

MWA Board of Directors Meeting

4:30 p.m. Wednesday, 6 May 2020

President Dave Converse opened the meeting at 4:30 p.m. Present: Officers: Stan Chop (secretary), Jennifer Hopkins (treasurer), Board members – Beth Torpey, Bill Round, Louise Beaudry, Member: Mary Pat Goulding. Also attending were John Frye, administrative director, and Ben Copans. (We met via ZOOM.)

Secretary's Report:

All read the notes. No corrections were required. Beth motioned to accept the notes and Bill seconded it, motion approved.

Treasurer's Report:

MWA did a 990EZ tax return this year. Jennifer reposted the designated funds to reflect MWA's utilization. The balance, 276 dollars, was designated for Youth Discovery it should go to education. Jennifer said we are doing fine.

Welcome:

David welcomed Louise to the board, and Louise shared some of her professional background.

Administrative Director's Report:

A written director's was sent to board members. John asked if there were any questions.

Prouty Beach: John thinks we are in good shape. Lyn of Watersheds United Vermont (WUV) was wondering where we are with the grant application. We still have a couple of permits to get. John doesn't know the timing of the install, perhaps in late June. It's a matter of coordinating the plants with the crew. Annie from NECTAR and Jess from the City are working with Sacha Pealer from the state about permits.

Clean Water Service Provider (CWSP) initiative: John reported on the status of VCLF's draft application to be the Memphremagog CWSP. Another review meeting has been scheduled, MWA has been requested to supply a list of lake organizations and to assist in writing the staff job description.

Aquatic Invasive Species Grant: Beth spoke about the permits needed for greeters to be on the fishing accesses. There will be limited funding of these grants, because of covid 19 funding has been delayed, but the towns still need to apply for permits.

John joined a webinar with High Meadows today. A communications expert spoke about how board members should connect with our funders. Members should telephone our funders to make a personal touch base.

John will connect with Lynn and Betsy Monday via zoom regarding our grant.

There is nothing more to add regarding the riparian project. We will see what Northwoods will do this summer.

Strategic Plan:

Bill sent out the plan but hasn't heard from anyone regarding the plan. John thought the document looked pretty good. Bill is more than open for recommendations or changes. It's a living document. Beth mentioned it was very well done.

Report on Canceled Activities:

The Annual meeting date will be determined by Covid-19 directives. Mary Pat suggested we have the meeting on the Northern Star, perhaps this September. It's just a thought. Dave mentioned MCM didn't know when they can run the boat. We shared information regarding the boat with Louise and John.

Status of the Eagle Point Bird Walk is still undetermined (Hillary's update arrived after meeting.) Mary Pat asked about the Eagle Point paddle which is usually held in June. David said he would contact Hillary to see if something was scheduled.

Committee Reports:

Newsletter: The newsletter went out.

Water Quality: Ann Bove's Invasive Species training is still scheduled for July.

Membership: There are now 22 members with an income of \$1279; 2 new members, 4 returning after skipping at least one year and one business renewal. Mary Pat said she would compose a letter to remind folks to renew membership.

Scholarship: MWA awarded two scholarships. There were 7 applications from all the schools. Both applicants were awarded \$750. *Don Hendrich sent this info: The Scholarship Committee (Sara McKenny, Lynn Jenness, and me) met in April and awarded two MWA scholarships. The first was to Braydon Leach. He will be studying Civil and Environmental Engineering. The second was to Joshua Kelley who will be studying Environmental Science. Both are Lake Region students and they were awarded \$750 each. Hope this helps- and stay well.*

Other Business: We received \$2500 grant from the High Meadows Fund to provide general support while John gets up to speed.

We received a certificate of appreciation for our participation in ICJ. Beth explained what the goal of IJC was for the benefit of John and Louise. She mentioned that it was a fabulous report. Ben said he would send John a link for the report. Ben expressed his concerns with the report's inaccuracy in reporting the amount of agricultural land in our watershed and asked everyone to read at least the introduction.

Dave asked if we heard anything more from Ducks Unlimited. We haven't. Dave explained the plan. Mary Pat will reach out to Patrick, our DU contact.

John shared information about county-wide invasive species collaboration between organizations to tackle the problem. Groups like this help leverage grant applications. John and Beth are involved and mentioned that the collaboration sounds like a good idea with which to be involved. Katherine Hancock of VLT's Bluffside Farms was the coordinator reaching out.

The Next meeting will be 10 June. Zoom likely will be the venue.

We adjourned at 5:38.