

The Pine River Watershed Alliance  
Board Meeting Minutes September 17, 2019  
Ideal Community Center  
4:00 – 6:00 pm

**Board Member Attendees:** Ron Meyer, Lloyd Thyen, Barb Courneya, Jim Chamberlin, Tom Kushel, Jim Brandt, Clay Shulte, Gordy Reller, John Forney, Jodi Eberhardt & Sheila Boldt.

**(1) There was a motion Lloyd Thyen seconded by Barbara Courneya , to approve the 9/17/2019 agenda. Motion carried.**

**(2) There was a motion by Gordy Reller seconded by Barbara Courneya, to approve the 8/20/2019 Meeting Minutes. Motion carried.**

**(3) Committee Reports**

- *Finance*

A.

- *Membership*

A.

- *Land and Waters*

A. An Endowment fund created by WAPOA, PRWA & The Initiative Foundation to fund projects.

B. Need PRWA members to join with two people not able to participate. 3 board members are the requirement. Haven't been meeting because people have been unavailable and three of the current members are WAPOA members also. Need to meet to develop more fundraiser. WAPOA has contributed a lot of funds thus far. There should be 3 PRWA members but 2 of the 3 are not currently able to participate. Barb & Jodi are joining on behalf of PRWA.

A. The website needs updating via Tasha and Sheila at CW SWCD. Please continue to share our posts on Facebook.

- *Conservation/Enbridge:* Now increasing memberships (Northern Waters Land Trust)

A. Northern Waters Land Trust ([northernwaterslandtrust.org](http://northernwaterslandtrust.org)) - John Sumption, Percel and Tim (President) communicated.

B. Enbridge - See update organized by Barb C.

- *Newsletter*

A. Sheila will send around an e-mail with previous newsletters as examples to look back on and topic ideas. Please sign-up with Sheila for which topic you would be able to write an article about or if you have any new ideas!

- *Land and Ag*

A. Abe & Dennis are conducting their farmer surveys.

- *Website/Facebook*

A. Updates to 1W1P, projects, minutes etc. will be following in the next couple months.

**(4) Upper Whitefish Project**

- There is data, theories etc. but we need to identify options and decide to try one of them.

- If this is going to cost a lot of money, that's what might have to happen.

- Removal of vegetation is not a permanent solution, looking for a different solution.

**(5) 1W1P**

A. October 3<sup>rd</sup> Seminar at Ideal Community center in the afternoon to present Work Plan process to organizations in the watershed.

B. At least 6 people have RSVP'd thus far to attend. Ron will identify the plan goals and Mariah from a private firm will be here to identify what different lakes can do (somewhat of a plan).

C. One of the local partners attending will be Lower Hay talking about fire pits and their public access.

**(6) Insurance**

A. There's a way to get the board insured more comprehensively and at a lower rate and therefore Steve and Ron are looking into it.

**(7) WAPOA Article**

A. An agricultural and soil health article was written by Jim & Ron.

**(8) RDO**

A. Per last PRWA board meeting, Ron called Keith at RDO.

B. Fields are being rotated to potatoes every four years.

C. Lake levels are dropping drastically near agriculture that is irrigated now.

D. Testing of wells needs to be done by a certified tester, such as AW Lab themselves, not by the landowner.

**(9) NLLT**

A. As previously discussed the boards would like to have a meeting together, not going to happen this year.

**(10) 319**

A. Payment over 10 years over \$200,000 for projects. The group was approved for the funding, but it is a complex process and is not completely guaranteed.

**(11) Zabramusselmania.com**

A. Lab trials are currently being tested for an invention by a local, owner of Little Yukon Landscaping. A light (LED?) shines and attracts the zebra mussels (and other life?) and then a chemical surround them and kills them.

**(12) Board Member Comments (Summarized by Sheila)**

Gordy – Next summer The PRWA tour a site.

John – Briefing for the grad student that is putting together the curriculum and narrative for The Loon Center. By the end of the year that portion of the project should be complete. The next semester is looking at what media will be used to convey that information to the public.

Melissa (CW SWCD) is working with The Crosslakers on an additional grant to assist in stormwater management along another route in Crosslake.

Chloride testing is taking place by Crow Wing County, CW SWCD and local landowners on roughly a dozen local lakes that are adjacent to county roads this fall and again in the spring.

Tom – Taxing Authority for Countys & SWCDs?

Clay – Learning from the group and looking forward to being involved to find solutions.

Sheila – Working on having a recorded document with each of our shoreline/stormwater projects. Can provide in the future a summary of completed and current RIM easements

Ron – Meeting with The DNR Commissioner was not productive as hoped.

- Anyone want to help with two shoreline restoration projects. Friday September 20 and Sunday September 22, Dagget and Rush Lake (Kristie Rodell is organizing)?

Jodi – Saturday 12-4pm tour of Jodi's house and solar panels.

*MAZ Filter:*

*We use a 3 stage filter system to removes manganese and iron. It doesn't really work like a softener - the water still has some minerals, but in our situation it is just fine. The water tastes great and there's no odor.*

*Our well driller called these MAZ filter systems.*

*We ordered it on eBay and Kevin's plumbing did the install.*

<https://www.ebay.com/itm/322892524208>



Jim – Early-on in Jim’s career – He always requested Agroforestry brochures, wrote an article, someone was interested but had never farmed. Fast forward now – more local farmers are interested and that there will be an agroforestry (silvopasture) Dept. of Ag. Practice standard.

Jim – Secchi disk reading on Upper Whitefish was 11 but has now gone down to 9. There was also a great deal of vegetation along the shoreline suddenly. The water was 65\*. A few people are going to an AIS showcase tomorrow in St. Paul.

Lloyd – The day after Fortune Consulting had a workshop the same people talked to the township about road salt reduction and management. AIS committee is about the Segway into an environmental committee and they are keeping 1W1P in-mind (reading the approx. 20 pages suggested).

Barb – Hand Lake, as mentioned previously, might have zebra mussels. They are having a mtg. at Ponto Lake Townhall. They did not officially announce that Hand Lake has zebra mussels because there are beaver dams between there and Ada. Baby mussels were discovered on a boat that went from – Leech → Hand → Long Lake. Not sure where they came from or if its going to cause an infestation. They dove in Ada and did not find any zebra mussels.