

## **MWA March Meeting Notes**

**4:30 p.m. Wednesday March 3, 2021**

President Dave Converse opened the meeting at 4:30 a.m. Present: Officers- Stan Chop (secretary), Jennifer Hopkins (treasurer), Board members – Louise Beaudry, Doug Coutts, Tom Latta, Heather Murphy, Hillary Potter. Members: Ben Copans, Mary Pat Goulding, Patrick Hurley, Peter Lepine: guests: Jim Brangan, Erik Voegtlin (We met via ZOOM.)

### **Jim Brangan-Guest Presenter on National Heritage Area and UNESCO Biosphere Designations.** Jim is the Assistant Director, Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership

Jim wears many hats. He is the LCBP (Lake Champlain Basin Program) Cultural Heritage and Recreation Coordinator. He told us there are 9000 square miles included in the Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership (CVNHP). His main area of attention is that of recreational and cultural resources. Lake Champlain Special Designation Act was developed in 1990 identifying Lake Champlain as a resource of national significance. Management plans were cumbersome at first but now are focused on four areas of emphasis: clean water, healthy ecosystem, informed public, and thriving communities- the last being Jim's main area of how people use the lake for recreation. There are 55 National Heritage Sites in the US. Heritage sites have a landscape and story to tell. The CVNHP is the only one with "partnership" in the name. The big goals of CVNHP are protecting and interpreting resources. Eleven counties in the US and five counties in Quebec are included - Great Lake Fisheries Commission money can be used to fund programs on the Quebec side. The National Park Service funds are used for the US portion of the heritage site. The National Park Service passport can be stamped at 11 locations in the Heritage area. The bike trail from Manhattan to Montreal runs through this heritage site. There are many wayside exhibits, which have been greatly successful. Two interpretive themes are: Making of Nations; Corridor of Commerce-valued as a corridor of travel over the years. The 50th anniversary of the Clean Water Act is coming up next year.

Jim spoke of the importance of biospheres. (UNESCO Designation started in 1971) There are more than 700 designations worldwide. They are all unified by 4 major strategic and sustainable goals with 17 subgoals identified. The Champlain Adirondack Biosphere Reserve (now called Network) was designated in 1989 after being nominated by the Dept of State.

### **Secretary's Report**

Tom Latte made the motion to approve the minutes from February. Jennifer seconded the motion. The motion passed.

### **Treasurer's Report**

We got a check for \$400 from the GoFundMe account that Beth set up. Thank you, Beth.

## **Current Grant Status Updates**

### **Regional Aquatic Invasive Species Grant**

The regional grant has been submitted on behalf of 7 towns. Seymour Lake rejoined our partnership and new this year is Newport Town who is applying funds for milfoil management at the Whipple Point Fishing Access. We lost Newport City, as they will be applying on their own.

### **Riparian Buffers – VT F&W/GLRC**

Patrick is working with Pete Emerson regarding the Johns River riparian restoration. They are working on a draft proposal for the board to review. It would hopefully provide capacity for MWA to support itself.

### **WUV Tactical Basin Planning Workplan Grant**

Ben and Patrick are working on the Workplan Grant, starting with the Lakewise and Lake Shoreline Projects. Patrick and Ben are working on putting the Stormwater Collaborative back together.

## **Committee Reports & Updates**

### **Aquatic invasive species**

Tom reported that Newport Town has approved \$5000 for DASH (diver assisted suction harvesting) for the Whipple Point/ Strawberry Acres access. The DASH work at the fishing access includes making a channel to keep people out of invasives. An additional \$3600 from Newport Marina Condo Ass will enable the team to also work at the marina, where they will work around the piers.

The committee plans on developing on a lake wide control plan.

### **Youth Programing**

Elementary- Mary Pat and Stan are collaborating to plan for the Youth Discovery Program. Middle School- Hillary talked of the unit plan the teachers are working on. They worked 6 hours on ironing out plans at their last in-service day. Designing theories and solutions on Lake Memphremagog is the major objective of the study unit. The students will be looking at the differences between Scott's Cove and Hall's Creek at Eagle's Point. The students will devise a theory on differences. Students will ask questions in discourse. Students will learn how to share and organize data. Students will have to make models. Engineering design process. The Northern Star will be used to make the emotional connection in the fall. Hillary will probably start with 7th graders. (120 or so students; Charleston has 15 7th graders, if Louise ends up joining with her class)

### **MCI –updates**

Doug wanted to know if we can use Chrome to translate MCI French information that he shares via email.

### **Watershed Signage Initiative**

Doug mentioned we have good news and bad news: We don't have the signs yet. There are no 'welcome to the watershed' signs anywhere in Vermont. Oliver from the state suggested we talk with our legislators and get their support.

Hillary is soliciting information for the newsletter, especially articles and little bio's on our new folks. Hillary requested that Ben could contribute, maybe about the Basin Plan process.

### **Other Activities / Business**

#### **Spring event suggestions:**

Hillary, Dave, Mary Pat and Erik will work on a boat parade along. Let's meet as a committee and hash it out.

Doug mentioned that Rubenstein would fund retooling the Champlain Pamphlet to fit the Memphremagog Watershed.

Oliver Pierson suggested that we consider hiring an intern. Stumbling blocks are housing, matching the salary and supervising.

Doug wanted to know if he should talk with Sanders about the Heritage designation. He asked if it is worthwhile. Mary Pat suggested that other partners should be pulled in. City, Land Trust and all the groups related to what MWA does need to be informed. We all agreed it was worthwhile.

Our meeting ended at 6:30.

#### **MWA's Monthly Board Meeting schedule:**

**Apr 7, 2021 04:30 PM Jul 7, 2021 04:30 PM**

**May 5, 2021 04:30 PM Aug 4, 2021 04:30**