

MWA NOTES
MWA Board meeting May 16, 2023
Work Commons Conference Room and Remote connections

President, Tom Latta opened the meeting at 5:05 p.m. Present: at Work Commons Conference room; Officers: Marnie MacKenzie (Vice-President), Jennifer Hopkins (Treasurer), Mary Pat Goulding (Secretary), David Converse (ex-officio), Doug Coutts, Bryan Dickenson, Karen Hruby.

Board members: Farley Brown, Beth Torpey, Patrick Hurley, Project Manager Zoomed-in at 5:09 and 5:22 respectively. Valerie Dillon, MWA member attended by telephone.

Secretary's Report:

Regular Board Meeting Minutes -Motion to accept the March 8, 2023, and 3/30/23 & 4/20/23 Executive Committee meetings minutes. Motion made by Ms. Brown and Seconded – Ms. Torpey . No discussion, Approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

Financials for 3/20/23 see spread sheet. Ms. Hopkins reported realignment of the report has started with reporting the employees gross salaries. Further realignment will be done by next meeting. The purpose of this will be to clearly show the available amount of funds MWA will have at any one time. Certificates of Deposits are staggered for cash flow. Sublease new office space \$185/month.

President's Report:

1. Three scholarships were awarded. Announced on MWA website but needs to be sent to print media.
2. Social media is functioning well thanks to Ms. Gianoni. Information posted on the Website is automatically posted on Facebook and is available for posting on Instagram. This also works in reverse order.
3. Brochures have been distributed throughout the watershed by Ms. Hruby
4. Membership renewals will be on individual anniversary of annual membership. Reminder letters will be sent and a new thank you letter will follow up once the membership is received.
5. YDP is on schedule.
6. Tabling at Farmer's Market – Ms. Hruby will take on this initiative. She will coordinate with Ms. Goulding to get the tabling materials. Because MWA is a nonprofit and not selling any items we will have the space gratis, however a motion was made by Ms. MacKenzie and seconded by Mr. Latta to make a \$100.00 donation to the Market. Pam Ladds will publicize MWA's presence at the market once.
7. There was a discussion about MWA and MCM sharing a table at the market. MCM will speak to Judy Szych about having a table at the market. Ms. Hruby encouraged the board to consider having hats available for sale at the MWA table and other business throughout the watershed. Ms. Hruby agreed to be responsible for hat sales. The hats will cost \$15.00 from Memphremagog Press. A preference for "charter hats" was expressed. Mr. Hurley suggested that decorative hydrographic maps might be good swag for MWA to sell as well, these could be made in house. Also, a router map of the lake could also be a salable item as a fund raiser. The board decided to start with hats and see how sales progress before venturing into other items.
8. Ms. Hruby inquired about the electro fishing that was happening on the Lake yesterday. Mr. Hurley explained that it was F&W and the USGS doing research on the brown bullheads. The fish are not injured in this process and are thrown back into the Lake.

Highlights for the Vermont Quebec Steering Committee Meeting , May 11:

The members of the board in attendance were – Mr. Coutts, Ms. Goulding, Mr. Hurley, Ms. Torpey (representing NVDA) Ms. Goulding reported some of the agenda items and highlighted a presentation from the Canadian Government on PFAS and upcoming regulations. A focus of this presentation was that no PFAS is being detected in the drinking water in Magog or Sherbrook. Mr. Coutts reported that MCI was pleased with presentation by Pete LaFlamme reporting on the status of permits for NEWSVT. Mr. Coutts also reported that MCI was impressed with Mr. Hurley's work and Mr. Coutts verified that he could share the Project manager's reports at MCI Board meeting. Mr. Hurley has invited MCI down to tour some of MWA's project sites and exchange technical project information. Mr. Hurley will be on the agenda for the November Steering Committee meeting. Ms. Torpey also thought the PFAS presentation was well done and emphasized that it came from the perspective of the Health Department. She also mentioned that the PFAS presentation correlated with the DEC monitoring findings that Lake level PFAS is very low and considered background.

The agenda and minutes from the Steering Committee meeting will be on the MWA website.

Project Manager's Report: See attached report. No additional discussion other than the following.

MWA is under contract with Dale E. Percy, Inc. from Stowe, for the Marina project and is expected to begin in July. Ms. Gianoni will be overseeing this project.

Other watershed projects are.

Barton 30% design slightly different than anticipated but straight forward permitting proceeding for 100% design.

Glover - Greenleaf Designs has been hired for "Green stormwater" designing the town office and community school. A 30% design is expected this summer.

Riparian Land program - Ms. Gianoni has been assessing the Lake Salem tributary area.

CWSP – application submitted grant application for the Farrow Farm restoration. The request is approximately \$135,000.00. This project is also being matched by DEC and GLFC, and the Nature Conservancy. This project is expected to be implemented in late summer. Mr. Hurely will be overseeing this project. This project should result in a 28-kilogram phosphorus reduction per year.

Ms. Torpey asked how Mr. Hurley arrived at the amount of phosphorus reduction. Mr. Hurley responded that each component was evaluated/calculated individually as to their benefit.

New Business:

1. Approval for Annual Website Support Plan with NEKinfo Association – A motion was made to approve a 1 year 1 hour per month plan with NEKinfo Ms. MacKenzie moved, and Ms. Hruby seconded.
2. Ms. Hopkins suggests that MWA should donate to the Lake Associations that are managed by the AIS to help compensate them for the loss of income in this summer's AIS funding. Ms. Hopkins moved to donated back MWA's Management fee to the various AIS programs that have been prorated. Ms. MacKenzie seconded – approved unanimously.
3. Ms. MacKenzie moved that MWA join all local Lake Associations and request reciprocity with MWA memberships. The motion also included Maidstone Lake Association even though they are not in the Memphremagog watershed. Ms. Torpey seconded. Passed unanimously. Ms. Hopkins asked the Board to set a dollar amount for said memberships. The amount agreed to is \$50.00.
4. The MWA annual meeting will be at the Belvedere on the waterfront August 10 time to be determined. Kate Forrer from Vermont Woodlands will be the speaker for the evening.
5. Conflict of Interest policy - This is a "risk assessment" requirement for CWSP contracting through FHCB. The draft uses the FOVLAPs Conflict of Interest document as a model. Mr. Hurley suggested we look at another model as well before finalizing. Ms. Hopkins suggested that we also research if employees should be included in this document. A final draft will be sent to the Board as soon as possible for approval via email. Mr. Coutts asked if MWA has a Board indemnification insurance policy. Ms. Hopkins agreed that this is necessary and needs to consult with our insurer.
6. Ms. Hopkins made motion to clarify the signature authorization of grant applications and awards. These documents require the full MWA board approval and Executive Committee or in an emergency situation the executive committee only. Further subordinate project related documents may be signed by the project manager (rationale for this motion can be found in the April 20,2023 executive Committee notes) Motion seconded by Ms. Mackenzie. Passed Unanimously.
7. Proposed Job description for Office Administrator – Board is asked to review and comment at the next meeting. Ms. Hopkins suggested that a more appropriate job title might Program Administrator.

Education and Outreach/Events:

North Country High school students are available to cut Phragmites prior to the end of the school year. Dates to be determined.

Tactical Basi Planning Meetings please attend.

AIS Training MWA is cohosting Greeter training program.

Bird Walk, Eagle Point Wetland Paddle, and River Clean-up are on schedule.

Other Business:

Mr. Coutts reported that The collaboration between University of Sherbrook and Auburn University is postpone for a year. Future collaborations may be with Laval University and the Vermont Fish and Wildlife – details to come.

MCI and DUMP will have a joint meeting on May 26, 2023, in Magog.

The MCI annual meeting will be June 3, 2023, all are welcome to attend.

Phil White is looking for participation in his Kingdom Swim parade. Mr. Hurley will provide his boat as a float and fly an MWA banner. Application for participation in the parade must be at the City Clerk's office.

NOTE: If more detail of the discussions is desired, please request the link to the recording of this meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 6:57 pm

Respectfully submitted:

Mary Pat Goulding
Secretary