



Monthly Board Meeting Minutes July 20, 2021
Via Zoom & Ideal Town Hall
4:00 pm – 5:30 pm

Board Member Attendees: Ron Meyer, Lloyd Thyen, Steve Roe, Jim Chamberlin, Clay Shulte, Sheila Boldt, Jodi Billy, Barb Courneya, Tom Kuschel, Scott Lucas & Jim Brandt.

Guests in Attendance: N/A

(1) Agenda Approval

There was a motion by Ron Meyer seconded by Darril Wegscheid , to approve the 7/20/2021 PRWA Board Meeting agenda. Motion carried.

(2) Approval of Previous Minutes

There was a motion by Barbara Courneya seconded by Steve Roe, to approve the 6/15/2021 PRWA Monthly Board Meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

(3) Committee Reports

- Finance

There was a motion by Ron Meyer seconded by John Forney, to approve Ron J. Meyer obtaining signature authority for The PRWA checks. Motion carried via email 7/27/21.

- The PRWA is receiving generous donations from membership, a little over \$10,000. We need to better understand donations from website to properly thank the donors. .
- Will confirm if we received MN Giving Day donation.
- Land and Waters (Barb)
 - Gave a donation of \$4,000 from 2020 to Loon Center for the boat to be used for education.

Website/Facebook

- Ron and Tasha (CW SWCD) are updating the website and will be sending out comments from the chair on not only what's been completed but also upcoming projects. The Comments will be emailed to all of the members as well as posted on FB and Website.
- Land and Ag



- Recent Ag. tours were moderately attended but successful.
 - Bold Open Initiative: reverse pitch, typically an entrepreneur approaches with an idea but in this case they have needs that have to be met and who can help to solve these needs. This looks at the entire distribution network. They recognized the same challenges (aging carcasses, where to cut and wrap, how to handle the “waste.”)
 - Carbon credits: Initiative Foundation (Don Hickman) recent article that if you do specific practices, you can receive credit for the project.
 - Movement in meat processing in past few weeks; potentially can access covid-19 relief funds to purchase a mobile slaughter unit.
 - Conservation/Enbridge
 - There is hope again, there is a petition by multiple tribal units filed. Separate filing that wants to elevate this to the supreme court. The state commerce department is not being involved as of now. Arguing that there is no need for the pipeline and that the current line 3 does not pose a risk.
 - Mud spill into The Mississippi River did occur. Winona Leduke was (allegedly) arrested on-site in Park Rapids. It is 75% complete.
 - There are estate planning workshops being assessed by NWLT.
 - Star Lake tax forfeited land postponed for a year, too allow more time for review more options.
 - Membership
 - Intern at CW SWCD is organizing and reviewing current membership and payments with Ron.
- (4) 1W1P
- a. Held first meeting with Lower & Upper Har Lake to discuss the lake-improvement process.
 - i. Well & septic inventory (can cap old wells).
 - ii. Fire pits close to the shoreline, AKA: Outreach and education, stewardship work and passing the message from one neighbor to the next.
 - b. It is beneficial to have status reports or what is being done and results. We need to request a written summary of projects, budget spending etc. up to date.
- (5) Upper Whitefish
- a. Excessive growth of weeds and algae still occurring in the water from high temperatures and low lake levels (6-8 inches low near Whitefish Chain and Lakes North of there).
- (6) Up the Creek Meats (N/A)
- (7) Grazing Management
- a. Difficult to establish grazing management projects when the lack of rain means very poor growth. You can notice which pastures are being properly managed during this drought year because they do have some grass growth.



(8) Harvest Dinner 2021

- a. Tickets available soon, \$35 for adults & \$10 for children.
- b. Working on a press release for The Harvest Dinner at Sun-up Ranch (Shrimp boil), sustainable agriculture. Flier was received to utilize for the article.
- c. There will be an FFA/4-H raffle to contribute to the youth organizations that help with the event.

(9) Grassland 2.0

- a. Kickoff for the program, event in January 2022 in-person. Waiting to hear if receive additional funding through The Conservation Innovation Program.

(10) Tax Forfeited Land

- a. A law changed 4 years ago, counties can now sell parcels that have public water access. Little Round Lake (adjacent to Uppgard Wildlife Management Area, Star Lake). Requested Ideal Township to delay the sale of this parcel for a year. Spoke with the Crow Wing County Commissioners ahead of time and it has been successfully delayed for one year. One of the alternative options is to turn the parcel into a park with non-motorized boat access and trails. It was once used by locals as a landing (300 feet of lakeshore). In order to sell the parcel (to an individual) it has to go by auction unless transferred to another local government unit (Ideal Township). When Ron tried to purchase 20+ years ago (when it couldn't be sold) it was for \$30,000 and now is worth at least \$150,000.

(11) Board comments

Steve – County & Ideal are being cooperative to formulate a plan, maybe it shouldn't be altered (per previous discussion as trails or a park). Could plan volunteer tree planting for the parcels that are barren in the Northern part of the county.

Scott – Dry, going with the data Mitch sent for 1W1P (319 grant/9 element plan), if there are any critical areas to focus on that are not in the 1W1P or WRAPS, let Scott know. Utilized tour photos in the plan of projects. WAPOA may have drone footage to share (Ron).

Jim Chamberlin – Congratulations to Lloyd on his Lake Steward Award. Will work with Jodi and Vickie on press release.

Lloyd – Regaining health and tending to lakeshore (received an award).

Sheila –

Jodi – Recent article on Camp Knutson was well received by local newspaper. Next will be The Sunup Ranch and then RALALA shoreline tour (this Saturday). Pick-up key Land & Waters grant recipients. Created a survey for Lake Ossie, take photos of their parcels and short paragraph of their conservation efforts. (A self-guided tour that people can take). Put a link on FB page, sent an email to landowners to complete it. Received 20 responses and hand-picked a few other people that have projects. Can add listings at any time (live). (Past photos at CW SWCD and elsewhere?)



Jodi – U of M Aquatic Invasive Species Center is doing Testing for zebra mussels (copper sulfate on veliger's) on Pelican Lake (North side). Has to remain in a location all summer, parked and people are welcome to talk to the researchers. They were having a hard time finding live snails where they were but did find more in another area of the lake. There was success in Minnetonka and therefore they are testing it here. *

*Ron is curious if there is a study to determine build-up of copper over years of treatment.

Darrel W. – Trying to complete water sampling at creeks near the pipeline (or downstream) before the pipeline is complete. AW lab did develop a plan (benzene etc.) and quote. Enbridge is apparently setting up a disaster recovery report (still). RALALA is looking for more discussion 1:1 with Enbridge on that topic. Sampling for baseline every so-many weeks.

Barb – Farmers are utilizing Kernza more for drought resistance as well as it being fast-growing. Jim said it can be grazed and harvested within the same season.

Jim Brandt – CCMI crews from CW SWCD?

Tom K. – Roughly 10x amount of cattle at the sale barn being sold right now. Ranchers are having trouble feeding their animals because of the drought.

Ron – Appreciates Steve talking to County commissioner's in-order to delay the land sell discussed.
Adjourn: 5:30 p.m.