

Deer Lake Watershed Association

Board Meeting - June 17, 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, Jim Kush.

Others Present: Ken and Janelle Kallio, Kate Mader, Larry Salmela, Lisa Hansen, Val Cromell.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: The floor was available for comments, questions, and statements from watershed members or others. It was noted that the water level at the gauge is at 4.42 today, a change of about 7 inches in the past month.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Sheila Vorland provided treasurer’s report. Current general fund checking account balance is at \$3246.97, the Continuous Outflow fund balance is \$914.41, and the Watershed Protection fund is at \$540.09. Treasurer’s report was approved on a **motion** by Gail, **seconded** by Jim.

SECRETARY’S REPORT: Minutes from the April 2019 meeting were distributed via email to board members prior to the meeting. A paper copy of the minutes was available at the meeting. Minutes were approved on a **motion** by Jim, **seconded** by Sheila.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Continuous Outflow Committee

- a. Bill reported on activities of this committee noting that 13 boats have been scheduled to do regular creek runs to monitor vegetation growth and beaver activity. Mark Smith has been very helpful in creating the scheduled trips.
- b. Beaver trapping update – it was noted that the contract for trapping by T. Brula did not go forward, but that other trappers have been busy in Deer Creek and other watershed lakes. Specifically, trapping has been done in these lakes: Popple, Lorraine, Tank, Otter, Battle, Pickerel, and Buck, for a total so far of 90 beaver removed. A Nuisance Beaver trapping permit has been obtained to allow continued trapping of nuisance beaver outside of the regular season dates. Bill explained that names of trappers need to be on the permit to be legal in response to Ken Kallio’s offer to trap in his area. Bill and Ken will discuss if Ken wants to submit his name for the permit.

2. Fundraising committee report – This committee will merge with the Membership Committee as activities are similar in nature.

3. CCC Camp Committee – Bill informed the board that Loey Master has agreed to chair the CCC Camp Committee, along with volunteers Denny Carlson, and Ron and Marsha Root. Reference was made to the site visit of June 12 by DNR Foresters Matt Pollard and Wes Belanger. The CCC Camp property is on State of MN land, therefore there are restrictions on its use. Due to the unique historical value and the amount of work provided by volunteers in discovery and preservation, the DNR needs to do further research should the DLWA want to enter into a contract regarding allowable site activity. At this time we can continue mowing the right of way along the access road and the paths to the foundations; site signs can be left in place; burning is not authorized nor is cutting trees outside the parameters of the foundations. The DNR will require minimal disturbance to the site until permanent guidelines are set up.

4. Membership committee – Val Cromell, committee chair, provided a report including a handout on recent activities for recruiting and retention of paid DLWA members. Val did an extensive outreach effort to get in touch with expired members as well as contacting area landowners with an invitation to join DLWA. Currently 111 member households are up to date on dues, as well as 4 business members. 14 households are new members due to Val and Bill’s recruitment efforts, and seven of the memberships paid the lifetime category. Val also created “thank you” letters for donors who include donations for the three specific designated funds. It was noted that a membership year runs from the date on the check or when cash is received, to 12 months from that date. The board extends a big thank you and appreciation for Val’s efforts as membership committee chair!

5. ICOLA Report – Gail reported on the April meeting of ICOLA, highlighting some of the topics covered at the county-wide watershed association. ICOLA meets again in June and the annual meeting is in July at Marcell. ICOLA has resources for AIS detection, and monitors county land use regulations.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Treasurer/Bookkeeper Position – As the administrative responsibilities of the watershed board have evolved, the treasurer position is more than collecting dues and writing checks. Bill proposed an addition to the by-laws to be included in Article V – Officers, Section D. which delineates the DLWA Treasurer duties and procedures. Bill also provided a sample format for a monthly report of income and expenditures, and an annual budget projection/balance sheet. Upon review of the by-laws section, the board will recommend this addition to the other by-laws revisions and voted on by the general membership at the annual meeting.

B. Board make-up for 2020 – the current board has a vacancy due to the resignation of Patti Olson. It was discussed as to whether to move one of the alternate board members to a full board position, or recruit nominations at the annual meeting. All board members should

consider potential new board members as we plan for succession of board responsibilities and encourage new people to submit their names in nomination. The two-year terms held by Gail Blackmer and Sheila Vorland will expire this year.

C. Allocate funds for Continuous Outflow volunteer recognition – Bill and Val plan to host a recognition campfire to thank those people who have spent considerable time and effort to clear the creek to maintain the flow out of Deer Lake. We recognize that the lakes stay cleaner and healthier when there is a flow of water vs. stagnant. Gail **moved** to allocate funds to provide food and beverage, **seconded** by Bill. **Motion carried.**

D. Bylaws re-approval following email vote – Gail made a **motion** to re-approve the bylaws revisions previously approved by email vote of board members. This procedure was agreed to in order to provide timely action on issues that come up between bi-monthly meetings. The motion was **seconded** by Sheila, **motion carried.** It was noted that the full bylaws revisions will be emailed to all members for whom we have email addresses prior to the annual meeting, revised version will be posted on the website, and that 10 copies of the revisions will be available at the start of the annual meeting for review, and vote of the general membership.

E. Grants – Grant requests to partially fund water testing submitted to NIEC Round Up program, and to Carpenter Township were not funded. It was suggested to try submitting similar requests again in the next round opportunity as we feel the requests were for a one time base line testing and valid for both organizations.

F. Water Quality – Data Collection – Bill has been trained in testing procedures and has sent in one sample. Hopefully the results will be available by the annual meeting and may be posted on RMB website. It was noted that due to schedule changes, no lakes in the DLWA will be tested by county agencies this year. Jim Kush reported on his Secchi disc readings on Pickerel Lake, noting that Denny takes readings on Deer, and Sheila on Battle lake.

G. Large expenses – Review of larger expenses, including insurance coverage, continuous flow expenses, website and newsletter costs, and dues to partnering organizations. After a large response to beaver trapping, continuous flow costs should be less next year.

H. Special Events – The roadside clean-up was done in May with sufficient participation. We will sponsor the Fourth of July Flotilla, with Sheila agreeing to purchase ice cream float supplies and board members helping with serving at Hide-Away Bay. The Fun Run was discussed and a decision made to send out a reminder email for registrations and see if there are enough responses by July 1 to hold the event. Jim chairs this committee and has contacted volunteers about the finish line timing, and other duties.

I. Annual Meeting – Discussed agenda items for the annual meeting and duties to prepare for the meeting as well as Carpenter Hall, the pot-luck meal, speakers, etc. The board will need to communicate through email during the month of July to finish planning.

GAIL MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 8:10 P.M. SECONDED BY JIM. MEETING ADJOURNED.