

MWA September Meeting Notes

4:30 p.m. Wednesday, 1 September, 2021

President Dave Converse opened the meeting at 4:30 PM Present: Officers- Stan Chop (secretary), Jennifer Hopkins (treasurer), Board members – Doug Coutts, Tom Latta present with Beth Torpey via zoom. Members: Mary Pat Goulding, Patrick Hurley with Valerie Dillon via zoom.

Secretary's Report:

Tom made a motion to accept the minutes of 8/4/21 and Doug seconded the minutes. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report:

Jennifer explained some of the income received during the last month.

Current Grant Status Updates:

Regional Aquatic Nuisance Control ANC grants:

We received and distributed the first ANC grant payment. Everything is on task. Tom provided an updated on Newport Town/Newport Marina Assoc ANC project - no milfoil was found at Strawberry Acres so work was started at the marina. However the permit also covered nuisance weeds, Tom will request the contractor, Lighthouse Marine, return to Strawberry Acres to remove them.

Riparian Buffers – VT F&W/GLRC

Patrick has made 42 maps which has occupied his time for the last month. Patrick shared with us how he puts together these maps and the information they provide. .

WUV Prouty Beach Project

Mary Pat mentioned that we will be purchasing more planting, there is about \$6,000 to spend by October. Amy Picotte of VT Lakes & Ponds pointed out some things the city could do to make the area better. The beach revegetation is coming in very nicely.

WUV Tactical Basin Planning Workplan Grants

The Spring/Summer support grant closed out two weeks ago. Patrick is now working under the 21-22 grant with Ben to initiate public discussions and input on tactical basin plan update

WUV Project Development Grant – Glover, Barton, Wetland

Patrick has been collecting estimates for the Barton design request. One estimate is low but he is concerned the contractor didn't fully understand the requirements.

The Glover folks are all supportive of the project, he is working getting the select board's approval. It appears that only a glorified rain garden is required. Patrick will be attending a virtual meeting on 28 September with real estate agents in an effort to identify wetland areas.

New/pending grant applications:

MWA is applying for 2 WUV grants – 1) funding for implementation of the Newport Marina Project and 2) funding for the design of a Barton stormwater retention system.

Committee Reports:

Phragmites Pulling Party – report on August 11, Part 2 scheduled for 9/2

It was a huge success with more than 12 Columbia Forest Products personnel participating along with a few MWA members. NorthWoods provided the instruction and Casella provided lunch and the dumpster. Tomorrow Columbia personnel return for another pulling party.

VIP - Patroller / Cyanobacteria / Lay Monitors

There is not much new. Hopefully the State will provide more organization next year.

Other Updates:

Annual Meeting

Mary Pat said it is in progress and she has contacted folks who can lead her to appropriate speakers related to leachate discussion.

Partnership Updates:

MCM

Doug explained a proposal to turn the Gateway Center into a marine education center. There is an available grant with a budget of \$12,000. The grant funding would go to such items as preparing business and strategic plans and floor design and layout. Doug indicated that VT Housing and Conservation Board is possibly contributing to the 35% matching requirements, if so only \$500 is needed. To assure that there would be sufficient funds to make the required match:

Tom made the motion to support MCM's grant proposal in an amount not to exceed \$4400. Stan seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Doug also mentioned the visit he, Lynn, Stan and Jane made to the Rubenstein Institute.

Discussion of Memphremagog Community Forum held by ANR on 8/24

Valerie mentioned that she took notes and others wondered if anyone caught the names of the water quality folks that spoke. She also mentioned the mayor's comment on atmospheric pollution, and she referred to the comment on septic systems of the lake properties.

Other Business:

None

The meeting adjourned at 6:23 PM.

The next planned meetings are 6 October, 3 November and 1 December at 4:30 PM.