

The Pine River Watershed Alliance  
Board Meeting Minutes November 20, 2018  
Ideal Community Center  
4:00 – 6:00 pm

**Board Member Attendees:** Sheila Boldt, Jim Chamberlin, Steve Roe & Jim Brandt.

**Via Conference Call:** John Forney, Ron Meyer & Clay Schulte.

**(1) There was a motion by Jim Chamberlin seconded by Steve Roe , to approve the 11/20/2018 agenda with the addition of “Committee Reports, Newsletter” motion carried.**

**(2) There was a motion by Jim Chamberlin seconded by Steve Roe , to approve the 10/16/2018 Meeting Minutes. Motion carried.**

**(3) Committee Reports**

*- Finance*

A. Invoice from The Crow Wing SWCD has been paid for.

**There was a motion by Ron Meyer seconded by Jim Chamberlin , to approve the finance report as presented, including the payment of an invoice to The Crow Wing SWCD.**

*- Membership*

A. Gordy will be doing the mailing to members once Sheila gets the newsletters to him.

*- Land and Waters*

A. Two advisory members have are facing medical issues so the grant committee is having trouble scheduling a meeting with a quorum. Therefore, there hasn't been a meeting recently regarding the grant details yet but there will be a grant amount available this year.

*- Newsletter*

A. Approving final proof before printing.

B. Topics:

- Land & Waters Grant small promo on front page – Sheila (projects within the watershed)
- Whitefish changes (photos) – Jim Brandt & John Reynolds
- Willow – Bill W.
- Enbridge Pipeline Updated – Barb (with addition of Richard Smith verbiage)
- Soil/Ag/Forestry – Jim Chamberlin
- WRAPS & 1W1P – Ron Meyer
- \*Make a note of the accomplishments being on website and FB – Sheila/Ron

*- Website/Facebook*

*A. Form a page or section for Soil Health on the FB page.*

*a. Add Soil Health Summit event*

*b. Add Midwest Organic event*

B. Send Sheila.boldt@crowwingswcd.org: photos, local and central MN events related to water quality, agriculture etc.

*- Conservation/Enbridge*

A. Previously recognized as Leech Lake area Watershed Foundation (LLAWF) is now known as The Northern Waters Land Trust. See Barb's newsletter article for more updates on Enbridge.

*- Land & Ag*

A. Meeting in December for the 1W1P grazing committee.

*- Communication:*

A. Back2Basics in Pine River February 2<sup>nd</sup> 2019

B. Forage Basin Winter Seminar

a. Attending: Jim Brandt, Steve Roe & Gordy Reller (Sheila will be paid for by The CW SWCD). Sheila has taken care of registration for the above people (11/27/18).

**(4) Letter on Environmental Impact Statement**

**A. Barb did a great job formulating a letter on the environmental impact of the Dairy farm expansion. The question is how do we learn about these issues in a time frame that we can send a PRWA response. Other items like our new Governor making Town hall type meetings with lake associations need to get on our agenda and have representation. This is a discussion for a normal Board meeting and someone taking the lead.**

**(5) Loon Center**

A. Recent discussions bring up ensuring that there is water quality education at the loon center. The Crosslakers received input from local citizens and then brought in The U of M Design Team to assist in designing the center. One idea that came out of the presentation from the MN Design team was having both the loon center and a freshwater institute. There is a \$4 million dollar grant in 2019 to build the facility. The idea of a freshwater institute was somewhat left behind. The Crosslakers are looking for a task force to see that the freshwater institute incorporation moves forward.

**(6) Stream Testing of The Pine River Watershed**

A. Ron has been in contact with Fred. Need more sampling of all tributaries that flow into the Whitefish Chain. There is data from The Southfork of the Pine which may not have changed a lot

but there probably has been more changes on other streams. Jim Brandt has been stream testing on The Pine River and Willow Creek.

B. What does the water look like once it has gone past the sanitary treatment plants (The City of Pine River and The Crosslake Dam)? Howard Lambert is testing the water below the Crosslake Dam and documenting the flow levels etc. He said this past year was extremely high flow and therefore there wasn't the normal algae build-up.

C. There has been concerns that the water standards are a factor of "10 fold" what should be allowed to come out of treatment centers.

#### **(7) New Member Photos (Highlight on FB?)**

A. Clay & Lloyd will be sending [Sheila.boldt@crowwingswcd.org](mailto:Sheila.boldt@crowwingswcd.org) a photo for the website.

B. Sheila will be requesting an introductory paragraph from both new members to share on the website and facebook.

#### **(8) 1W1P**

A. Grazing Management Committee was mentioned previously in Land & Ag report.

#### **(9) Civic Governance**

A. Originally the group was forming a process to address invasive species locally such as milfoil. Focus has expanded now to other areas like 1W1P but there is a need to focus this effort to gain a positive result.

#### **(10) Board Comments**

Steve – The PRWA received a Thank you letter from Friends of The Headwaters for The PRWA contributing funds.

Jim Chamberlin – Recently finished a book called, "Leaders Eat Last" (military ranking, the higher you are then the further back in the line you are). The book highlight that we've incentivized money over people. Has heard a rumor of 2 feet of snow coming to the UP for skiing.

Jim Brandt – The Brainerd Dispatch, letter to the editor, Carrie Ruud wrote a very nice column regarding funding for The CW SWCD and the timing was right. Beth has done a great job at Willow Creek and that everything looks good, just in time before winter.

Sheila – Article was in the newspaper about The Willow Creek Project regarding comments that the stream was being "torn-up." But it was well written and we at The SWCD were contacted to provide photos and input. *Ron Meyer did submit a letter to the editor in support of CW SWCD funding that made it into the Echo Journal.*

Clay – In Colorado, apologizes for not being present at the meeting. Thank you to Ron for introducing him to The PRWA. Has lived on The Upper Whitefish for approximately 30 years and has also witnessed the changes.

John Forney – Enbridge is still fighting. Congratulations to Jim Chamberlin on SWCD board candidacy. There was a change of guard in the county commissioner's office. The freshwater institute is a gift for education in our region.

## Upcoming Events

1. Winter Forage Council Seminar "Ranching for Profit" December 12, CLC Staples.
2. Back-to-Basics (Happy Dancing Turtle) located at Pine River HS, January 2, 2019. (*below*)
  - a. <https://www.happydancingturtle.org/index.php/programs/back-to-basics.html>

\*Please let [Sheila.boldt@crowwingswcd.org](mailto:Sheila.boldt@crowwingswcd.org) 218-828-6197 know if there is anything to add.

### **The 13th Annual**

## **Back to Basics** **Saturday, February 2, 2019**



Co-hosted by and located at the Pine River-Backus Schools

This event combines workshops, vendors/exhibitors, a keynote, lunch, door prizes, and more! Back to Basics brings roughly 400 people **together** to share ideas on a wide variety of topics related to sustainability and resiliency. In addition to 40+ workshops, this event includes a large vendor area with 50+ booths providing educational materials, services, and locally made/grown goods of a sustainable nature. The vendor area is open to the public for free. School-aged (K-4) children's programming runs concurrently so bring the family and enjoy the day together!

There are a lot of ways you could get involved with Back to Basics – check out the options below! Do you know someone who would be a good fit for our vendor area? How about someone with a wealth of knowledge to share as a presenter? Feel free to email us with suggestions at [b2b@happydancingturtle.org](mailto:b2b@happydancingturtle.org).

### **2019 Keynote Speaker – Kent Solberg**

Happy Dancing Turtle is excited to announce Kent Solberg, Livestock and Grazing Specialist with the Sustainable Farming Association, will be joining us as our keynote speaker this year! Kent and his wife Linda own and operate an award winning pasture-based livestock farm in central Minnesota. Kent has a passion for the land and has been involved in soil health, adaptive grazing management, and integrated crop and livestock systems for 25 years. He has worked for a number of regenerative agricultural and government organizations throughout his career, consulting with hundreds of farmers. He has also served as adjunct faculty teaching



courses on soil health, forages, grazing, and livestock management. Check out Kent's SFA Profile for more information.

*Dear area business owner or organization,*

Chances are you are familiar with the **Crow Wing River Basin Forage Council's annual Winter Workshop**, likely you are one of our valuable sponsors or vendors. Or, you have been looking for an opportunity to sponsor.

Well, we have some **EXCITING NEWS** for you this year. With statewide co-sponsors, the **CWRBFC** is hosting a day-long session with **Dave Pratt**, nationally recognized expert through his **Ranching for Profit schools**. <https://ranchmanagement.com/>

*Here's your opportunity to be a part of it as a  
sponsorship partner of the 19th Annual Winter Workshop.*

*The Council's mission is to promote the overall health of our communities, our soil,  
our water quality and our livelihoods.*

Mark the date: **December 12, 2018, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm**

Where: **Central Lakes College, Staples, Mn**

We expect this workshop to be wildly popular. The workshop will concentrate on **Cattlemen vs. Grassmen: The In's and Out's of Cell Grazing, and why most profitable cattlemen are grassmen first**. This workshop will be part of a series of three other workshops around the state, and we expect some attendees will travel to take those in as well.

**How can your business get involved in this big event?** We offer a number of sponsorship levels, each with varied ways to promote your business or product. Over 4,000 mailing / email addresses receive the Winter Workshop brochure / information. **This is the year** to take advantage of sponsorship perks, as we expect a capacity crowd. And, of course, we welcome any level of sponsorship.

**Your support is greatly appreciated.**

**Levels recommended:**

**Bronze: \$100** Sponsor's business flyer / card in participants folders, logo on slide show

**Silver: \$200** Vendor space, sponsor's business flyer / card in participants folders, time slot to address audience, **1 pass** to event

**SilverPlus: \$300** Statewide recognition in flyer/ email blasts, vendor booth at event, receives **2 passes** to the event, time slot to address audience on your product, sponsor's business flyer/card in participants folder

**Gold: \$500** Statewide recognition in flyer/ email blasts, has a vendor booth at event, receives **4 passes** to the event, time slot to address audience on your product, sponsor's business flyer/card in participants folder

*Questions about our workshop, or becoming a sponsor?*

**Chuck Horsager**

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[chuckhorsager@gmail.com](mailto:chuckhorsager@gmail.com)

**Jim Chamberlin**

218.831.0528

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*Thank you*

**Sponsorships can be paid online at:** <http://www.sfa-mn.org/payment>. **OR**, we accept checks made out to SFA, and indicate it is for Forage Council

**Sustainable Farming Association | 4924 Upton Ave S. | Minneapolis, MN 55410**

Name / Business \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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## Friends of the Headwaters

Here's some history and context for significant legal/procedural turning points in the effort to keep Enbridge's Sandpiper and Line 3 away from Minnesota's CLEAN WATER:

\*In the fall of 2013, Enbridge applied for the Sandpiper pipeline. In January 2014, the all-volunteer group Friends of the Headwaters (FOH) organized to intervene in the pipeline approval process. As we organized landowner meetings and educational sessions, we realized our activism would be futile unless we had more access to the approval process, more opportunities for public input. We knew opposition needed a place at the table.

\*On June 27, 2014, FOH filed a motion for oral arguments on alternate routes for Sandpiper. The PUC granted our motion in July.

\*In August of 2014 FOH presented our maps to the PUC during these oral arguments— resulting in an additional comment period on the Sandpiper, supportive commentary from Minnesota's lead environmental agencies, and the PUC's bifurcation decision in September.

\*In December 2014, FOH went to the Court of Appeals for an Environmental Impact Statement on proposed oil pipelines.

\* In June of 2015, the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) provided Enbridge with a Certificate of Need for the Sandpiper and ordered the comparative environmental assessment (CEA) of their proposed route.

\*In September of 2015 the MN Court of Appeals ruled unanimously in favor of FOH and ordered an EIS, the first and only EIS ever done on an oil pipeline in Minnesota. (This decision was upheld by MN Supreme Court in December of 2015.) With this ruling, the Certificate of Need and the CEA for the Sandpiper was rescinded.

\*In 2016, during the scoping process required by a lawful EIS, Enbridge placed the Sandpiper on indefinite hiatus—citing impatience with “unprecedented” procedural delays.

\* During 2017 opposition challenged various aspects of the draft EIS, insisting on a comprehensive, independent, and competent EIS.

\*In September of 2017, independent and credentialed experts hired by the Department of Commerce to assess Line 3 declared that a new Line 3 pipeline was NOT needed. Recommending that the old Line 3 be mothballed, they said that no new pipeline capacity was needed to ensure “future adequacy, reliability and efficiency of energy supply.” FOH's expert witness on “pipeline economics” came to the same conclusion.

\*In March of 2018 the PUC declared the final EIS “adequate”— despite strenuous objections from tribal leaders and environmental groups.

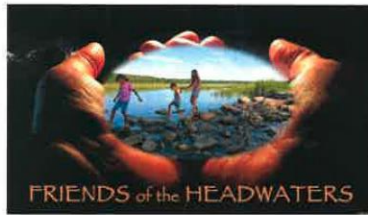
\*In April of 2018, Administrative Law Judge Ann O'Reilly specified her concerns about the applicant's preferred route. She recommended that the PUC deny Enbridge's preferred route through the Mississippi Headwaters and Minnesota lake country.

\*On June 28, 2018, the PUC ignored the record and the recommendations from the MN Pollution Control Agency, the MN Department of Natural Resources, the MN Department of Commerce, the Administrative Law Judge, and independent experts—choosing instead to “deliberate” over Enbridge's last-minute financial pot sweeteners and promises rather than the factual and ample record available to them.

\* In August 2018 Friends of the Headwaters took their concerns about the issues in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) to the Minnesota Appeals Court with a lawsuit challenging the PUC's determination of adequacy for the FEIS.

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August 11, 2018

To our friends and supporters,

Nothing is over.

Friends of the Headwaters has filed a lawsuit with the Minnesota Court of Appeals. We are challenging the Public Utility Commission's decision declaring "adequacy" on the Line 3 Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). As the organization that won the Court of Appeals unanimous decision requiring an EIS on oil pipelines, we believe the FEIS was not conducted in accord with Minnesota environmental law. Here are a few of FOH's concerns about the flawed FEIS.

- The FEIS does not analyze the site-specific impacts of potential oil spills along any of the routes, and does not use generally accepted oil spill risk assessment methodologies.
- The FEIS limits its consideration to a single 760,000 barrel per day pipeline, and does not consider the potential cumulative effects of opening up a new crude oil pipeline corridor in central Minnesota.
- The FEIS does not include the results of a tribal cultural survey that is not yet completed for Enbridge's preferred route, and makes no effort at all to survey cultural resource impacts on any alternative routes.
- The FEIS claims the net climate impact of any new pipeline will be zero based on the discredited industry argument that "the oil will just find its way to market some other way."
- Only the draft EIS was available to the parties before the start of the certificate of need (CN) and route permit (RP) proceedings, so the FEIS could not serve its statutory purpose of informing those proceedings.

You should know the DNR and MPCA filed letters of support for an "inadequacy" declaration on the FEIS including their support for more analysis of FOH's alternate route proposal.

With your contributions and support FOH has spent the last four years thwarting Enbridge's pipeline proposals via the judicial processes prescribed in Minnesota law. (On the back of the letter, we've included a timeline detailing the procedural and legal turning points.) We are asking for your help again. FOH is an all-volunteer organization with no office rent or paid staff. Your contribution and those of all our supporters will be dedicated to our legal efforts in challenging the "adequacy" of the FEIS and the PUC's desire to grant Enbridge the certificate of need and route permits.

To meet our expected legal needs we have set a goal of \$50,000. Thank you for your long-standing support and loyalty to the fight. Folks like you, people who believe in the legacy and quality of the Mississippi Headwaters and northern Minnesota's lake country, have made this possible.

***"There are places where a barrel of water is worth more than a barrel of oil."***

Sincerely,

Richard Smith  
President



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