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Monthly Board Meeting Minutes, April 19, 2022

Via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81796139565>

4:00 pm – 5:30 pm

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

Board Members in Attendance via Zoom: Clay Schulte & Jim Chamberlin.

Other Attendees: Kirk Soldner & Bob Karls (Zoom).

(1) Agenda Approval

There was a motion by Barbara Courneya seconded by Lloyd Thyen to approve the 4/19/2022 PRWA Board Meeting agenda. Motion carried.

(2) Approval of Previous Minutes

There was a motion by Barbara Courneya seconded by Tom Kuschel, to approve the 3/15/2022 PRWA Monthly Board Meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

(5) Committee Reports

- Finance

- Revenue is not matching operating expenses.
- Tax Returns have been prepared but in speaking to Tracy, a few things have changed but things are ready for approval.

There was a motion by Steve Roe seconded by Barbara Courneya, to approve the federal & state tax returns for The Pine River Watershed Alliance. Motion carried.

- Land and Waters

- Tentatively a March 23rd held a zoom meeting to review applications.
 - Breezy Point (from last year, raingarden)
 - Camp Knutsen
 - CW SWCD (Adam Shoreline projects)
 - RALALA (Roosevelt) Shoreline projects
- Barb gave an update that they reviewed the current applications but haven't decided on which to fund or how much.
- There is no grant application for a no-till grill as of now (Bethany at Crow Wing SWCD said that she submitted one). *Sheila will let Bethany know that the application was not received by the committee.*



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- Website/Facebook
 - o Please share events, project updates etc. to Sheila@cswcd.org to share!
 - Land and Ag
 - o Planning to triple cover crop acreage by approximately 600 acres within the Pine River Watershed.
 - o There is a lot of interest in using a no-till drill, working on funding.
 - o Forage Council: 5 workshops being planned for this summer.
 - Conservation/Enbridge (N/A)
 - o The pipeline is in operation but have read an article about the distribution of funds and DNR Files \$2.2 M Bill for policing during the enbridge line 3 pipeline construction.
 - <https://www.startribune.com/dnr-files-2-2m-bill-for-policing-during-enbridge-line-3-construction/600153043/>
 - o MN State Patrol, Aitkin County, Cass county etc. have received payments for policing.
 - o An aquifer leak was not shared quickly by the administration, approximately 50 million gallons of groundwater had flowed since the accident. The site is being monitored by MPCA. This occurred near a bridge that was punctured. <https://www.twincities.com/2022/01/20/enbridge-says-it-has-stopped-groundwater-leak-caused-by-punctured-aquifer-during-line-3-construction/>
 - o Line 5, Michigan tunnel being constructed. 100% of the public comments opposed the tunnel.
 - o Land & Waters Land Trust:
 - Planning to have two events, one in Brainerd, in June for landowners to learn about land-use planning and conservation options.
 - Applying for two Outdoor Heritage grants.
 - Applying for a Lakes of Biological Significance Grant.
 - Received funding from The Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership (MGLP).
 - Membership
 - o Need to increase membership and/or donations with an increase in expenses.
 - o Ron will work with CW SWCD to complete a second mailing with comments from the chair to mail to people that have not paid yet. Will be asking board members to help share the information as well.
 - o The chair
- (6) One Watershed One Plan (1W1P)
- a. Held a Policy Committee meeting on April 6th.
 - b. Phase II work plan has a lot of focus on easement acquisition & forestland.



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- c. Stormwater is another important component of the plan. Bertha Boat Works is one of the upcoming projects to improve stormwater retention.

(7) Grassland 2.0

- d. May 2022 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm meeting
 - i. Currently working on questions to ask during interview.
 - ii. Submitted a grant application to NRCS, would put a part-time CW SWCD person in the NRCS Baxter office to provide marketing & grazing technical expertise to landowners.

(8) Up the Creek Meats

- e. Developing a PowerPoint to share at an information meeting to the Nisswa Church of the Cross (May 1st) church organization about the program.

(9) Trout Lake Activity

- f. PRWA & NWLT formulated letters to Crow Wing County Board of Adjustment that were well received.
 - i. Ordinance adjustments have been made that require developments to notify their neighbors in a public comment process.
 - ii. A moratorium was approved for the Carpenter development.
 1. They will still be proceeding with a “No Loss” (of wetland) application at The May Technical Evaluation Panel (TEP) meeting (State Wetland Conservation Act process) of which Sheila and a DNR representative is a member of.

Exert from Tony Coffey’s 4/12/22 Email Summarizing Previous Items:

1. “Administrative Subdivisions are no longer allowed for the division of lots within the Shoreland District. Landowners will now need to bring a formal request to the P&Z. The process will require public notification and a public hearing giving neighboring land owners, lake associations, and local jurisdictions the ability to weigh in on subdivision of shoreland property.
2. Passed a one-year moratorium on the construction of any boardwalk and connected dock structure with the Shoreland Impact Zone within Crow Wing County. County staff were directed to prepare for public hearings and formal study of the impacts of boardwalks on shoreland and wetlands. This moratorium renders mostly moot Alternative Access Lots for the duration of the moratorium.”

(10) Tax Forfeit Land

- g. Ron has been in contact with county staff, and they’ve said the starting bid price has not been set and added him to a contact list for any updates on the sale of the parcel.
- h. There have been conversations about going in together as an LCC to purchase.



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- i. <https://crowwing.us/269/Land-Sales> the parcel is not active on the interactive map online yet with a starting bid price.

(11) ATV Project

- j. Continue to line up support, had a recent Zoom session with Senator Ruud who wrote a letter of support for the project.
- k. Conversing with MNDOT, 21 specific remediation questions were sent to them. Received a reply that they would be handling the design and are hoping to have it finalized by July.
- l. Requested temporary erosion control, MNDOT said, yes.
- m. Original design on the road did not include a berm adjacent to the lake to aid in erosion control.
- n. There is also shoreline erosion below this ditch, requested that they help with that but they cannot work on private property.
- o. Working on signage, which must meet MNDOT standards. Roughly \$2,000, ATV club will be paying for some of that. If they are not able to fund the signage, would The PRWA be able to contribute any amount?
- p. The trail is temporary closed, will monitor potential wetland impacts if necessary.
- q. Statewide ATV trail planning and maintenance advocating for the environment is taking place – larger project than just this individual location.

(12) Back to Basics

- r. Vendor Fair Saturday, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm, May 21st
<https://www.happydancingturtle.org/back-to-basics>
 - i. Sheila, Ross (Green Corp member), Barb C., Ron Meyer & Jim Chamberlin.
 - ii. Rainfall simulator will be demonstrated.



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- Takes place outdoors Saturday, May 21 at Lakes Music & Events Park in Pine River from 10am to 3pm
- No admission or registration fees to attend
- Free mini-workshops & family activities including Nature Storytime and games
- Food for purchase available
- Vendors & exhibitors



Schedule of Events

Booths open 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Mini-Workshops

11am *Rain Garden Design with Native Plants* -- Ross Brink

12pm *Building Soil Health in Your Field or Garden* -- Jim Chamberlin

1pm *Rainfall Simulator & Conservation Assistance Opportunities*
-- Natural Resource Conservation Service

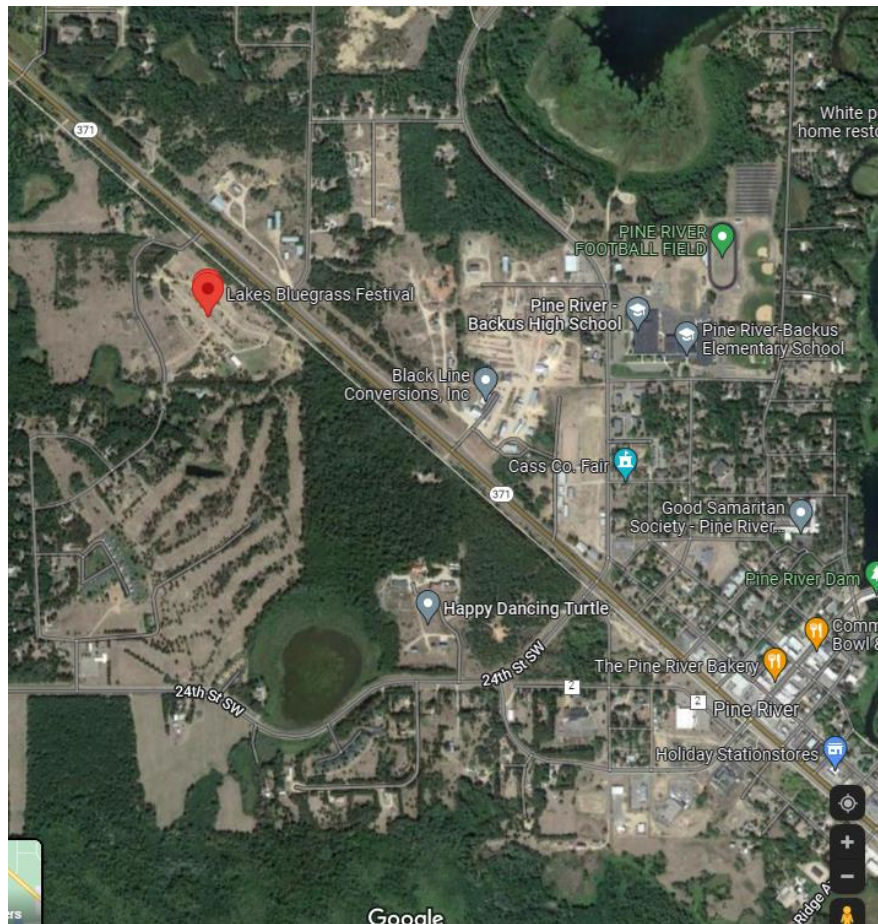
2pm *The Importance of Outdoor Play* -- Kim Norman

Family activities & games throughout the day





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(13) Board comments

Steve Roe – County Road 66 project will cut-off numerous stormwater drains that flow directly into The Whitefish Chain. Questions and continues to be watchful of appropriate development on the shoreline.

Sheila Boldt – Spring is here, Restoration Orders, site visits and project installation planning have commenced. Glad that we pushed our tree and plant sale pick-up to the second week of May.

John Forney – Contracts have been signed on Highway 66 project, still working on payment formula. The researchers will be back this summer to band additional loons. Banded 70 or-so in 2021, hoping for 100 this year. Some of the birds banded over a decade ago are still reappearing. Donations are being accepted, “Adopt a Loon” sort-of-a program. Talking about raising funds reminds us that The Crosslake Charter School sold “pieces of lakeshore.” Such as when buildings sell a “brick” for fundraising. Applying for grants to begin building the Center.

Looking for a place for the loon researchers to stay (private home or camping). May 22 - August 10, June 13 - June 30th.



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Jim Brandt – Watching University meetings that monitor for both phosphorus and Nitrogen. We may want to add that to our sampling regime. County tax assessed values have gone up 20-100%. County staff said that most have risen 20-30% and above that is rare.

Jim Chamberlin – No word yet on large EDA grant, CLC is moving forward with their meat butchering program.

Barbara Courneya – Will be attending the Board meeting for Cass County Association of Lakes. Ron would like to present, potentially in May, on Up the Creek Meats. A Zoom link hasn't been sent out yet.

Ron Meyer – Carrie Ruud didn't get the endorsement (Republican). Justin Eichorn received the endorsement (5b Senator), (https://www.senate.mn/members/member_bio.html?mem_id=1219)

Tom Kuschel – Water Guard has retained over 75% of the prior AIS inspectors.

Lloyd Thyen – Still ice, unsure of moving forward with a company called Water Garden Company (hired to run the AIS program). Get out the Led will continue this year.

Kirk Soldner (guest) – Thank you

Adjourn: 5:32 p.m.



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PRWA 2022 Meeting Schedule

3rd Tuesday of each month from 4:00 to 6:00 PM Central Time (established 12/29/2020)

January 18 th	No Meeting	-
February 15 th	4:00 to 6:00 PM	Zoom Meeting
March 15 th	4:00 to 6:00 PM	Zoom Meeting
April 19 th	4:00 to 6:00 PM	Ideal Corners
May 17 th	4:00 to 6:00 PM	Ideal Corners
June 21 st	3:00 to 4:00 PM - Annual Meeting 4:00 to 6:00 PM - Regular Board Meeting	Ideal Corners
July 19 th	4:00 to 6:00 PM	Ideal Corners
August 16 th	4:00 to 6:00 PM	Ideal Corners
September 20 th	4:00 to 6:00 PM	Ideal Corners
October 18 th	4:00 to 6:00 PM	Ideal Corners
November 15 th	4:00 to 6:00 PM	Ideal Corners
December 20 th	4:00 to 6:00 PM	Ideal Corners

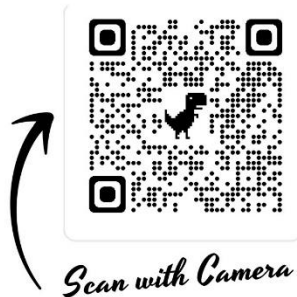
Reoccurring Zoom Meeting Information:

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81796139565>

Meeting ID: 817 9613 9565

Mobile Call-in: 1-312-626-6799

*In-person meetings will typically have the option to join virtual as well, call 218-828-6197 or email Sheila@cswgcd.org for log-in questions.



Join The Zoom Virtual Meeting by Scanning this Image Using Your Smartphone Camera!

Updated: 02/09/2022