

## MWA Board Meeting Notes November 4, 2020

Present via zoom: David Converse, President; Jennifer Hopkins, Treasurer; Stan Chop, Secretary; board members-Doug Coutts, Beth Torpey, Hillary Potter, Louise Beaudry; Peter Lepine and Mary Pat Goulding, members.

### Secretary's Report

Jennifer made a motion to accept the 9/9 minutes. Doug made a motion to second the motion. The motion passed.

### Treasurer's Report:

Jennifer mentioned and explained a slight discrepancy regarding the Prouty Beach project. The financial reports dated 10/31/20 were accepted by those present.

### Current Grant Status Updates:

Newport Marine Services Drainage/Numia - Jennifer mentioned that the city has agreed to 10 years of maintenance. Once the close out report is approved, and the final grant payment received, MWA will pay the consultant. There was coverage of the project in the Orleans Record and Newport Dispatch. The Newport Turn-out Project is being shelved for now.

Prouty Beach- Stage One has been completed and looking very nice. The signage needs to be completed. We are discussing with Ben to where some extra funds can be applied. The city will need to maintain the gardens. There is some erosion going on which will be the city's responsibility to fix. We can't use the extra money to work on that. Jennifer explained the Prouty and Marina Project for Peter's information.

Regional Aquatic Invasive Species -Jennifer mentioned it is better known as the Greeter Program and that we manage the grant funding for 6 lake organizations. Beth explained that she has been involved with the program since 1999. The lake organizations have to provide 25% match, all the organizations have done a good job filing reports. Maidstone is not exactly in our watershed but we are happy to be working with that lake organization. Beth mentioned that funding is always a limiting factor. Beth mentioned that she presented the idea of raising funds by charging a fee for kayaks or small craft which would go to clean water projects. Mary Pat and Beth spoke of the Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds. A decontamination unit can cost \$100,000 to set up and maintain. Doug mentioned that he talked with several legislature folks and heard that a lot of money would be sent our way to comply with IJC recommendations. Beth explained that \$250,000 from the Great Lakes Funding goes to Fish and Wildlife but the money has not been funneled to MWA as yet. MWA has not followed through on our phone conversation with Tom Berry. Mary Pat mentioned that Champlain is a line item in the budget. Memphremagog needs to become a line item. Discussion revolved around the Dunn property as well.

WUV LakeWise Grant-Jennifer mentioned that we hired Trevor Banister. He hit the ground running yesterday. There is only \$4,000 to apply to the project. Trevor mention it takes about 16 hours to design a project.

#### Committee Reports:

MCM/MWA middle school project - Louise and Hillary were not able to connect to the zoom meeting to update us. Doug said the Corps of Engineers could possibly provide funding for our projects. Louise later joined the meeting and discussion resumed regarding use of a boat with the middle school program.

Youth Discovery - Mary Pat has contacted school's third grade teachers regarding the program. Newsletter-Hillary has been collecting articles and photos. Print copy costs about \$250 for printing and \$100 on the mailing costs. We need board approval to send out the newsletters. Doug shared information on the Watershed Alliance Booklet. UVM prepared the booklet. Much of the content is watershed generic. Doug thought it would be nice to have a connection with the Alliance. Peter mentioned there is a booklet on MCI's website, as well, with a lot of other resources.

#### Other Business:

Retreat follow up - Mary Pat and Jennifer spoke to Rebecca about next steps. Can we develop a good job description for a director position? Beth thought the process was helpful but we can't do anything without funding. Doug mentioned we can use the existing description and modify it. We need to become more professional in approach to benefits, salary, etc. We need to look at our strategic plan. Mary Pat shared an outline Rebecca developed with us from our retreat. Rebecca needs to know from us if we want to proceed. We agreed that we should meet again January 9th or 16th for a half day. (2 hrs) Jennifer asked Peter to share MCI's employee handbook.

Date for Annual meeting- Peter mentioned we should make it short, sweet and efficient. MCI held their annual meeting on a Saturday. Let's try for a meeting on the 5th of December at 9:30 AM. We need to keep in mind that we are short one board member. Peter mentioned he could send us an English copy of the MCI by-laws.

Spring events – March to Spring -Let's get the newsletter out but we definitely can't have the party.

Setting time, date, location for next meeting

We will hold the December board meeting with the annual meeting, 9:30 AM, 5 December.