

Deer Lake Watershed Association

Board Meeting - April 8, 2019

Carpenter Township Hall

CALL TO ORDER: the meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. by President Bill Cromell.
Board members Present: Bill Cromell, Gail Blackmer, Sheila Vorland, Patti Olson. Alternate board member Chris Fischer participated via speaker phone connection.
Others Present: Gary Kleffman, Brent Doshan.

AGENDA REVIEW AND APPROVAL – The agenda was accepted as presented with addition of items on grants submissions and ICOLA report to be included if time allows.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: The floor was available for comments, questions, and statements from watershed members or others. Brent Doshan asked if any AIS have been detected in the watershed lakes. At this time none of the water bodies have had invasive species detected. Chris referred Brent to the DLWA website for a link under the Lake Conservation heading for further information.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Sheila Vorland provided treasurer’s report. Current general fund balance is at \$2329, the Continuous Outflow fund balance is \$1939, and the Watershed Protection fund is at \$300. Treasurer’s report was approved on a **motion** by Gail, **seconded** by Patti.

SECRETARY’S REPORT: Minutes from the February 11, 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 Sheila, **seconded** by Patti. Minutes of the February meeting are posted on the website and will be distributed to the full membership via email.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Continuous Outflow Committee

- a. Bill reported on activities of this committee from their meeting of 2-17-19 including planning for a schedule of boats to run the outflow creek every two weeks to check on beaver dams and other debris or vegetation growth. Mark Smith has lined up 13 boats and will send out a schedule.
- b. Beaver trapping update – an agreement is reached with trapper Tom Brula to trap during the months of May and June for a fee of \$500. Tom will have access to the gate on the dam road. Additional negotiations will be considered after spring trapping. It was noted that beaver are populating in other creeks within the watershed and continued monitoring and reimbursement for trapping other places is expected to continue.

2. By Laws committee – Bill will head up a re-formed committee to submit by-law revisions to the board for approval, followed by adoption through a vote of the member-

ship at the annual meeting.

3. Fundraising committee report

- a. Patti provided updates on fundraising ideas, noting that there have been recent membership renewals through the process of “asking” in the newsletter. Two lifetime memberships have been received, and contributions to the dedicated funds are beginning to come in. Thank you notes are sent to the lifetime members and contributors to the dedicated funds. Members who contribute over and above regular amounts will also be thanked and recognized, with their permission. Patti stated agreement in having a “membership committee” to work on increasing members that would be separate and in addition to the fundraising committee. She will be available to help work on this committee when she returns to the area this summer. We discussed having membership forms available in the CCC camp Kiosk, and Gail will keep a supply at Deer Lake Charlie’s.

Other fundraising ideas were discussed, such as having promotional items, i.e. T-shirts and hats printed with logo, calendars with local scenes available for sale. Chris suggested having a silent auction of donated items, and a social event like a fish fry or “forager’s meal” was talked about. We agreed that any of these ideas require considerable front end work and volunteers are needed as well as checking into permits and regulations. Within this context, the idea of having contracted service providers donate a portion of their fee to the Association was determined to have problems with perceptions of conflict of interest or liability.

4. CCC Camp Committee – Patti provided report on progress of an informational article about the historical preservation project undertaken by this committee that will be sent to Chris to archive on the website. She also reviewed that the project does not have budget needs at this time, and that there will be some work days scheduled this summer for volunteers. The large piles of brush were burned by DNR over the winter. Patti believes this project has increased interest and involvement in our DLWA as indicated by the visit from the Itasca County Historical Society last summer and the fact that visitors are continuing to visit the site, taking 5-10 maps from the kiosk weekly last summer, with 10 maps taken during the winter.

Chris reported on his contact with ICHS to discuss placing their logo and link to their website on our website. The ICHS indicated they will become a business member, and provided information on possible future grants we may be eligible for. Discussion held on expenses that eventually will be needed to keep up the trails and signage at the site, along with Patti stating that she has received donation offers, however due to the concerns some members have expressed about utilizing DLWA funds for the CCC camp, offers were declined. Further discussion brought about a decision that there should also be a separate fund for

this project, allowing a dedicated fund for CCC historical preservation activities, without taking away from funding dedicated to mission-driven activity. Bill **moved** that an account be set up at the bank for deposits and withdrawals exclusively for this project. Gail **seconded** the motion, motion carried.

5. Newsletter committee – the second electronic newsletter has been written, compiled electronically, reviewed by the board of directors, and sent out via email to the membership and selected business and governmental partners. Gail offered to arrange to get 40 paper copies printed and mailed to members without email availability. Expenses for the newsletter are estimated to be a maximum of \$100 per issue, considerably less than using outside printing company.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Expenses – In addition to newsletter expenses outlined above, discussion held on larger fixed and variable expenses, particularly spring 2019 creek outflow expenses and the renewal of the insurance policy. Bill plans to meet with an insurance agent next week for review of the policy, he will bring information back on the questions about coverage that were unanswered previously.

2. Calendar of events – reviewed the events scheduled:

- Roadside clean up – 9:30 a.m. on May 4, Gail to coordinate.
- Flotilla – noon on July 4, Sheila plus board members to finalize in June
- 5K – July 13 - Jim Kush plus board members to finalize in June
- Annual meeting – August 4, Bill plus board to finalize in June

Phenology seminar not scheduled at this time, due to concerns of the added expense.

3. Website – Chris provided updates on website development, including the addition of logos for organizations we partner with: Minnesota Lakes and Rivers, Itasca Historical Society, and Itasca Coalition of Lake Associations. Discussion held on implementing an electronic payment system to collect membership dues, and additional donations to dedicated funds. Chris has been working with Karma organization and while it appears we will get this functioning, there were issues to be resolved as to managing the flow of the money to our accounts. Further consideration is needed on these details, discussion tabled at this time. Also discussed were release forms for individual's permission for photographs and copyrighted material, Chris will continue to research.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Grants for Water Protection Fund – Bill reported that he has submitted grant requests for expenses related to water quality data collection materials to the Carpenter Township board of supervisors, and to the North Itasca Electric Cooperative's Round-Up program. We do not know if this funding will be granted yet.

Meeting was **adjourned** at 8:15 p.m on a motion by Patti, seconded by Sheila.

