

## MTLC Spring Meeting Minutes

June 15, 2024

Lisa called the meeting to order at 9:00.

Members attending: Al Angen, Lisa Bourget, Paul Bourget, Terry Flaherty, Dan Harwood, Bob Hendricks, Bonnie James, Harlan Johnson, Laurie Johnson, Richard Johnson, John Ney, Jan Sikora

Minutes of the February meeting were approved.

Al gave a financial update. He explained the relation of the DNR grant, the Town's role in distributing grant money, and MTLC's role in coordinating it all. Several lakes have contributed to the "match fund" and others will soon. The bottom line is that MTLC is in good shape financially.

### Information and issues

Gilmore: Fran McClosky attended the meeting remotely and summarized some of Gilmore's problems. Gilmore has substantial milfoil issues, with a 10-acre bed. They used DASH (a diver assisted technique) to try to deal with the bed; it was very expensive and completely ineffective. Since there is a wild rice bed at the outlet to the river the DNR will not allow Gilmore to use ProcettaCOR (which had been effective in the past) anymore. Gilmore is exploring lobbying at the state level for allowing use of ProcettaCOR and invited other interested lake associations to join.

Fran said that "power loading" is used frequently at Gilmore's public landing; it is illegal and it creates real problems at the landings, leading to many longer boat trailers getting stuck.

There may be some issues with monitor training (for example Gilmore's monitor was not aware that milfoil beds exist in the lake).

Gilmore got an educational grant from the DNR focusing on identification of milfoil; there will be classroom and on-the-water experiences, and about 20 persons can participate.

Dick Johnson from Gilmore pointed out that Gilmore launched a \$10,000 fund raising campaign.

Kimball: Paul gave a report from Kimball; their upcoming association meeting will have a speaker (Dave Peters, author of a book about the Namekagon Barrens) and social event. They are looking to revise their by-laws and do a shoreline survey in the near future. Their association dues are \$25 and about 60% of property owners are members.

Minong Flowage: Harlan gave the report from the Minong Flowage. The MFA has about 145 members (of 300 eligible) and it is trying to get more members. They are working on their Aquatic Plant Management Plan and have updated their by-laws (and Harlan is willing to share them with any association looking to revise their by-laws). Their recent annual meeting had 80 attendees (they hosted a BBQ as part of the meeting); Craig Roberts, DNR fisheries person from Spooner, gave a well-received and detailed presentation (which is available on MFA's website). The Minong Flowage is really struggling with milfoil. ProcettaCOR can no longer be used (there are substantial wild rice beds upstream from the beds) and MFA has tried water level draw downs and other treatments but nothing is working. Harlan has attended Town Board meetings for both Minong and Wascott (Flowage is in both) and reported on how that is going (Lisa also attends Minong Town Board

meetings.) Harlan also reported on information he and Lisa have provided to the newly-forming Chicog Lakes Association.

Pokegama: Bob gave a report on Pokegama. About 50% of property owners are members of the Association and dues are \$100. They have no milfoil. He pointed out that the power boat industry is very powerful so passing appropriate legislation is difficult; the Association tries to encourage good boating behavior with some success.

Horseshoe: Laurie gave the report for Horseshoe. She (and Al) focused on the expense and difficulty of trying to control milfoil using divers. In late May they treated 4.94 acres of milfoil in four small beds using ProcellaCOR. Horseshoe did a five-year management plan in 2023 and Horseshoe has been addressing AIS since 2012. Of 80 property owners 60% are members of the association but Horseshoe has had some unique expense (extensive dredging, for example) so they may explore creating a lake district.

Nancy: Terry gave the report for Nancy. LNPA has 140 members with 230 on the mailing list and 200 property owners. It is well off financially; the dues are \$25 but a lot of members give extra. Current expenses are primarily milfoil treatment and the five-year Aquatic Plant Management Plan.

This year they will treat seven milfoil beds in the “big” lake, a total of 3.7 acres, in late June.

For Zebra mussels they do the usual things: veliger tows, ZM plates, and a decontamination station (in place for six years). They are engaged in the APM process; the real work comes after the plan is accepted and they try to implement it. Their Spring meeting focused on wildfire hazards (they had an excellent speaker on the Great Minong Fire) and Washburn County Campground (trailer park) issues.

There were no reports from Bass or Big Sand.

Common themes emerged on several lakes:

--poor boating behavior, especially at landings, and the perception that less DNR enforcement has lead to an increase in such behavior; there is some sentiment for having monitors take down information and forwarding to local law enforcement (they can and will issue tickets). Lisa will follow up with the coordinator (Elayna) regarding illegal activities (and about monitor awareness of milfoil beds).

--there is concern about campgrounds and extensive development “off the lake” by persons who use the lake; overuse is a real concern

--many of the associations are registered as non-profit, which provides tax advantages for donations; registering as a nonprofit with sites such as Benevity.com may generate additional donations

Monitoring: The monitoring program seems to be going well, with 16 monitors being paid in a timely manner and Elayna doing a good job; if a lake is holding a fishing tournament or boat parade or other special event that is likely to create more traffic on a given day or weekend, please let Elayna know in advance.

Communication strategy: Discussion focused on finding a communication person (or persons) for the group; the person should have some expertise and decide what we need to do. A website is probably essential. It is important that the person has no responsibility for generating content; it is too big a job for one person to do both. The group should be responsible for content. Dan Harwood volunteered to work on this. Terry will consult with Nancy Lake's person (she does its website, newsletter, Facebook page, and photography contest) to get an idea of the amount of work involved. Terry also suggested establishing a "speakers bureau" with contact information that could be shared among lake associations; this could also be useful for any future MTLC educational forum or "Lake Fair."

Moved, seconded, passed: MTLC have a committee look at revising our by-laws and perhaps suggesting changes in our Charter. Lisa, Harlan, and Terry volunteered for the committee.

Moved, seconded, passed: MTLC create an "AIS network" to collect and share contact information for AIS information (those providing bleach solution for decontamination stations, what kind of treatment each lake is getting, who's responsible for milfoil at each lake).

To do: Send to Terry

--contact information for a person or two responsible for decontamination stations at each lake that has a station

--who to contact (with contact information) at each lake (where appropriate) for information about how the respective lake treats for milfoil

--contact information for speakers you have had at association meetings that would be of value to other lake associations

We will compile and circulate the information.

The next meeting will be September 21 (1<sup>st</sup> choice) or September 14 (2<sup>nd</sup> choice), depending on the availability of the Town Hall.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Flaherty, Secretary