

MWA Board meeting March 13, 2024

Work Commons Conference Room and Remote connections

President, Tom Latta opened the meeting at approximately 5:00 p.m. Present: at Work Commons Conference room; Officers: Marnie Mackenzie (Vice President), Jennifer Hopkins (Treasurer), Mary Pat Goulding (Secretary); Board members: Attending Karen Hurby arrive approximately 5:10, via Zoom Beth Torpey. Guests: Peggy Bater, John Aldridge. Nathaniel Johns, Sonja Olson, Dennis Bond

Secretary's Report – Motion to approve of: Board Minutes, January 10, 2024 Executive Committee Minutes, Dec 21, 23; Jan 25, 24; Feb 15, 24 by Ms. Hopkins; Ms. Hopkins with corrections; Ms. Mackenzie seconded the motion. The motion was approved

Treasurer's Report – Ms. Hopkins reported that there has not been much change from January. MWA's accounts will be changing over the next quarter with the increase of salaries and the posting of expenses

Introduction of Guests:

John Aldridge New director of MemSEC introduced himself to the MWA Board and welcomed future collaboration.

Nathaniel Johns New Clean water Programs Manager at CD. Introduced the concept of the Lahey funds as available to fill gaps in the region and help build capacity.

President's Report – Update on Marina Project Ribbon Cutting.

In process date May 15thish. Details to be discussed at Executive committee meeting

Subpoena - Re: State of Vermont v. 3M company, et al.

Nothing new

VCF Grant:

Awarded in December and \$20,000 available for use with another \$20,000 awarded in 2024

VORC:

Grant was awarded. The award amount was one half of what was requested. The distribution will need to be revised to accommodate all the partners with some level of funding. The requested funding for administration, publicity, and development of a website for the Newport City Downtown Develop (NCDD) were funding in-full. The NCDD has decided to reduce their request allowing for additional funds to be distributed among the 12 partners. Currently, the estimate for MWA for Phragmites Management is \$20,000. Mr. Latta asked if this was enough to cover MWA's proposed management. The answer is No, MWA will need to look for additional funds to complete the management proposal. Mr. Hurley is looking for additional funds from MWA's current grantors.

Vector Lake Program:

Ms. Torpey reported on the status of the Vector Lake program proposal. Development of this program for this year has been difficult. One reason is that the timeline has been very tight for requesting funding. Ms. Torpey has submitted two proposals to the State of Vermont, one for a Greeter Program and one for DASH at South Bay, Newport. The proposals were submitted as MWA being the grantee. Unfortunately, the Greeter proposal did not get submitted along with the Newport Town and Newport City Greeter proposals which would have been the ideal scenario. A second drawback to this submittal is that the Greeter Program grants are reimbursable and MWA does not have the funds nor workforce to support the program until reimbursement.

Ms. Torpey's current plan is to submit a proposal for a greeter program and a decontamination unit for South Bay for next year 2025. The DASH proposal submitted for 2024 is expected to be awarded but the lengthy permitting process for DASH may delay the start of this management. However, some DASH management will happen at South Bay this season. Despite the difficulties on getting this program started is viewed

positively throughout the Watershed for taking positive steps to protect the Lakes and Ponds in the Watershed from transfer invasive species.

Casella Leachate Spill:

The Board discussed how MWA should or should not speak to the PFAS removal prototype spill. The Board suggested that MWA be well informed and educated as to the why and how the spill happened and the consequential cleanup and possible impacts of the spill. MWA should not make any public statements about the event but should be able to answer any questions accurately if asked. Mr. Latta will be contacting Jeremy Labbe to get a tour of the event and discuss any consequences. It was also suggested that the State Solid Waste team be contacted to verify that the State is satisfied with the cleanup.

Overtime pay:

This item was tabled.

Project Manager's Report – Mr. Hurley reviewed the highlights of current activities, MWA was awarded the Beaver Grant for \$15,000, WUV has offered additional funds for project development which can be used for development work not covered by the GLF, Interviews for second Project coordinator will continue with a promising candidate The candidate seems well qualified and should adapt well with the current staff next week. MWA . See attached report attached.

ANC- Aquatic Invasives Grants - status update

The grant-in-aid for AIS applications have been submitted for Avрил Lakes, South Bay, Seymour, Salem, Shadow, Newport Town, Willoughby, . The Submittal was approximately over \$300,000 but the actual award is expected to be anywhere close to that amount. The anticipated award may be around 75% of the requested amount. MWA for the administration of this program will get a mid-season payment in September. Mr. Latta asked if there would be a benefit to have Newport City submitted their grant through MWA. Ms. Hopkins reported that she is in discussion with the City about joining with the other Lakes in the AIS grant-in-aid program.

Education and Outreach/Events:

Snowshoe event – Cancelled A replacement event for a spring walk has not been planned

Watershed News and Brews – upcoming 3/22. Plans for this event are complete.

Summer Symposium topic - No topic has been chosen. Mr. Latta suggested Cyanobacteria as a topic. The Board decided that Cyanobacteria as a symposium topic should be explored. MS. Goulding will contact Peter Isles for suggested panelists.

Libraries love Lakes – Peggy Barter reported that there is a national library program to educated about lakes and water quality. Ms. Barter will send further information about this program.

New Business

Employee search – The Board voted to approve the proposed Administrative specialist job description. Ms. Mackenzie moved to approve the Admin specialist job description. Ms. Hopkins seconded. Motion carried. No further discussion.

Greeter Training – DEC has requested MWA host a Greeter training in the Northeast Kingdom. A location for this training is being explored. Ms. Goulding has contacted Lake Region High School to determine availability.

Other Business

Partnership Updates: MCI, MCM:

Mr. Albright reported on current happenings at MCM with the hiring of a director for MemSEC.

No specific report from MCI however, Mr. Hurley is exploring a partnership grant with MCI and another Eastern Township Watershed group.

Zebra mussel monitoring:

Ms. Hurby asked about the results from this summers US monitoring. Ms. Hopkins reported that no new infestations have been found however, one of the monitoring locations will be repositioned because it is not in quite waters.

Ed-Camp

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for May 8, 2024, at 5 pm.

Ms. Mackenzie moved to adjourned, Ms. Hopkins seconded.

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Pat Goulding

Secretary MWA