

MWA July Meeting Notes

4:30 p.m. Wednesday- 7 July, 2021

President Dave Converse opened the meeting at 4:30 a.m. Present: Officers- Stan Chop (secretary), Jennifer Hopkins (treasurer), Board members – Tom Latta, Doug Coutts, and Hillary Potter and Beth Torpey via zoom. Members: Mary Pat Goulding, Patrick Hurley, and via phone, Valerie Dillon

Secretary's Report

Doug made a motion to accept the minutes of 6/2 and Tom seconded the minutes. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

Jennifer reminded those of us present to pay our dues. Jennifer mentioned we are doing very well. We have a couple grants that are doing well. The Fish and Wildlife money is coming in a timely manner. We still don't have money for a full-time employee.

Discussion of Leachate Pretreatment Waste

Dave's thought was the discharge should actually go to Lake Champlain. Beth thinks there are two different issues. Will the Newport wastewater treatment plant be opened again to leachate? And will Casella be building a pretreatment plant? Newport's maximum is 15%, the balance of the leachate goes to other sites. The WasteUSA leachate permit does allow leachate from Bethlehem, New Hampshire. Can the leachate be analyzed, as the question is, "What is considered safe?" The state will be testing the lake water for PFAs this summer. August 24 or 25 are being proposed for a public meeting with Secretary Moore, as a draft renewal of the pretreatment application should be available for public comment as should the results of initial PFA testing. We need more information before there's a renewal of the application. "Will the leachate be transferred from all over?" Hillary wonders why we simply don't take the stand to oppose leachate being put into the lake. The technology is not there to have a pretreatment plant. Patrick thinks we could support a permanent moratorium. 'The solution to pollution is dilution' Valerie disagrees with that slogan. Jennifer emphasized that the issue is to have the state look for a new area in the state for a second dump. Jennifer wanted to clarify that there is nothing on the table to build a pretreatment plant here.

Stan made the motion that MWA supports the current Newport leachate moratorium and supports VTDEC to seriously start an investigation into siting a new landfill for Vermont. Jennifer seconded it. The motion passed. Waste reduction education should be a commonality with DUMP. Valerie is looking for a testing plan.

Current Grant Status Updates

Regional Aquatic Nuisance Control Jennifer said the deadline for submission of the interim report is the 15th of this month. Just about everyone has done their report.

Riparian Buffers – We are starting the fourth month of this grant and we have received the third reimbursement. Patrick has had good contact with landowners. Most of the field work has been completed, he will be starting mapping soon.

WUV Prouty Beach Project-Status Quo-our plants are growing. Things are looking good.

WUV Tactical Basin Planning Workplan Grants - Patrick mentioned that we just got extended to 15 August on our current year (20-21) plan. We are just finishing up and will be contracting with NorthWoods and OCNRCD to do some Lakewise assessments.

We have been awarded \$12,000 for the 21-22 year (state fiscal year starting July1) which won't start until August.

WUV Project Development Grant – Patrick is going to the Glover select board meeting tomorrow. He will help the librarians with their garden and stormwater containment. He has been coordinating with the Barton select board chair, who has lots of ideas regarding a rain garden or swell. Patrick will be presenting at a wetlands realtor virtual workshop on the 28th of September. A goal is to identify wetland areas to protect.

WUV Implementation Funding - MWA will be applying for grant funding for the Newport Marina Project.

Committee Reports/ Other Activities Updates

Completion reports- The ecosystem services art show was a success. There was a well attended closing. Part of the show will go to Barton.

Phragmites Pulling Party - Columbia Forest Products has a dozen folks signed up. They will work at Prouty from the former new beach area and go as far as they can towards the new bridge. The date is Wednesday August 11th starting at 8AM, extra hands are welcome. Additionally Columbia donated \$1500 towards general operations.

VIP - Patroller / Cyanobacteria / Lay Monitors-Vermont has come up with a new training, Memphremagog has almost a full complement of patrollers. There are two lay monitors. Mark Mitchell is the lay monitor coordinator.

Other Updates

Annual Meeting-Mary Pat and Dave think we could do a panel discussion on leachate technology, probably in September or early October.

Boat Parade – Will be August 7th and the rain date will be the next week. The information will go on the website today. There will be a \$20 fee.

Partnership Updates-(MCI, MCM, Kingdom Games)-Phil will have a parade on the 23rd. Phil needs people to help flip burgers on the 24th. Doug sends lots of info on MCI.

Zebra Mussel Monitoring Pilot Program-Jennifer shared a map where they are being placed.

Other Business

Memorial suggestions were made for Ginny Bowman - it was agreed that we designate the funds for maintenance of the rain garden with a plaque in her honor.

Next Meeting- 4 August.

The meeting adjourned at 6:40.