

MWA Board meeting March 12, 2025
Work Commons Conference Room and Remote connections
5:00 PM

Attendees: Tom Latta, President; Marnie MacKenzie, Vice President; Mary Pat Goulding, Secretary; Stan Chop, and Michael Croteaux, Beth Torpey (ZOOM) Board Members; Guests: Patrick Hurley, Project Manager, Ben Applegate, proposed new hire

The meeting order: Was rearranged to accommodate a ‘meet and greet’ with Ben Applegate.

Project Manager’s Report

Mr. Hurley updated the status of the Fish and Wildlife riparian lands grant. MWA has requested and been granted an extension to this grant to December 2026. This will allow a structure management of the remaining funds. If the funds are spent before the extension date MWA can reapply for another grant.

Nature Conservancy Grant – This is a pass-through grant from Natrue Conservancy and will be used to relocate logs with root balls from a location in St. Johnsbury to the F&W acquisition site in Beebe Plain for wildlife management. The funds need to be invoiced by June 6, 2025. Bids have been requested from Logging Companies and are expected as soon as possible so the transport can be accomplished by June 1.

Phragmites management grant – MWA will be requesting additional funding (\$22,000) from VHCB to complete the management at Prouty Beach/VLT. This is due to not receiving the requested VOREC funding.

Mr. Hurley introduced Ben Applegate proposed new hire for the MWA field team.

Mr. Applegate is currently enrolled in a Master’s degree Research program at the University of Vermont. This program is a cooperative model that requires additional outside funding. MWA has signed an MOU with UVM and paid \$6500 to support his research. Going forward MWA and Mr. Applegate need to agree on a statement of work to support his research and thesis within the scope of MWA’s field season work.. He will be a salaried MWA employee funded by implementation, project development, and outreach capacity grants to work with Mr. Hurley and Ms. Gianoni. During this fieldwork Mr. Applegate will also be able to focus on particular areas to support his Master’s Thesis. Mr. Applegate’s proposed salary for the field season will be \$24/hour with the hope that upon completion of his Master’s program he will continue to work for MWA as a permanent employee.

Mr. Applegate believes the scope of the MWA projects align with his thesis. He would also like to explore plant identification and river assessment for fish habitat in the watershed.

Mr. Applegate anticipate his proposal will be available in the next month. He will be available for employment with MWA on or about May 1, 2025.

Mr. Hurley reported on status of use of DRONE by MWA. One of MWA’s partners is fully licensed as a DRONE pilot. He is available to fly for MWA by request. Mr. Latta is also available to fly for MWA. At the moment MWA does not need to move forward with purchasing a DRONE but could consider in the long term if one of the employees become licensed.

President's Report

Ms. Goulding reported that MWA submitted comments concerning proposed Yacht Club St-Benoit expansion.

Secretary's Report – Ms. MacKenzie moved to approve the Board Minutes- December 9, 2024, and approve the review and receipt by the MWA Board of the Executive Committee Minutes: January 16, 2025. Seconded by Mr. Chop. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report – No report

Administrative Specialist Report – See Administrative Specialist report attached to agenda. Handbook review will be at a special Executive meeting on March 27.

Recaps, Updates, and Upcoming

Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest needs to be signed by Ms. Torpey and Ms. Brown. Ms. Goulding should send via email.

MWA pamphlets have been printed but waiting on enclosure.

Snowshoe /Ski event a great success. Over 50 attendees

Cleanup Storage unit TBD date in May, the 21st possibly

Annual Meeting topic Geo-mapping August 13, 2025, at Eastside.

News and Brews – topic Logging and Forest management date TBD.

Bird Walk signups on website Newsletter – send topics to Ms. Lambert

No news from Partners – MCI, MCM, MemSEC John Aldridge has reached out to MWA for collaboration

Eagle Point canoe trip – in planning stages

New Business – Ms. Torpey reported on the status of the Wake Boat regulations. DEC will be redrafting the home Lake Rule. More to report in the future.

Zebra mussels continue to be an emerging problem as boats travel between lakes.

The Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:35

Respectfully submitted by
Mary Pat Goulding
Secretary MWA