

Muskellunge Lake Association
 Board of Directors
 Eagle River Airport
 Meeting Minutes-January 28, 2017



Call to Order and Welcome: President, Mike Newmeister

Present ✓

President Mike Newmeister	✓	Director John Kurhajec	✓
Vice President Bill Raboin	✓	Director Mark Fouts	✓
Treasurer Roger Johnston	✓	Director Tony Mattson	✓
Secretary Kathleen Pallardy	✓	Director Tom Cerull	✓
Web Master Jeff Rappold	✓		

Also present was Bob (Huddy) Hodkiewicz, Joe Pallardy, Emmons and Oliver and Cathy Higley, Vilas County Invasive Species Coordinator.

Call to Order

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the October 22, 2016 meeting approved as written.

Approval of Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report (Roger Johnston): Balances are as follows: Membership is at 76 households. Final 2016 Funds were as followed:

Operational Funds

Lake Improvement Fund	\$2,852.99
Operational Fund	\$2,737.80
MLA Fundraising/Socials	2,594.52
Savings Accounts-Balance	\$36.58

Sub Total Operational Funds

\$8,221.89

Investment Certificates

Certificate #441	\$2,742.98
Certificate # 072	\$2,796.36
Certificate # 073	\$2,863.48
Certificate # 440	\$2,738.56

Total All Funds/Investments

\$19,363.27

Dues are due for the Wisconsin Lakes and Vilas County Lakes Association.

Discussed authorization to pay dues.

Motion made to approve Treasurer's report. Motion seconded and approved.

Muskellunge Lake Association
Board of Directors
Eagle River Airport
Meeting Minutes-January 28, 2017



Old Business:

Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) in ML:

Mike contacted the contacts from the environmental companies provided by the DNR in our last meeting, Many Waters in Iron River, MI, Onterra in DePere, WI and White Water Associates in Amasa, MI. Many Waters did not respond. Mike also reached out to Joe Pallardy, a Water and Natural Resources Specialist at [EOR](#), an environment consulting and design firm based in the Minneapolis area. After discussion amongst the board members it was decided to move forward with EOR. There was discussion amongst the board members about applying for an Early Detection Grant which provides for up to \$20,000 in funds over a three year period. If approved, it was noted we are not required to use all of it. We, as a lake association, are responsible for ¼ of the cost by providing volunteer hours, training, doing point intercept, etc. To initiate the process Mike suggested moving forward with an \$1,800 SOW for doing a point intercept and moving forward with the grant application. As the board requests additional services of [EOR](#), [EOR](#) will provide us a new Statement of Work which the board will take under consideration.

Joe provided the board with a presentation on [-EOR](#), including the company's experience, mission statement and staff expertise stressing their experience with similar engagements. Joe shared that [EOR](#) wants to establish its presence here in Northern Wisconsin and Joe has a personal interest in the lake's health given his parents own property on the lake. Their staff includes limnologists, biologists, wetland scientists, water resources scientists, etc. to draw from. Joe stressed that when making recommendations on the appropriate course of action for addressing the EWM [EOR's](#) approach is to "let the science speak for itself. Joe stressed the need to have the MLA members stay vigilant in monitoring the lake and reporting it back to Joe as the lake is constantly changing. There was discussion among the board members on the best way to keep that line of communication open, perhaps creating an email account for that purpose exclusively. Joe did some research on the lake and noted that the phosphorous concentration has been going up significantly over the years. The diversity of aquatic plants in our lake has helped to keep the phosphorous level steady. When considering different options for controlling the EWM, we need to be mindful about protecting the native plant life.

Joe explained the Early Detection and Rapid Response grant process. If approved, our lake association would be eligible for a maximum grant of 75 percent of project costs up to a maximum of \$20,000. Examples of what the funds could be used for include:

Identification and removal of AIS

Controlling AIS

Monitoring, outreach, education and prevention planning

Joe explained the breakdown of EOR tasks and MLA tasks including:

Muskellunge Lake Association
Board of Directors
Eagle River Airport
Meeting Minutes-January 28, 2017



Coordinating with MLA on a two to three year plan, training on how to update maps including native plants as well as EWM but also the healthy plants as well, conducting the ML Aquatic Plant Survey, training residents on the Google Earth too, attending board meetings as needed, keeping the lines of communication open. Joe will be donating some of his own volunteer hours which can be included in the ¼ matching requirement.

Joe suggested presenting two different options for approaching the treatment of the EWM since we do not yet know how EWM is going to survive in our lake. The thought is to present what might happen under the two most likely scenarios and what our options are under each.

1. It continues to expand and displace native species
2. More isolated approach, in the event it not really growing and the natives are doing a good job of being resilient

There was discussion on the minimum specifications for the GPS units used for tracking. Cathy will look into this. The DNR previous point intercept was 53 meters. We will need to discuss and agree on the scale.

Cathy Higley asked if there was any interest in determining the natural weevil population in the lake?

Joe felt that would be worthwhile. This can be done during the point-intercept survey. The sediment survey will help. Cathy indicated it could be something included with the CBCW work. Cathy requested we let her know soon if this is something we are interested in.

Discussion of addressing internal lake management and treatment options.

Tom brought us his concern about the proximity to the land fill area and if it could something from the landfill area be seeping into the lake? Joe reviewed the groundwater area, and shared that he feels the landfill is not included in that area.

There was a motion made to direct Joe to apply for the maximum dollars, \$20,000 which equates to 170 hours of volunteer time per year or 416 hours over life of the grant.

Mark moved to adopt the resolution as presented. Motion seconded and carried.

There was discussion of perhaps adding a seat to the board or a committee, AIS committee to be the single point of contact for the board as it will be important to have someone keep track of the volunteer labor as well.

Mike will summarize this meeting and send out an email notification to the homeowners. It is important to note that we will be looking for volunteers. Mike noted he will most likely send out a newsletter following the training for point intercept study. The next newsletter will be in the early June timeframe.

Committee Reports

Muskellunge Lake Association
Board of Directors
Eagle River Airport
Meeting Minutes-January 28, 2017



Webmaster Report (Jeff Rappold): Web activity in November and December spiked at 40 people/week. Some of the spike may be due to directing, in the newsletter, our residents to look to the website for current information.

Boat Landing Report (John Kurhajec): John contacted Vilas County Forest about signage at the boat launch. We cannot put any signage that restricts use of the lake. If Vilas County Forest is contributing financially to the sign they will have to review and approve the signage. John will be in contact with Vilas County Forest in the spring for more information. There was discussion on signage for EWM. There was discussion about directing the CBCW interns to hand out to boaters launching on the lake a map of the lake indicating where EWM has been found with the request to stay away from those areas.

Social Committee (Mimi Johnston):

The 2017 Winter Social will be held the evening of Saturday, January 28th at the Eagle River Inn.

Aerator Report (Bob Hodkiewicz, Huddy) Huddy noted that he had a good group of volunteers to put in the aerator and the fencing this season. However Huddy noticed a 16 inch crack in the piping. Huddy and Mike notified a welder who came out a week and 2 days later. He was able to weld it. Huddy also found another leak below the water line. He tried clamping it, but that did not work. Huddy tried a rubber boot along with a clamp, that didn't work, he tried three more clamps. It is still leaking. However, the leak does not seem to be negatively affecting the aerator's performance. In the summer we will inspect the unit and replace the piping. We made need to use different taping. A vacuum may have been created which is causing pressure. The welder suggested a radiator heater that will heat the water. Jeff Rappold offered to research an industrial-grade option. There was discussion about regular maintenance plan for the aerator. There was also discussion of researching a more modern and energy efficient aerator as this one is over 20 years old.

Water Quality (Jeff Rappold): The last water quality test was in October when the total phosphorous was 82, as compared to what it normally runs which in the 40's. It was an abnormally warm fall which may have contributed to the high reading. The DNR was updated on their website the visuals and graphs of the lake. It is now noted as an impaired lake due to the spotting of EWM and the point intercept study completed in 2008, based on 52 meter between points. The fisheries information on the website is still a little weak. Getting the sentiment sample will help.

Boat Parade-Tom and Ruth Cerull offered to plan the parade again this year. It has been successful over the past few years and the lake residents have looked forward to participating.

New Business: Annual meeting is normally held the last Saturday in July. Same place secured.

Meeting Adjournment