

MWA November Meeting Notes

4:30 p.m. Wednesday, 3 November, 2021

President Dave Converse opened the zoom meeting at 4:38 PM Present: Officers- Stan Chop (secretary), Jennifer Hopkins (treasurer), Board members – Doug Coutts, Tom Latta, Heather Murphy, Hillary Potter, Beth Torpey. Members: Ben Copans and Valerie Dillon and Patrick Hurley, staff.

Secretary's Report:

Stan made a motion to accept the minutes of 6 October 2021 and Tom seconded the minutes. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report:

Jennifer explained that she has updated the High Meadows escrow account to show our utilization of those funds along with our matching funds contribution for the MMEC (Memphremagog Maritime Education Center) Assessment grant.

Jennifer presented MWA's 2020 990 tax return to the board as required by the IRS. It has been reviewed by Hayes Accounting. There were no questions and no action was taken.

Current Grant Status Updates:

Regional Aquatic Nuisance Control: The town's final reports are due 15 November. There are 10 different reports. Newport Town hired Lighthouse Marine to do some work that they didn't complete. Monies were refunded by the company, but some formalities with the State need to be resolved regarding the grant. Tom was not satisfied with the work that they did at the Marina and explained why. Tom will look into the possibility of suppressing milfoil by using burlap which is biodegradable.

Riparian Buffers: Patrick shared a powerpoint regarding his riparian work. Patrick is at the stage of having all of the maps completed. Fifty have been reviewed by the rest of the team. He explained the highlights of the letter he is sending to landowners.(draft copy attached) Hopefully he will get the approval of the other team members, and he hopes to meet with landowners who remain here for winter. He is wondering how to keep the effort going during the winter. If there isn't a good response from landowners he is wondering how to keep the value of the efforts front and center.

He talked of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) which is spearheading headwater restoration projects. Patrick thinks the headwaters of the Clyde River could benefit from low-tech process restoration. Little "check" dams can be built on small tributaries with brush and such found nearby. The dams slow down water and capture sediment and promotes habit complexity. Patrick may become a co-trainer of restoration strategy with Shane Jacquith from TNC. Patrick

requested and was granted permission to send an official MWA letter of support to TNC about this proposed project. (copy attached)

WUV Barton, Glover, Wetlands Project Development Grant:

Realtor Zoom Meeting: Patrick was disappointed that only 4 realtors met regarding the wetlands that could use water quality improvement. At least the meeting generated MWA visibility with the realtors.

Patrick is driving around looking for wetland improvement possibilities. He's working on developing the most efficient driving sites. He identified 130 stops on his "not quite wetlands tour."

MWA was awarded \$33,877 in funding for design and implementation of a stormwater project in Barton (\$33,877).

Patrick met with the town of Glover officials to discuss expanding the riparian buffer and/or installing a rain garden at their property near Town Hall. This would not be a big project but it is an opportunity for MWA and locals to work together to implement a stormwater project.

Tactical Basin Planning: Patrick has been working with Ben updating the "Tactical Basin report card." This is a list of potential projects for each watershed that has been developed over the past years involving forest lands, farms, etc. Also he's been coordinating with Sacha, Ben, and Sarah regarding Stern's Brook water quality needs.

New/pending grant applications:

The amount of \$352,000 has been awarded for the Newport Marine Services Stormwater Drainage Implementation project. Tom was able to encourage the condo association to contribute \$5000 to the cause which cinched the award. Watershed Consulting did the design under a previous grant.

Other Updates:

Annual Meeting-We are looking at January for the meeting. Perhaps MWA should split the leachate meeting and annual meeting into two separate sessions.

Committee Reports:

Membership-Maybe we could do some kind of fund-raising-membership campaign. Patrick mentioned the TNC could be very helpful with PR.

Newsletter-Hillary said that Valerie has done all the work. Valerie is trying to pull in the information, but Hillary works on the format. They are working as a team. Folks should be submitting the good things MWA is doing for publication.

Partnership Updates:

MCM: USDA awarded MCM \$12,000 grant for a consultant to prepare a strategic plan to

change the Gateway Center into an echo type facility. USDA provided 70 per cent of the funding, MWA has provided the 30% match. The consultant will come up with a business plan. Doug reported that the EB5 monies are now available, and it looks favorable that MCM will receive some of that money.

MCI Report

Doug mentioned zebra mussels were found in Lake Massawippi. The watershed association there has bought a boat to help deal with the issue and closed one access point for better control.

There may be a lawsuit against the local municipality of Owl's Head because of the massive building project that has been going on there.

Other Business:

Jennifer mentioned that Kendall Lambert is officially the Clean Water Program Manager for our basin's newly created Clean Water Service Provider and that she would do a presentation in the future. She also mentioned a fundraising opportunity -the Hospital needs lunch time relief for Covid testing employees. These would be 2 hour shifts and the Hospital would donate the equivalent of those wages to a non-profit.

The meeting adjourned at 6:02 PM.

The next planned meeting will be on 1 December at 4:30 PM.