

**Deer Lake Watershed Association**  
Board Meeting - Monday, October 14, 2019  
Carpenter Township Hall

CALL TO ORDER: the meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Bill Cromell.  
Board members Present: Bill Cromell, Gail Blackmer, Sheila Vorland. Mark Smith and Chris Fischer participated via speakerphone connection. Alternate board member Val Cromell was present.

Others Present: Larry Salmela, Galen Vorland.

AGENDA REVIEW AND APPROVAL – The agenda was accepted on a **motion** by Sheila, **seconded** by Gail.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: The floor was available for comments, questions, and statements from watershed members or others. No comments were brought forward.

*At this time, Sheila Vorland, on behalf of the board of directors, recognized Bill Cromell for his active leadership and work style in the past year since becoming a board member and selected as the association's president. As a thank you, board members had privately donated to give him and his wife Val, a gift certificate. Their dedication and initiative to improve board function is noted and appreciated.*

TREASURER'S REPORT: Sheila Vorland provided treasurer's report. Current general fund checking account balance is at \$4641.79, the Continuous Outflow fund balance is \$1045.34, and the Watershed Protection fund is at \$565.53. Monies reserved for the CCC Camp Project are \$190, and the amount reserved to cover web site maintenance is at \$350.89. It was noted that the profits of recent sales of DLWA logo apparel have been dedicated to the web site budget line. Treasurer's report was approved on a **motion** by Gail, **seconded** by Bill.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Minutes from the June 2019 meeting were distributed via email to board members prior to the meeting. A paper copy of the minutes was available at today's meeting. A draft copy of the August annual membership meeting had also been sent to board members for review, this is to be approved next year by the full membership and will be sent out to all members prior to August 2020. Minutes of the June meeting were approved as written on a **motion** by Sheila, **seconded** by Bill. Approved minutes will be added to the website under the Archives tab.

**COMMITTEE UPDATES**

1. Continuous Outflow Committee
  - a. Boat Runs – Mark Smith reported on this season's boat runs down Deer Creek to monitor and work on removing beaver dams or vegetation blocking flowage. Mark has been in charge of scheduling the boat runs for 13 volunteers who have

agreed to participate. In all, this project has gone well, however there is concern that only some of the volunteers are doing most of the work. Mark reviewed the expectations and guidelines for volunteers including: 1) a commitment to keeping your scheduled run, or try to find a substitute, 2) having a boat and motor of the proper size and power, 3) report back on conditions you find, 4) act safely and do not go alone. Mark noted that more runs should be scheduled later in the season vs. spring as the vegetation grows. He would like additional volunteers available next year, one suggestion made was use the social time at the annual July 4<sup>th</sup> flotilla to recruit volunteers.

- b. Beaver trapping update – Bill believes the total cost of beaver trapping will be reduced next year, as there were a lot of them removed this past year. A recent boat run showed some activity on the Rock Dam where Bill did trap and remove more beaver.

Val Cromell reported that she and Bill hosted a DLWA thank you gathering for the Deer Lake outflow creek volunteers in July 2019 which included boat runners, beaver trappers, dam breakers and obstruction removers. The board is in agreement that recognition of their hard work and commitment is well deserved, and hosting the event again next summer would be beneficial since it is a “small cost to the Association for a big return”

2. Fundraising ideas for 2020 – Discussion held on fundraising for the coming season.

Gail discussed the two events held at Deer Lake Charlie's which included a donation basket for the watershed and were successful at generating some cash. Discussion will be held with the volunteers who organized the brat feed and outdoor board games and Chicago Night to see if they are willing to help out again. Other ideas are sought!

- 3. CCC Camp Committee – Bill provided update on a preliminary agreement with MN DNR regarding restrictions on use of the land. The DNR Land department is in the process of formulating a lease with an annual fee for having the kiosk in place. An estimation of the fee and the need for insurance was discussed. Bill has checked with the insurance agent who feels the policy coverage is sufficient. At this time the final lease agreement has not been received.

4. Membership committee – Val Cromell, committee chair, provided a written report on membership activities, highlighting that there are currently 111 paid household memberships, including eight Lifetime memberships and two Business memberships. Four business advertisers have paid the \$30 annual fee and will have their business information advertised on the DLWA website. Chris Fischer has mailed letters to a number of area businesses to recruit additional advertisers on the website. Thank you Chris! Val has been diligent in sending out packets to expired households, including in the mailing a list of DLWA accomplishments and a “Who is the DLWA?” handout. An attempt to contact expired members will be made up to

three times, if no response, those names will be taken off the list and they will no longer receive emails or the newsletter. Val also stated that the membership list is now well monitored and a system in place to determine the annual renewal date for each individual/household. This is a big undertaking and very important to maintain dues paid which keeps us functioning. Thank you to Val!

## OLD BUSINESS

### A. Treasurer/Bookkeeper Position

1) Written procedures - Sheila Vorland, treasurer, and Val Cromell, membership committee chair will be working together to develop policies and procedures to define membership renewals and maintenance of the DLWA Membership List and Email Contact List. Sheila asked board members who are requesting any information from her by email that they include a "needed by" date in the subject line of the email so that she can respond in a timely manner.

2) Future reporting – Discussed spreadsheets to be used to categorize annual operating cost estimations in relation to annual income projections. When projecting income, its necessary to adjust out the lifetime member amounts which will not be repeated.

B. Board make-up for 2020 – At the first board meeting following an annual meeting at which new members are elected, officers for the upcoming year are selected. Discussion on the officer positions resulted in agreement that current officer positions of Bill Cromell as president, Sheila Vorland as treasurer, and Gail Blackmer as secretary be continued for another year. Gail **moved** to elect Chris Fischer as vice-chair, **seconded** by Bill, motion **carried** after hearing that Chris would accept the appointment.

C. Grants – Applications to local granting sources were discussed. Two requests for baseline water testing were submitted last year but not funded. It was suggested that these applications be updated and try again to submit them to the Round Up program of North Itasca Electric Co-Op and to Carpenter Township. Board members should be looking for other sources such as AIS prevention funds and work together to consider projects that fit the criteria and are beneficial to the watershed.

Mark Smith took a moment to tell about the training he, Bill, and Donna Childers received on AIS detection boat inspection, and how they spent time at the public access to check boats entering Deer Lake. Interaction was generally positive and anglers were receptive to efforts to protect the lake from AIS. The critical factor is boats moving from lake to lake with possible infestation. Everything that could carry AIS must be cleaned, drained, and dried before going into another lake. Training will likely be available again in the future for more volunteers.

D. Water Quality - Discussion deferred as Bill intends to spend some of the "winter down-time" reviewing data collected and learning to graph water quality test results.

E. Special Events – The board agreed to review a calendar of special events and assign coordinators at a meeting closer to spring as we look at which events to sponsor this summer season.

F. Website Update – Chris updated the board on features of the website. Chris has been active in recruiting and tracking business memberships as well as coordinating the sale of apparel with DLWA logo. This can be an on-going funding source for the website. The board agreed to wait to pursue a method of on-line dues payment.

## NEW BUSINESS

A. Road and gate at Rock Dam – Bill reported that he had used his equipment and rented a brush hog ASV attachment for \$100 from Jeff Powell who gave a reduced rate as a nonprofit rental. Thank you Jeff! Routine maintenance is critical to the access road to the Rock Dam so volunteers can keep the Rock Dam and outflow open from natural debris and free of beaver dams on top of the rock dam. Access is needed to get tools or a boat to that end of Deer Creek for monitoring flowage. The road is gated to prevent tearing up from vehicles and there is a lock on the gate for which DLWA has a key. It was also discussed to meet with the DNR and update them on the rock dam access road maintenance, new padlock and key to the gate. Gail **moved**, Sheila **seconded** to reimburse Bill the cost of renting the brush hog, **motion carried**.

B. Newsletter Process – The next newsletter will be discussed in a committee meeting, date to be determined.

C. Expense form – the board agreed that expenses incurred by board or committee members can be considered for reimbursement upon submission of a written request. Examples could be printing and mailing expenses for newsletter or soliciting dues payment, etc. Val Cromell volunteered to design a DLWA Expense Reimbursement Form.

D. Association Record Keeping - Bill noted that he has many folders on his computer with watershed information and has offered to be primary records keeper for the future. Discussion held on ways to save this information such as memory sticks or getting an external hard drive. Chris provided useful advice on security, suggesting an external hard drive.

Discussion on monitoring and responding to DLWA emails on the email account was deferred to another time.

## Adjourn

Gail **moved** to adjourn at 8:21 p.m. **seconded** by Sheila. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Gail Blackmer, secretary.