

Steve emailed a copy of his report to Beth and Ben since they were on the phone.

Beth discussed Steve's concern regarding the ICJ report.

Steve talked about the "trout in the classroom" program. There was a question of how to work with schools outside the watershed. Steve will share the application with the board and with Jennifer, in particular, before a final decision is made.

Folks read through Beth's invasive species report. Beth suggests the association develop a consistent report framework for employees to use.

### **Regional Aquatic Invasive Species Grant Application:**

Beth explained that funding will not be cut. Jennifer mentioned that lakes without invasive species get more money. There is a question whether the towns want to or would benefit by applying thru MWA. Kendall had submitted the application last year. Beth is asking to do it this year and suggests it will take 40 hours to accomplish this task. Beth explained this would be paid on an hourly basis over a period of three months. Jennifer asked if there is a clear explanation of what responsibilities are the association's. The grant is due in a month. Dave asked for Beth to send the application to the board members. Beth mentioned that grant writing is a tedious process. It was asked if the board members could have a look at last year's application. Hillary asked whether this grant would be cost effective and that she would like to have a look at what is covered in the grant regarding the 12 projects. Beth will send it to Stan to resend. We'll let Beth know by Monday regarding a board decision.

### **Budget Planning for 2020:**

Jennifer, Dave and Steven will work on the budget.

### **Strategic Planning:**

Bill, Ben, Mary Pat and Steven will work on our strategic plan. They will meet on 14 January and solidify a time via email.

### **Newsletter:**

Gail and Hillary will meet within the next two weeks. David clarified what writing he should do.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Water quality:**

Hillary mentioned that Ann Bove is available to hold training on August 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup>

#### **Membership:**

Jennifer mentioned that we should get out a good letter promoting what the association does. She also mentioned that we didn't follow through on our initial letter last year. There wasn't any response from our mass mailing to the marina people.

#### **Scholarship: No Report**

### **Other Business**

#### **Status of Petitions for appropriation funds:**

We don't have the final count on the town petition for Newport City. Mary Pat mentioned she didn't specifically tie it to the EcoAmericorps position. Beth said it didn't need to be. Jennifer mentioned if was in the notes that it was specifically tied to the EcoAmericorps position. Beth is wondering if we should drop this initiative since we haven't done well with obtaining signatures. We won't have enough money for the ecoAmericorps position. However, it was agreed to still try and get the signatures.

#### **Scheduling Employee Review:**

It was clarified who will be on the review committee. The people who were on the hiring committee should be on the review committee: Ben, Dave, Jennifer, Beth, Mary Pat. It was suggested and Stan agreed to conduct the meeting. Wed the 22nd. 1:00 at Commons.

Steve will submit hours for his grant writing and other projects.

#### **March into Summer:**

Date: 28 March at VT Pie & Pasta -

**Kendall's Pay:**

? the motion to pay Kendall through the end of January for her work on JIC report Bill seconded it. Marnie abstained. The motion passed.

**Next meeting:**

Let's meet on 5 February at 4:30 Work Commons. We adjourned at 6:21.