

## **MWA Annual Meeting Minutes**

**August 25, 2022 Gateway Center, Newport, Vermont**

**Present at the meeting:** President, David Converse, Vice President Mary Pat Goulding, Treasurer, Jennifer Hopkins; Board Members: Tom Latta, Beth Torpey; Honorary board Members: Ben Copans, and via zoom MCI Representative, Peter Lepine, MWA Members: Bevin Barber-Campbell, Dennis Bond. Stan and Jane Chop, Nancy Goss, Jim and Jean Holcomb, Karen Hruby, Patrick Hurley. Pam Ladds, Terry Lucas, Mercedes Petit, ---- representing Pine Bluff Estates, Bruce Tanner, Rick Ufford-Chase. Attending by zoom were members Peggy and Bruce Barter and also Holly Bull from Echo Lake Association, Farley Brown of Sterling College

Also at the meeting were Guest speaker Allison Marchione - Lakeshore Manager and Lake Wise Coordinator and special guest Tom Berry, representing Senator Patrick Leahy.

Lindsey Wight from Missiquoi River Basin Association; Tim and Linda Buzzell, OCNRCD; Abraham Ames, OCNRCD; Rhonda Shippee, Seymour Lake Association; Eileen Kennedy; David Kerr, Debby Rancourt; Kerry Wevurski; Representatives Woodman Page and Bryan Smith; Ed Barber from the Newport Daily Express and additional people who did not sign in.

### **President's Report**

President Dave Converse welcomed everyone and introduced the board members and staff and provided a brief summary of the high points of the year.

Mary Pat Goulding introduced Tom Berry

Tom Berry

Tom opened by assuring everyone that Senator Leahy is recovering well. Then Tom explained that the Senator has done what he can to assure long term support of the Memphremagog Watershed via the Great Lakes Regional Commission designation of five hundred thousand dollars a year to Vermont Fish & Wildlife for work focusing on Champlain and Memphremagog. He announced that a 3.1 million dollar grant will be forthcoming to Vermont Housing Conservation Board, who is our Clean Water Service Provider, for use in the Watershed to address issues of water quality, including improvements to the Newport Waterfront and Gateway building, as well as to address issues relating to Aquatic Invasive Species, Riparian improvements and to assist with capacity building

### **2022 Reports**

Bevin Barber Campbell, Executive Director, introduced herself and accompanied by slides gave an overview of her work and the activities and outreach efforts that MWA has been making.

Patrick Hurley, Project Manager, gave a quick slide presentation that provided an overview his projects. These focus on stream, wetland and lakefront conservation and land restoration projects he is working on in conjunction with Vermont Fish and Wildlife and other partners. His work relies primarily on grant funding, in 2022 was managing grants and contracts worth over \$725,000.

### **Lake Wise Presentation**

Allison Marchione, Lakeshore Manager and Lake Wise Coordinator, provided an overview of the LakeWise program, explained the need and plus of such a program. She explained the importance of limiting runoff and establishing a naturalized buffer for both aesthetics and nature. Additionally, she covered some of the state regulations and suggested practices.

### **Secretary's Report**

Beth Torpey made the motion to accept the minutes of the December 1, 2021 annual meeting, Mercedes Petit seconded it, motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Jennifer reported that the current loss shown on the balance sheet as of 7/31/22 would be 'covered' once we posted our outstanding grant receivables. Nancy Goss made the motion to accept the financial reports thru December 31, 2021. Beth Torpey seconded and the motion passed.

### **Election of Broad Members**

Mary Pat Goulding representing the nominating committee presented the list of continuing board members along with the slate of new Directors and Honorary members. Copies of the bios for the new members were available at the meeting and are attached here to.

Proposed directors for 3 year terms:

Farley Brown  
Rob Hankins  
Karen Hruby

Proposed Honorary Members:

Mary Pat Goulding (past president of MWA)  
Heather Murphy (past board member and past youth board member)

The motion to accept the proposed slate was made by Mary Pat Goulding, seconded by Dave Converse passed.

### **Other Business**

Meeting adjourned about 7pm

Respectfully submitted by  
Jennifer Hopkins