



Monthly Board Meeting Minutes November 16, 2021
Via Zoom & Ideal Town Hall
4:08 pm – 5:32 pm

Board Member Attendees: Ron Meyer, Barbara Courneya, Sheila Boldt, Tom Kuschel, Jim Brandt, Jim Chamberlain, Jodi Billy, Scott Lucas & Jodi Ederhardt.

Other Attendees: Darril Wegscheid, Kirk Soldner & Kurt Solberg.

(1) Agenda Approval

There was a motion by Barbara Courneya seconded by Jodi Billy, to approve the 11/16/2021 PRWA Board Meeting agenda with the additions of Back to Basics & Seeking Support for a Boat Operator's Certification. Motion carried.

(2) Approval of Previous Minutes

There was a motion by Tom Kushel seconded by Barbara Courneya, to approve the 10/19/2021 PRWA Monthly Board Meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

(3) Committee Reports

- Finance
 - o Balance sheet looks ideal, still over \$100,000, see report for details.
- Land and Waters
 - o Held a meeting regarding Breezy Point stormwater grant. Dilemma is a lack of confidence of who is going to maintain after installation. 40/60 split ownership where the raingarden is located. Will become a 2022 project.
- Website/Facebook
 - o Updated website slightly, will post newsletter after mailed out.
- Land and Ag
 - o Planning The Crow Wing Forage Council winter annual meeting January 20th at Central Lakes College with multiple speakers on topics such as: Drought Management, Alternative Protection for cattle (donkeys), Wolf Management and Mental Health.
- Conservation/Enbridge
 - o Line 3 is in production.



- NWLT recent meeting, Cass talked about their projects including wetland banking and forest sequestration. Cass is upset because there are millions sequestering right now but it has to be something new.
 - Membership
 - Newsletter mailing will be promotion, new list to send out to this fall.
 - Newsletter
 - Waiting for Range Printing for first proof
 - 1W1P Updates – Sheila Summarized
 - Creative work with lake stewards this summer – Jodi E.
 - “Why do we Love This Area?” – Ron M.
 - NLC Banding Loons - John Forney
 - Chair Comments – Ron M.
 - Land & Waters – Highlight project – photos
- (4) 1W1P
- a. If all of Lower Hay projects were complete, we’d eliminate 50 lbs Phosphorus. However, 400lbs phosphorus is coming in from hay creek. Therefore, removal will have to be an option to meet our goals (filtering, sediment removal or bind/alum treatment).
- (5) Grassland 2.0
- a. <https://grasslandag.org/>
 - b. *“Grassland 2.0 is a collaborative group of producers, researchers, and public and private sector folks working to develop pathways for producers to achieve increased profitability, production stability, and nutrient and water efficiency, while improving water quality, soil health, biodiversity, and climate resiliency through grassland-based agriculture.*
 - c. *We are taking an integrated approach to developing technical and financial tools, expanding grass-fed markets, cultivating positive institutional policy changes, and empowering producers and consumers.*
 - d. *Over the course of the next four years we will be hosting listening sessions, conducting surveys, and convening local conversations to learn from communities across the state and beyond to develop paths that move us toward grassland-based agricultural systems that create a healthy environment, healthy communities, and healthy people. Throughout the process, we want to engage with you.*
 - e. January 28th hosting a kick-off event with multiple speakers and rolling out the project for our learning hub. Looking for people to serve on steering team, monthly meetings, let Jim know.



- f. One successful project, not in the watershed but good example, 40 acres cover crop took (4 species mix) and is 12-14" now.

(6) Tax Forfeited Land

- a. Are discussing ideas, will schedule a Zoom meeting soon to discuss further.

(7) Seeking Support for a Boat Operator's Certification

"Greetings,

I am writing today to ask you to support the effort to pass legislation in the 2022 Legislative session asking the MN DNR to create a Watercraft Operator's Certification program and the supporting training course.

If your organization supports the concept, please let me know and I will add your name and organization to the attached letter. We will send this to DNR Commissioner Strommen and Gov. Walz on November 15th, so time is tight. Our hope is to convince the agency to include watercraft operators certification language in the 2022 Agency bill.

- a. *Boats in MN are larger, faster and more powerful than ever before,*
- b. *MN is second only to FL in boat ownership,*
- c. *Last summer was the most deadly open water season since 2005. Boating accidents are also on the rise,*
- d. *Boats wakes are creating shoreline erosion and prop thrust is destroying aquatic plants, fish spawning grounds and resuspending lake bed sediments which drives algae blooms,*
- e. *Conflicts among various user groups is increasing dramatically,*
- f. *The spread of aquatic invasive species, AIS is accelerating.*

Minnesotans love our lakes and we love our boats, but with this increased use has come the need for more training in boating safety, etiquette, AIS protocols and best practices to avoid negative impacts to lake ecology, water quality and fisheries.

Please let me know by return email if your organization wishes to sign on to this letter by November 15th.

Be well and happy Halloween,

Jeff Forester"

Executive Director, MN Lakes and Rivers Advocates

- g. Standards set by boating community for people to become licensed or receive a permit. Online training is available if they are traveling here from another state and therefore, could get a grace period etc.

(8) Manganese Mine Permit

- a. A Manganese Mine is up for discussion and comments (location near Blue Lake which is connected to Roosevelt Lake). They're currently discussing an open pit mine because

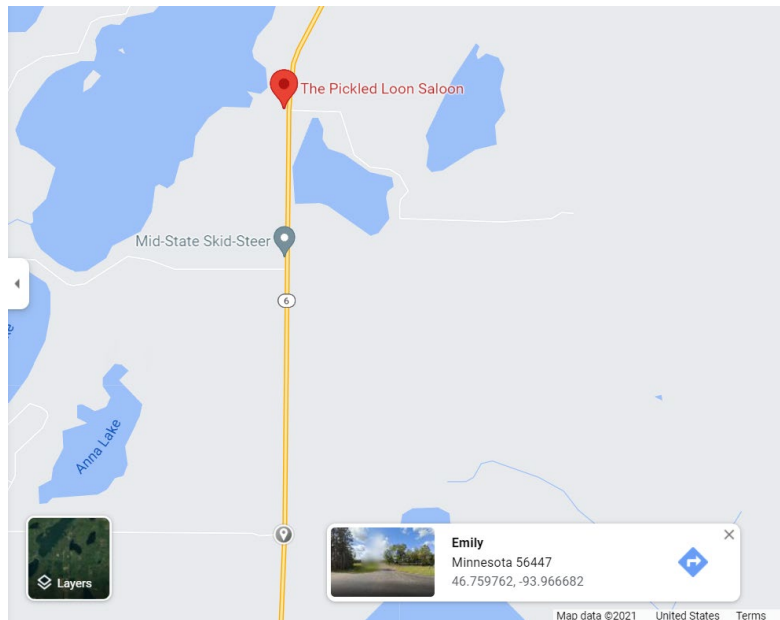


other techniques are not viable. Crow Wing Power is the stakeholder and according to co-ops they're not supposed to be doing anything not related to electricity. The members are the ones responsible; the state's hands are somewhat tied.

- b. Letters are being sent in by individuals to argue/place viewpoints on the topic.

(9) ATV – Darril Wegsheid

- a. Section where ATVs cannot safely pass along Highway 6 in Emily. MNDOT seems willing to close that section of the trail and people can take one that wraps around Ruth Lake. They are also discussing building culverts, applying a solid base for them to ride on up to Roosevelt Lake.
- b. Kirk is an adjacent landowner to the trail. The DOT can close a ditch for safety and environmental reasons. Would like to get an alliance of people that will give The DOT power to use their authority. Would like a resolution of support from The PRWA. Original intent of the ditch was permanent grass, not driven on. The section is roughly 2 miles, from the North end of the lake (Pickled Loon) to Mill Road.



(10) Biochar

- a. It is basically carbon, utilized for catching and binding nutrients. Someone from The U of M said it's not successful for phosphorus however, now utilizing soft wood it can be smaller pore sizes to catch more nutrients. Can be recycled as fertilizer, even sold, after catching the nutrients. Works better in flowing water such as streams.
- b. Potential Regional Development Partnership Grant?



11) Back to Basics

- January – February evening classes spread out.
- Vendor fair in May to attend, Sheila will register

12) Board comments

Steve – Had technical difficulties, joining toward the end of discussions.

Barb – Happy Thanksgiving!

Jim Chamberlin – November 22, moving forward with meat processing work. 3.9 million from The EDA, and a research grant. Getting farmers and stores together for planning.

Sheila – Field work has finally slowed down but catching up on reporting and training in the current intern. Working on a partnership between The National Loon Center, WAPOA and CW SWCD to purchase a Sonde, water monitoring device. It's a \$14,000 piece of equipment, CW SWCD has a grant to use-up by the end of the year totaling roughly \$6,000. The CW SWCD board will review tomorrow.

Jodi E. – Great to hear updates from everyone, important ATV conversations.

Jim Brandt – Ron was recognized by Ideal Township as volunteer of the year.

John Forney – Permanent docks are in by The Crosslake Campgrounds and hopefully the floating docks are installed soon. Hired two new staff, now three people. The city of Crosslake is moving forward with the county to the second phase, highway 16 and old city hall. Expanding the sanitary sewer. Will be roadwork next summer in this location for re-surfacing.

Ron – Interesting how 1WIP moves forward and restarting the WRAPS cycle 2.

Darril – Several RALALA and WAPOA members had a meeting with Enbridge this afternoon, how to project the waters that the pipeline crosses now that it's in production. The pipeline is very close to Roosevelt. Basically, they do not do any water testing outside of the pipeline. They base everything on the pipeline testing, pressure etc. Local organizations may request them to pay for more local sampling by organizations. Explained their testing of the pipe routine, the group was requesting this done more frequently.

Tom K. – The DNR collects funding from licensing of ATVS, they should have trail maintenance dollars. Most of the trails are not technically DNR trails, trying to leverage a better vision and funding for the repairs.

Scott – WRAPS Pine River Cycle 2 meeting coming up, would like someone to give an update on projects. Either Ron or Sheila will.

Kirk (guest) – Conservation-minded individual, glad to know the group exists and thanks the opportunity to discuss ATV.

Adjourn: 5:32 p.m.