

## MTLC Winter Meeting Minutes

February 17, 2024, Minong Town Hall

Members attending: Terry Flaherty, Paul Gundersen, Bob Hendricks, Lisa Bourget, Laurie Johnson, Al Angen, Linda Featherly, Bill Owens, Harlan Johnson

Lakes represented: Nancy, Minong Flowage, Pokegama, Kimball, Horseshoe, Town Board

Lisa called the meeting to order at 9:00.

Minutes of the September 30 meeting were approved.

Lisa reported on three items completed since our last meeting: MTLC letter of support for Minong Flowage AIS grant from the DNR; MTLC letter of support for Lake Nancy Protective Association AIS grant from the DNR; changing banks from Spooner to Minong.

Bill Owens distributed MTLC's Annual Financial Statement for 2023 and a Year-Over-Year Summary for 2019 through 2022. We started the 2023 with a balance of \$13,986.96, had revenue of \$36,500 (\$32,000 from the DNR, the remainder voluntary donations from member lake associations). Expenses were \$37,424, leaving a year-end balance of \$13,062.86. More lakes will either make contributions in 2024 or increase their contributions so we should be able to increase the surplus; it is important to keep some surplus in case of a financial emergency.

Lisa distributed CBCW Calendar Year Overview and a document outlining the Proposed Approach for 2024. The 2024 plan is on schedule and the Town received notification that our grant proposal was funded. In 2023 the target was 200 hours for the 3 small lakes and 400 hours for the five large lakes; depending on the amount contributed by the lake associations, more hours will be available for some landings. After discussion we decided to appropriate extra hours to the lakes with greatest need—that is, those infested with milfoil and hence possible sources of spread. There was some discussion of raising the stipend for monitors from \$10 per hour; we decided that rather than increasing the stipend we will continue the “bonus” system instituted in 2023; the system is designed to reward longevity (number of years as a monitor) and each monitor working a substantial number of hours (a bonus for 200, 300, and 400 hours). We will also continue the bonus system for the manager rather than raise her stipend. The bonus system seems to be working well but we will revisit the stipend increase vs. bonus system for 2025.

This proposed approach for 2024 was moved, seconded, and passed.

Lake Reports:

Big Sand—none

Gilmore—none

Horseshoe—Laurie reported that a good way to improved “gifting” to Lake Associations is to have members use employers matches for charitable contributions if that option is available. It has been beneficial to Horseshoe.

Kimball—Bill and Lisa reported that monitoring seems to be working well and is having its desired effect. Kimball started a de-contamination station last year and will continue it. Kimball had its first loon chick

in four years. Dave Peters, author of Sand and Fire, will present at a membership meeting this year (several members advocated using speakers at association meetings).

Minong Flowage—Paul and Harlan gave a detailed and informative report. The Flowage is unique because it is in two counties and two Towns, because it is connected to Cranberry Lake, because it has extensive wild rice beds, and because it has four public landings (all under different agencies). The Flowage seems to be “overused” at times leading to problems with erosion, milfoil spread, and safety. The Flowage Association is doing what it can to ameliorate the problems. The campground situation on Cranberry and the Flowage is out of hand (and it is a problem in several Washburn County lakes, too, and needs to be constantly monitored). Paul and Harlan stressed that the County Campground is not a problem and that it is a good citizen of the lake, but some other campgrounds are having or proposing enormous growth causing a huge increase in boat traffic. The Flowage Association is doing what it can: attending Wascott Town board meetings, supporting boat monitoring and doing some targeted milfoil treatment, trying to establish a decontamination station (ironically the DNR won’t allow its landing to have a station), working on its Aquatic Management Plan, and increasing the visibility of the Association. Interestingly, the “draw down” of the Flowage had no impact on controlling milfoil. The Flowage Associations is also revising its by-laws which has been an enormous amount of work.

Nancy—The DNR approved the AIS grant for its Aquatic Management Plan; Terry stressed that the plan, done every five years, is a lot of work but very worthwhile. He also pointed out that the Lake Nancy Protective Association was formed fifty years ago to oppose a large campground which was planned for the lake, and he stressed that LNPA is concerned about too much campground growth.

Pokegama—Bob stressed what a good lake citizen the camp on Pokegama has been; it takes up much of the lake so many of the problems of overuse and overdevelopment which other member lakes have is not as severe on Pokegama.

Town Board: Linda reinforced member lakes’ concerns about excessive campground development and talked a bit about the zoning process for campgrounds. Groups like Preserve Washburn County are providing good information about the issue and can be supported by non-profit lake associations. Linda will be leaving the Town Board soon and we need to find a committed replacement from the Board. Linda has been on MTLC since it was formed and she stressed how much she has enjoyed working on the committee and how important its work is

Lisa concluded the meeting with updates:

An MTLC Facebook page is being developed.

Once we get up to speed with CBCW issues, we need to work at getting two committee members from each lake and work on revisiting the Charter and revising our by-laws.

Suggest putting out a call in September for any desired MTLC support letters, so that ideally all can be considered at one time in advance of the November deadline.

MTLC previously shared information regarding proposed wakeboarding legislation by the state. Other lake associations are free to use the information as they see fit.

Despite having to pay \$50 for meetings at the Town Hall, we decided to continue meeting there. Linda stressed that the hall needs to be reserved early, especially for spring meetings.

Our next meeting will be June 15 at 9:00 at the Minong Town Hall

Meeting adjourned at 11:00,

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Flaherty, Secretary