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MFA Board Meeting Minutes

Date: October 14, 2023
Time: 9:30 am
Location: Paul Gundersen's home

Board Member Attendance: Harlan Johnson (President), Becky White (Vice President), Dave Vogt, Paul Gundersen, Marcia Vogt*. Absent: Adrienne Banaszynski (Treasurer), Brian White (Secretary)

Other Attendees: Dan Maxwell, Steve Johnson, Dave Blumer (LEAPS)

* Denotes remote/virtual attendance

CALL TO ORDER - Harlan Johnson, President

- The meeting was called to order at 9:42 am.

ATTENDANCE, AGENDA SPECIFICS AND CHANGES

- Review of attendees and guests, those present, remote, and absent.
- Becky announced Brian White has asked to step down from his role as Secretary. As Vice President, Becky will also serve as interim Secretary until another Board member is able to take on the role. Brian will continue to serve as director-at-large.
- There were no agenda change requests.

STANDING REPORTS

- a. Treasurer's Report - Adrienne Banaszynski
With Adrienne's absence, the Treasurer's report was supplied on 10/18 as follows:
 - Revenue and Expenses are through 10/18/23.
 - No income was report.
 - Expenses were \$7,944.78; largest expenses were \$2,385.68 for LEAPS payments.
 - The Check register was reviewed.
 - Current balance in MFA checking is \$13,919.58.
- b. Membership Report – Becky White
 - Current paid membership remains at 141.
 - Becky will review ideas for increased dues and membership under Old Business.
- c. Lake Management Committee – Steve Johnson

- Steve would like to defer his report to later in the meeting/agenda.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Final Recap and Review of 2023 MFA Annual Members Meeting – Harlan Johnson
 - All events held went well.
 - Annual meeting was a big hit; very positive vibe.
2. DNR Programs & Activities – Harlan Johnson
 - AIS Monitoring – Initiated and fostered better communication with contacts at both Washburn and Douglas counties.
 - Water testing via disk is still being handled by the Browns.
 - We will have more feedback on zebra mussel collection bricks later in October.
 - Dan will include money in our grant proposal.
 - Dave B. reported water testing continues in the deep hole by the dam and central basin. The DNR has a new web page on water monitoring that he will forward to the board.
 - Dave B. also said we used to do the North Basin and Serenity Bay in the past. Steve has volunteered to do the water quality monitoring for these areas.
3. CBCW 2023 results – Paul Gundersen
 - Paul provided an update on CBCW. Elayna Armstrong is the coordinator. There has been positive feedback on her work with the program on the Minong Flowage as well as other area lakes.
 - Paul submitted grant paperwork that was needed by 11/15.
4. Lake Maintenance – Lake Management Committee
 - Sunsetting the existing APM Plan (see New Business for 2024 Plan).
 - Dave V. took care of buoys that were loose. There is a need for an additional buoy by the sunken island where Popo's channel enters the lake (off the point from Dave & Julie Trygstad's). Harlan suggested we add in 2024.
 - Winter storage of buoys will continue to be on the shores at Dave V., Paul, and park by the docks.
 - Steve reported there were several tribal groups involved with the wild rice harvest. In addition, Steve also did some harvesting and the rice processor mentioned other area lakes did not have as great of a harvest as the flowage. Steve felt the recent drawdown attributed the increased harvest and number of tribal groups on the flowage.
 - Paul provided an update that various campgrounds on Cranberry Lake are looking to expand their number of RV sites over the next few years. On the Minong Flowage, the county campground expansion for an additional 50 RV sites is currently on hold. Seamans Resort is still moving forward with adding RV sites within the next year. All of these have a potential impact on the number of boats and spread of invasive species on the lake.
 - There was a general discussion about ordinances pertaining to short-term rentals, noise, county zoning (both Washburn and Douglas) and how this impacts the residents and visitors to the area.
 - Harlan has inquired with a private lake security company however has not yet had a response.

5. Miscellaneous Old Business

- Each board member will work on tackling the process of adding pertinent documents to MFA's digital file with Microsoft 365.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Aquatic Plant Management Plan – Dave Blumer

- Dave Blumer gave an extensive presentation outlining past APM Plans and future needs, posing questions to the board on various directions that can be taken. (Members-at-large may access the documentation presented via email to Harlan Johnson.)
- Bed mapping on 9-17-23 found 28 beds of EWM totaling 151.2 acres
- Six areas for management consideration are broken down as east of Smith Bridge, Serenity Bay, Cranberry Flowage/channel to Cranberry, North Basin, Central/Main Basin, Delacor pond.
- Management alternatives are: winter drawdown, herbicide treatment in spring and/or fall, DASH/diver removal, physical removal (hand and rake) or no management
- What criteria needs to be met for each management alternative for each area
- There is a lot of data to support what works, what doesn't.
- Dave has delayed his retirement and will stay on through 2024. The board expressed their appreciation to Dave Blumer continuing an additional year.
- Planning is in process for a new grant for a 3-to-4 year control. Steve will be the point person.

2. Minong Town Lakes Committee (MTLC) – Harlan Johnson and Paul Gundersen

- This committee is an approved, standing committee sponsored by the Town of Minong Board of Directors. In 2024 at least one MTLC officer will attend the monthly Minong Town Board meeting.
- The committee consists of two representatives from each lake that is considered within the governing boundaries of the town of Minong: Minong Flowage, Nancy Lake, Horseshoe Lake, Kimball Lake, Bass Lake, Big Sand and Gilmore Lake.
- The committee meets quarterly.
- Harlan and Paul will represent the Minong Flowage. Joe McGrath and Ron Brown were our representatives in the past.
- Harlan was elected vice-chair.
- The committee is positioned to have a broader perspective of the lakes for better communications and coordinating efforts for grant applications for AIS Boat Launch personnel. They do not have set dues, rather look to donations from each lake association to help supplement grants. Ideally this is \$500-1000 per year.
- Paul made a motion to donate \$1000 to MTLC. Becky seconded. All voted yes,
- This renewed membership helps to meet an objective of the Board to become more connected with other organizations in the area.

3. 2024 DNR Programs, Activities, MFA Participation

- Tabled until the January 2024 Board meeting.

4. Proposal to acquire rental storage for consolidation of MFA items

- Tabled until the January 2024 Board meeting.
5. 2023 MFA Member Activities
 - Tabled until the January 2024 Board meeting.
 6. Bylaws Update – Harlan Johnson and Becky White
 - Harlan will work with Jill Sunderland (Washburn County DNR) for a final review to ensure the bylaws are written correctly for the Minong Flowage to be considered a Qualified Lake Association. The Board wants to ensure the MFA is in the best position possible when applying for and securing grant funding from the state.
 - The MFA is currently in the category of a Qualified Surface Water Management Organization mainly due to one existing bylaw that is not in line with the respective Wisconsin state statute.
 - There was a brief conversation on whether or not to extend membership to include Cranberry Lake property owners (Currently we only include Cranberry Flowage.) A decision was not made.
 - Harlan and Becky will make further modifications and send to the board prior the January 2024 Board meeting where further discussion will take place.
 7. Other Topics & General Discussion
 - Brief discussion on safety deposit box for pertinent document hard copy storage. Bring ideas to the next meeting.
 - Becky will serve as interim Secretary.
 - Steve will send out a letter to Stakeholders for a letter of support for upcoming grant.
 - Becky will be attending the Wascott Tourism and Business Association (WTBA) meeting on 10/16 as a potential member to increase area collaborations similar to our involvement with MTLC as noted above.
 - Paul shared a flyer and map from the Eagle River Chain of Lake Association as an idea for MFA. Becky will also share with others at the WTBA for input as well.

ADJOURNMENT

- A motion was made by Paul to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Becky. All voted yes. The MFA Board meeting was adjourned at 12:45 pm.

MFA Board Standing Meeting Calendar

- Winter – January 13, 2024 – location TBD
- Spring – April 2024
- Summer – Annual meeting tentatively June 1, 2024 (first Saturday in June)