

## **MWA Board of Directors Meeting**

**4:30 p.m. Wednesday, November 20, 2019, Work Commons**

President Dave Converse opened the meeting at 4:30 p.m. Present: Officers: Stan Chop (secretary), Jennifer Hopkins (via phone) Board members – Hillary Potter, Beth Torpey, Bill Round, Valerie Dillon, Andy Major; Administrative Director, Steven Poulos; Members-Gail Lynch, Mary Pat Goulding

### **Secretary's Report:**

After discussion of corrections needing to be made, Bill moved and Beth seconded the motion to accept the September minutes. The motion passed.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Mary Pat mentioned we received a \$1000 donation from an anonymous donor to be used at her discretion.

Jennifer spoke via phone. We are doing fine except for membership. Jennifer is hoping to clear up receivable and payables in the future. Jennifer mentioned we have a great deal of money. We haven't fully expended all of our grant money. We haven't spent any of the Casella money. A certificate of deposit is coming due early next year. Technically we are looking very good.

### **Administrator's Report:**

Steven Poulos was introduced to the group. Steven gave a little background information on himself. Fisheries biology was his main area of studies.

There may be some lag time for communication when Steven is working in Marshfield because some projects run on some of the days when Steven is in Marshfield. He can be reached by email at Northwoods.

Brief summary of administrator's report:

Steven will be working on securing funds for the turn-out. The design is done including the stabilization issue. The city would like to do most of the work. Steven is working with Tom to determine how much money would be needed.

Steven's training and experience has been with stream restoration. Pete Emerson received a lot of money, so Steven is hoping to collaborate with him. There is \$5000 allocated for meeting with folks that have had their landscaping assessed. WUV talks with eighteen people have had their properties assessed. Most people are seasonal.

He has allocated time for the IJC report which has been time consuming.

Steven has been studying the tactical basin plan (2017). It explains where nutrient loading is affecting the basin. Has been getting up to speed on that.

Beth mentioned winter is grant writing time. We need to look outward for grant money. Beth is working on a grant regarding starry stonewort. Hillary mentioned an aquatic nuisance grant of which Kim Jensen shared information, Hillary will coordinate with Kim.

Steven mentioned we need a strategic plan to keep us on track so we can highlight responsibilities. Perhaps we can work on a 5 year plan. There was a discussion of what come first ....the cart or the horse in regards to grant or strategic planning.

We need to make a motion to move money Kendall didn't use. The board needs to vote on that. Bill motioned that the balance of the unexpended funds of the invasive species grant funds be transferred from Kendall to Beth. Hillary seconded it. The motion passed.

Let's evaluate the IJC evaluation.

Beth wanted to make sure we are good to pay Kendall; she is the best to work on the report. We don't need to do a vote at this time.

Who is in charge of hiring AmeriCorps members? Mary Pat is working on a Newport City petition to get money for an Americorps person (which requires \$8,000) to work in March. We are looking for 3,000 from Derby and Newport City. We are looking for 1000 from Island Pond, Charleston, and Morgan; and 500 from Newport Town. 70 percent of the job focuses on invasive species. The person will work as greeter and trainer among other duties. Outreach will be essential. The AmeriCorps person receives a set amount and an educational stipend which works out to about \$10 an hour.

Mary Pat mentioned a zebra mussel report done by a McGill graduate student will be released soon.

**Newsletter:** Gail mentioned we might not have access to Ethan Allen printer. The high school might be able to do the printing. Taryn from Memphremagog Press could also do the layout. We talked about the newsletter coming out before town meeting. So, will do it in January. It could include Steven's intro, IJC info. Ben mentioned the farmer's success story. Maybe someone could do a rain garden article.

(Send to email to request items for newsletter).

### **Water quality:**

Valerie mentioned the winds pulled up phosphorus from the bottom of the lake around Columbus Day. Signage was not put up. The health department hasn't been posting warnings. MWA can't post. Beth mentioned that we coordinate a meeting this spring. Money is needed to rent the career center for indoor and outdoor invasive species training if we contract with Ann Bove.

Training would take 8 hours. About 800 dollars would be needed in all. We need to max at \$1000. Dave expressed that it would be good use of a \$1000. Hillary moved that we approach Ann Bove to do training at a max of a \$1,000. Beth seconded it. The motion passed. She charges \$45 an hour. August would be a good time for the training.

**Membership:**

At the Northern Star meeting this morning it was discussed that maybe MWA could do a joint membership of 50 dollars. The question came up with, "What do we get for membership?" Ice fishing for kids was discussed and it was mentioned that the park department has the gear.

**Scholarship.**

Too early for that.

**Other:**

Steven is here so he would welcome folks to stop by, talk and drink beer

It was mentioned Facebook and our website is static. Pam would work on the facebook page.

Steven suggested before and after photos be included in our PR.

The next meeting will be 8 January 2020. Same time and place.

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 PM.