



Monthly Board Meeting Minutes May 18, 2021

Via Zoom

4:00 pm – 5:37 pm

Board Member Attendees: Ron Meyer, John Forney, Lloyd Thyen, Steve Roe, Jim Chamberlin, Clay Shulte, Sheila Boldt, Jodi Billy & Jim Brandt.

Guests: Darril Wegscheid & Nicole Baumann

(1) Agenda Approval

There was a motion by Ron Meyer seconded by Jim Chamberlin , to approve the 5/18/2021 PRWA Board Meeting agenda with the addition of Grassland 2.0. Motion carried.

(2) Approval of Previous Minutes

There was a motion by Jim Brandt seconded by Lloyd Thyen, to approve the 4/20/2021 PRWA Monthly Board Meeting minutes per Ron's updates. Motion carried.

(3) Committee Reports

- Finance
 - Had a small meeting with CW SWCD to relieve Steve of financial responsibilities (4/20/21). We'll be detailing this transition within the next few months. This would be under a new/adjusted contract including membership and financial databases.
 - Steve will continue to pick up the mail, write checks and make bank deposits.
 - Steve presented current financial details.
 - If not CW SWCD to handle finances, maybe former CPA operations to contract out in Crosslake.

- Land and Waters (Barb)
 - RALALA kick-off meeting on June 12th 1-3pm in Crooked Lake Township.
 - **Can someone from PRWA go to this event for a photo opp because they were a Land & Waters grant recipient.**
 - Lloyd will be there as well as CW SWCD (Sheila &/or Bethany C.)

- Website/Facebook
 - Need to update website – sent Tasha a reminder about SFA events.

- Land and Ag



- SFA website has the upcoming tours listed – need to share onto PRWA website and FB.
 - Conservation/Enbridge
 - Monitoring devices or equipment to find any leaks from the pipeline – have asked AW Research.
 - What is the catastrophic alert process? DNR duty officer? Who are the responders? Equipment availability? Access?
 - Membership
 - Ron has letter ready and will work with CW SWCD to get labels and envelopes.
- (4) 1W1P
- a. Need to get money allocated and spent on projects, progress is being made.
- (5) Upper Whitefish
- a. Continue with deep water testing, challenge is how much data is needed to give answers? Pine River observations, fish are up The North Fork versus the south fork right now. Will be monitoring weed growth and algae. Water is high and the rip-rap is surprisingly green/slime on surfaces. Thought an additional bottle for testing but they said only 2. The clarity is very good/high right now.
- (6) Up the Creek Meats
- a. Trying to direct people to the website for people to purchase individually.
 - b. Website: Fish and Water Conservation Fund:
<https://www.fishandwatersconservationfund.org/up-the-creek-meats/>
 - c. Have been working on the processing, value-added aspects to the processing utilizing organ meats for pet food etc. Trying to get more value. Talking to restaurants, VFWs about utilizing the local ground beef.
 - d. Video can go online and be shared.
- (7) PRWA Media Efforts – Jodi & Sheila will connect.
- (8) Grazing Management
- a. Part of The 1W1P goals, landowner projects:
 - i. Cover crops, converting land to pasture management, cost-share for fencing.
 - ii. Old gravel pit will be planted with a cover crop, grazing and convert back into pastureland.
- (9) Grassland 2.0
- a. Learning Hubs – Looking at applying for a USDA grant to support these. Grayscale = a tool for grazing planning and other practices. Comprehensive farm scale model. Estimates runoff amounts of phosphorus and other nutrients. Helpful as a peer-peer learning tool for discussion. How could this tool be used for marketing?
 - b. Incentive payments to farmers?
- (10) Annual Meeting



- a. Speaker Ideas:
 - i. Easement (landowners, NWLT or Andrew S. new hire at CW SWCD)
 - ii. Cory (cattle, silvopasture)
 - iii. Abe Hollister
 - b. The group would like to have it in-person as well as on zoom. More comfortable having speakers come then too, can record their presentation to share afterward. Zoom allows for some bigger names to come too.
 - c. Need to advertise if this is something we'd like to do.
 - d. Board could plan a tour later this summer or this fall.
- (11) Harvest Dinner – August 21st 2021
- a. Would like to have a table again representing CW SWCD & The PRWA. Sheila is out of town but will request another staff member to attend.
- (12) Board comments
- a. Jim Brandt
 - Tracks the snow and rainfall, the first half of April 3", less than .5" since then.
 - b. Sheila Boldt
 - New Hires – Alicia our intern & Andrew Seagren is our new forester and easement specialist. Training in staff, reporting and numerous site-visits keeping us busy.
 - c. Jodi Eberhardt
 - Sounded like a successful fishing opener, 27"+ walleye, stocked in 2019 and they're doing well.
 - Pelican isn't that dry comparing personal dock experiences.
 - d. Steve Roe
 - Disappointed in governments response to the pipeline design failures. Who signed the plans for this work? Were they an internal Enbridge employee?
 - Wants to learn more about grassfed beef, cooking and finishing techniques.
 - e. Lloyd T.
 - Put lift and boat in, they're not moving until it rains more. Dana G. rom Cass Co. will be talking about AIS program at their Crooked Lake township meeting. Excited to work on RALALA project soon.
 - f. Jim Chamberlin
 - Was tired the other night, had to move cows since it's so dry. This was a site with poorer paddocks, was corn-corn, beat it up with horses. Went over to the site and looked down at a cow patty, great dung beetles which means that things are rejuvenating.
 - g. John Forney
 - Crosslakers received grant through Land & Waters



- Loon Center is moving forward, floating classroom included. Program through Dr. Piper (California) a banding and tracking project for loons. On the Whitefish Chain this summer banding loons.
- Get The Lead Out, Carol Henderson is on the board for the National Loon Center and will be dedicated the fishing dock at The Corp. campground. Might want to coordinate with the loon center rather than do something separate.
- Situation with the colonial pipeline is probably not helping our pipeline efforts.

j. Darril Wegscheid

- Thank you to Land & Waters & CW SWCD for cost-share funding and working together on upcoming projects.
- New president for RALALA, Bob Eddy (former business executive).
- A lot of work improving water quality and in a processed format.

k. Ron Meyer

- ACL Meeting – amount of development is significant.
- If you have poor sites, it can take 10 years to remediate those locations (building soil health takes time and effort).

l. Nicole Baumann

- Thankful to sit-in on this meeting and work with everyone.

m. Clay Shulte

- Believes in land preservation, can we track the number of conservation easements being put in place and how close are we to meeting those goals?
- How do we meet goals (NWLTC costs for setting aside parcels per acre) without projecting small parcels. “Not worth their time” since paperwork for each easement costs over \$30,000.
- Multiple landowners next to each other would entice the programs to pursue small easements. (1 agreement, 4 signatures etc.)