



June Board Meeting Minutes June 16, 2020

Via Zoom

4:00 – 5:00 pm

Board Member Attendees: Ron Meyer, Steve Roe, John Forney, Jim Brandt, Tom Kuschel, Sheila Boldt, Jodi Eberhardt, Lloyd Thyen, Clay Shulte & Barb Courneya.

Guests: John Andrews (City of Crosslake) & Alan Sherburne (Lower Hay Lake).

(1) Agenda Approval

There was a motion by Barbara Courneya seconded by Lloyd Thyen , to approve the 6/16/2020 PRWA Board Meeting agenda. Motion carried.

(2) Approval of Previous Minutes

There was a motion by Steve Roe seconded by Barbara Courneya, to approve the 5/19/2020 PRWA Monthly Board Meeting minutes. Motion carried.

(3) Committee Reports

- Finance
 - o People increase their donations to memberships even though the minimum membership fee is still only \$15. Have been fortunate to receive a couple large donations to have the ability to pay CW SWCD for services as well as make other contributions to local organizations for water quality purposes.
- Land and Waters
 - o Did not give our grant dollars this year partially due to disorganized committee structure and did not receive qualified applications.
- Website/Facebook
 - o Sheila and Tasha have been making suggested updates to the website. Please let them know if you see any other necessary changes or if you want additions or more adjustments made.
- Land and Ag
 - o The Crow Wing Forage Basin is still planning to host their Summer Tours. It's planned for the week of September 14th, each day to different sites including The Sun-up Ranch. More details to follow.
- Conservation/Enbridge



○ Barb Update

- The PRWA would like to continue support for The Friends of The Headwaters in their effort to prevent Line 3 from being complete, including legal financial assistance.

There was a motion by Barbara Courneya seconded by Lloyd Thyen , to approve donating \$5,000 dollars to The Friends of The Headwaters. Motion carried.

(4) Upper Whitefish – This project continues with expanded water testing.

(5) Harvest Dinner August 22, 2020 – Pending, will know in July.

(6) 1W1P

- a. \$462,000 to apply to 1W1P Goals such as grazing management, individual lake studies. The challenge is developing specific work plans. Corvid-19 makes it difficult to communicate in person on issues like changing grazing practices.

(7) Grazing management project

- a. Melissa (CW SWCD) Met with Abe this afternoon, waiting for more individual projects.
- b. Jim C. said there is a 22-acre cover-crop project being implemented.
- c. Denny has committed to working with John Tuene on a cover crop plan for one of his fields.

(8) Up the Creek Meats

- d. Initial presentation was made via Zoom to the Association of Cass County Lakes (ACCL) in May. Lake associations were asked to volunteer for a pilot and The Gull Lake association will be the pilot. Ron and Sunup Ranch will be meeting in July & August to get started. A virtual tour of Sun-up Ranch of topics such as rotated grazing, water tanks etc. would be ideal to share and Ron has asked Vicki to develop one.
- e. For both Project information on this effort and a short video on explaining the benefit of soil health go to the website of Fish and Water Conservation Foundation and look under programs.

(9) Aerial photos from Melissa Barrick at CW SWCD

- f. Willow Creek – The aerals Melissa provided on Willow were great. You can still see other tributaries that also need conservation/runoff work from the aerial view. Aerial views should be used in the future to help our plan process.

(10) Zoom Subscription for \$16.09 per month will be billed via CW SWCD invoice.

(11) Board comments

- g. Steve Roe – Enjoyed Carbon presentation



- h. Barb C. – The Northern Waters Land Trust is accepting memberships now to raise funds. (Previously The Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation)
- i. John Forney – Biochar is very interesting, obviously we have a huge lake to consider using this on. Should we be identifying test sites on the lake? Is our basin too large for this type of a product? Lake Okeechobee, as the presenter mentioned, is large.
 - It might be worth sending them our scenario and asking what they suggest.
 - Highway 66 project is moving forward, under construction now.
- j. Clay Schulte – Interested in Biochar, continuing to understand more reading 1W1P documentation. There is 600 feet of restoration of shoreline near Clay Schulte's residence does require restoration attention, will be meeting with Ron to discuss further.
- k. Jim Chamberlain – Curious about Biochar presentation, originally based on residence in The Amazon River basin. This is to fix the problems we already have but it's not a long term solution (fixing what's on the land now and then what's gone into the water, prevention and then restoration).
 - Still moving forward on meat-processing locally. Did submit a resolution to the state on an updated grazing partnerships. A reduced rate to utilize Conservation Corp. Members to assist farmers with things such as rotated grazing, fence line moving etc. that need the physical help and support. This would be one way to get young adults into agriculture, gain experience and possible farm themselves.
- l. Lloyd Thyen – Committee met for the second time within the town hall. Changing the scope of the committee to be broader environmental group is the direction we need to go. Progress is slow but is being made.
 - Clean Drain & Dry, AIS education continues.
- m. Tom Kuschel – Comments about local beef processing, right now there is so much more demand than supply. If a local processing plant could be established it would take off.
- n. Jim Brandt – Difficulty sampling, windy and shallow (Whitefish Chain & Willow Creek).
- o. Sheila Boldt – Sampling over 20 lakes and 15 streams this summer for one of the grants they have has been interesting, as mentioned, with the wind and low waters. Office staff are still working from home some but present in the office more now. There is a glass window in the office for customers. Sheila is due with another baby boy in December.
- p. Ron Meyer – Staying safe as a vulnerable adult but missus the face-face interactions. Bio Car is interesting and will work with Tony and our consultant to see if we can asked some questions about our situation that would help us with the Upper Whitefish effort.