

Memphremagog Watershed Association (MWA) Annual Meeting

August 13, 2025

5:00–7:00 p.m. Eastside Restaurant, Newport, VT

Attendance: President, Tom Latta; Vice President, Marnie MacKenzie; Treasurer, Jennifer Hopkins; Secretary, Mary Pat Goulding; Board Members: Stan Chop, Karen Hruby, Beth Torpey; MWA Members: Tracy Becken, Murial Brown, Don and Nicole Chapdelaine, Jane Chop, Valerie Dillon, Charles Goulding, Diana Mara Henry, Richard and Polly Jones, Terry Lucas, Marianne Richards, Miriam Tatum, Georgia Thurston Also present were MWA Staff; Gabryel Gianoni, Patrick Hurley, Ben Applegate and Kendall Lambert on ZOOM ; Also in attendance: members of the press and approximately 30 guests who signed into the registration table – these names are available upon request.

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM

President's Report: President, Tom Latta welcomed everyone and began his remarks with the announcement of resignation of two long-time MWA board members, Mary Pat Goulding and Jennifer Hopkins. Ms. Goulding has supported MWA for the past 17 years in various roles including Vice President, President, and Secretary. Ms. Goulding's current term has ended and has declined the nomination for renewal to become a MWA member at-large. Ms. Hopkins has been the bookkeeper and treasurer for the past eight years. She will continue in that role until December 2025 to ensure a smooth transition to some different financial systems and the appointment of a new Treasurer. The board acknowledged their contributions and presented each of them with a set of glasses with the MWA logo engraved on them as gifts of appreciation.

With the resignation of Ms. Goulding, a new Secretary is needed, and Stan Chop a current board member and previous MWA secretary has accepted the nomination to be the new secretary.

The MWA board is in the process of transitioning MWA governance to an Executive Director (ED) non-profit model. Discussions are underway with Kendall Lambert, the current administrative specialist, to assume the ED position. MWA is also transitioning its financial system to QuickBooks Online (QBO) financial tracking and reporting. MWA is in discussions with Cheryl Raboin a local CPA to provide bookkeeping services.

Mr. Latta explained that to realize these transition plans a significant increase in un-designated funding is required. Currently, the major portion of MWA's funding is provided

by grants designated to specific projects. The MWA board plans to resolve this funding gap by increasing fundraising efforts.

Also, in consideration is an effort to expand the MWA board to include more members from different towns in the watershed to improve communication and collaboration.

Mr. Latta announced the recipients of MWA's annual scholarships for graduates from Memphremagog Watershed schools. Each of the recipients will be pursuing degrees related to environmental science. The recipients are Luke DeLaBruere, Josi Fortin, Natalee Kneeland, and Aine Remmers. All recipients were invited to the meeting. Aine Remmers was able to attend and meet the Board members. The other recipients are currently on their way to their respective colleges and Universities and sent their thanks and regrets.

Minutes from the 2024 Annual meeting were approved by the membership in attendance. A motion to approve was made by Beth Torpey and seconded by Karen Hruby.

Ms. Hopkins review the Treasurer's report; highlighting the organization's financial status and the importance of securing additional unrestricted funding. Ms. Hopkins explained some of the ways MWA is currently accruing un-restricted funds; through administrative fees in grant funding, donations, and membership. Except for the administrative fee from Vermont's Department of Environmental Conservation's Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Grants which is restricted to the Vector Lake program MWA administers the funding for Memphremagog Watershed AIS grants that support Greeter programs at the various Watershed Lakes. Administration of this grant has netted MWA significant funds over the years. Payment for 2025 resulted in \$7326.

Ms. Hruby reported that the Nominating Committee had several names to place in nomination for Ms. Goulding's Board position. No nomination was put forward at the meeting. As per the Bylaws this vacancy will be filled by the Board of Directors until the next annual meeting. Mr. Hurley reported that he is in contact with other possible future Board members.

The business meeting concluded at approximately 5:20 PM. The second half of the evening was devoted to a symposium entitled "Layers of the Land," featuring presentations by geologists Jonathan Kim of the Vermont Geological Survey and Stephen Wright of the University of Vermont Geology Department.

Concluding the gathering were presentations by MWA Staff, Patrick Hurley, project Manager, and Gabryel Gianoni, Project Coordinator. These Presentations reviewed some specific projects completed or underway by MWA. Mr. Hurley also invited those assembled to participate in MWA's 4th Annual Clyde River Cleanup on September 6, 2025.

A video of this entire meeting will be available on the MWA website;
memphremagogwatershedassociation.com

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Pat Goulding,
Secretary, MWA