

MWA May Meeting Notes

4:30 p.m. Wednesday 5 May, 2021

President Dave Converse opened the meeting at 4:30 a.m. Present: Officers- Stan Chop (secretary), Jennifer Hopkins (treasurer), Board members – Tom Latta, Heather Murphy, Hillary Potter, Doug Coutts, and Beth Torpey. Members: Valerie Dillon, Mary Pat Goulding, Patrick Hurley, Lynn Jenness, Don Hendrich and Peter Lepine (We met via ZOOM.)

Secretary's Report: Doug made the motion to accept the April minutes and Heather seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Treasurers' Report: All is fine. Patrick's paycheck will be released later today. There was not much posted lately.

Doug congratulated Patrick for two grants. Jennifer and Mary Pat said High Meadows is anxious to give us money.

Aquatics Grants: Jennifer said the program was changed a little. We still only get 5% administration fee. We don't really get much money, but a worthwhile program.

Tom Latta submitted permits for milfoil control at Whipple Point and the Newport Marina. There will be 3 milfoil projects on the lake this year; the city is installing mats at the dock.

Riparian Buffer Grant: We submitted our first invoice to Fish and Wildlife. Patrick mentioned that we are going to send a letter to the landowners that MWA will be looking at their properties on the Johns River. Patrick also talked with Northwoods about their assessment work. Doug asked Patrick about landowners being sensitive to people trespassing their property. Patrick reiterated that the letter will inform landowners that MWA and Fish and Wildlife folks will possibly be walking their streambank.

He has ordered a computer and is getting software. Patrick will communicate with Stan on Thursdays regarding his work week.

Prouty Beach Project: Mary Pat stated that the city has started their end of the bike trail. A wide swath of the old MWA buffer was excavated. Many of the mature plants that were uprooted will be replanted after the trail is done. It is the city's responsibility to replace plants. Tomorrow Meg Carter and Patrick will meet to designate a path through the pollinator patch. The path will be grass. There will be uprights with rope along the trail. The Vermont Land Trust bridge will be done in June. The path on the farm will be completed in July.

Patrick asked if there was a plan of approach for the transplanting. Mary Pat said all went pretty quickly with pulling out the trees and shrubs. Luckily there has been rain to keep the roots wet.

Youth Discovery: Mary Pat mentioned two folks volunteered to help with Youth Discovery.

Tactical Basin Grant: Patrick has done a vast amount of the work that needs to be done. He needs to meet with Ben to see what he needs from us. There's a few loose ends regarding Barton he will follow up on.

Implementation Grant: A WUV Project Development Grant awarded last week includes stormwater management projects in Glover and Barton. Additionally Patrick will be screening wetlands for restoration feasibility and need. Wetlands are under represented in our TBP. There's much interest from the TNC in the Clyde River. We could use their partnering to advance our projects.

Mary Pat said High Meadows Funds will be sending on the remainder of the operational support about \$9,000. Jennifer needs to write a financial report for them.

Committee Reports

Boat Parade: Jessica said we don't need an application. We don't need to have police presence. There will be an entry fee of \$25.00. It will start around 6:00 PM for a sunset cruise. We'll go around the bluffs to Horseneck and crossover by the lighthouse. The date is August 7 with a rain date on the 14th.

Hillary and David just said to spread the word!

Youth Programing: Hillary heard back from Jim Davis. He thinks he will have money for the middle school program. There is \$10,000 from Coventry allocated for the elementary school for education on the boat. Jennifer sent an inquiry regarding Rubenstein's production of a booklet.

Shots Were Fired Against the Secretary because he doesn't send out the agenda requests.

Scholastic Committee: Lynn and Don said we had six applicants and two were awarded to North Country students, Corbin Brueck and Sterling Choquette. They were awarded \$750 scholarships.

Let's congratulate Heather on her research. Heather expects to work out of a lab in Burlington. Mary Pat asked that she share her paper.

Lake in Crisis: Mary Pat briefed us on Pete Emerson's statement regarding research analysis on the brown bullheads. \$110,000 will be specific to L. Memphremagog. Zebra mussels are moving south. Doug is requesting a net from Peter to stop the spread of mussels. Money will be requested from Mexico to pay for it. IJC suggestions will be addressed through the Service Provider program.

Report on Lake in Crisis Meeting: The meeting will be via zoom. Dump preferred a zoom meeting on the 19th. Beth mentioned the state still wants to work with watershed organizations including DUMP. Oliver will be contacting stakeholders to convene a meeting. The objective of the meeting is to get to know each other. Doug thought the meeting with VPR went very well, thanks to Mary Pat. The state has responded to DUMP's Lake in Crisis petition.

Partnership Update with MWA and MCI: Peter said there is a lot going on. A position paper was sent to all municipalities. There will be a position paper published on pleasure boats. Attention is focused on zebra mussels. Environmental concerns about the Owl's Head project are taking up time. There are 4 patrollers this year. The U. of Sherbrooke will be setting up continuous monitoring buoys to collect data. Doug mentioned his efforts with Rubenstein and

their interest in working with Quebec province. Robert has been very dynamic since his presidency started. Peter mentioned the mailing membership program they just conducted. Hillary talked about enticing membership. Jennifer asked what is included in the letter. A solicitation letter, a postcard and a return envelope are included.

Heather asked whether the buoys were part of the global monitoring network. Both Doug and Peter would like more info on that network.

Paddle: Hillary said she would check with Meghan about doing the paddle again. Jennifer mentioned we should do Halls Creek again for financial reasons. Maybe Patrick could lead us.

Greeters: Beth said Seymour needed a few more greeters, paying \$12/hr.

Other: Dave talked about the board zooming to prepare for the DUMP meeting. Lynn said she would share information regarding former membership mailings.

The meeting was adjourned. Next meeting will be June 2nd at 4:30 pm.