

The Pine River Watershed Alliance
Board Meeting Minutes July 16, 2019
Ideal Community Center
4:00 – 6:00 pm

Board Member Attendees: Ron Meyer, Steve Roe, Lloyd Thyen, Clay Shulte, Jim Brandt, Tom Kushel & Sheila Boldt.

Guest Attendee: Eleanor Burkett (TNC)

(1) There was a motion by Steve Roe seconded by Tom Kushel, to approve the 7/16/2019 agenda. Motion carried.

(2) There was a motion by Steve Roe seconded by Clay Shulte, to approve the 6/18/2019 Meeting Minutes with the addition: (3) Committee Reports B. Motion to approve PRWA as a charitable organization and approving the filling of all State of Minnesota and Federal annual reporting documents as directed by the respective agencies. Motion carried.

(3) Committee Reports

- Finance

A. There was a motion by Steve Roe seconded by Clay Shulte , to approve payment to The Crow Wing Soil & Water Conservation District of \$3,897.95 per invoice received. Motion carried.

B. There was a motion by Steve Roe seconded by Tom Kushel , to approve the 7/16/2019 financial report as provided.

- Membership

A. Continue to promote and increase membership is still a key priority.

- Land and Waters

A. This is an Endowment Fund that supports projects. In 2018 The PRWA sponsored a grazing management program & a Crosslake Hwy 66 storm water project. The funds are coming from The Whitefish Chain area, hoping to expand contributions.

- Website/Facebook

A. Send articles to Sheila.boldt@crowwingswcd.org to share on Facebook or The PRWA website.

- Conservation/Enbridge (Barb not in attendance)

- Land and Ag (Jim not in attendance)

(4) The Nature Conservancy (TNC) – Eleanor Burkett

- A. Campaign TNC is currently promoting (handout: *Our Mississippi Our Future*, people can fill-in their information beneath “Yes! I want to protect the Mississippi for water, wildlife and future generations!”)
- B. Asking that people become supporters – e-mail addresses wanted.
- C. The funds this campaign is trying to raise would be available for all environmental agencies and organizations to support water quality projects.

(5) The Harvest Dinner is August 17, 2019 at Sun-up Ranch.

- A. A local dinner, music, local contacts and a farm tour.
- B. **There was a motion by Steve Roe seconded by Lloyd Thyen , to approve a \$300.00 donation to The Cass County Farm Bureau toward Sponsorship of The 2019 Harvest Dinner. Motion carried.**

(6) Loon Center Update (John not in attendance)

- A. Has been approved through The Corp. of Engineers and is moving along.

(7) 1W1P Update

- A. One week ago final policy committee meeting that was approved. The two county boards are now to approve and then in August BWSR and The Clean Water Council approves it. The issue is that we don't know what level of funding we will receive.
- B. There are 12 goals within The 1W1P. For example, erosion control (phosphorus) at a boat landing location and working closely with Townships to promote water quality projects.

(8) Grazing Management Project

- A. A private grazing event was hosted July 12, 2019. Speaking was Tom Kushel, where did the funding for his time, driving etc. come from?
- B. Two local cattle ranchers were chosen and are being hired (\$30,000) as consultants to do an inventory of local cattle ranchers (adaptive, rotation grazing etc.).

(9) Upper Whitefish Discussion

- A. Ortho-phosphorus
- B. Residual Phosphorus – that's been laying there for years
- C. Want to look at the algae and understand what's causing that bloom.
- D. Sampling of phosphorus in the spring before the ice goes out to get a baseline
- E. Core sample of the snow is important for atmospheric chemicals and particles.
- F. In 2000 50% of the phosphorus coming from atmospheric conditions (forest fires, winds, uncovered soil, coal burning etc.
- G. Atmospheric phosphorus is going up at a rate of 3% per year.

(10) Review & Approve New Membership Form

- A. Changes to make (Sheila will submit changes for Ron to review):

- a. Get rid of specific programs and have a space for people to write-in a specific project.

(11) 319 Grant

A. Federal funding through The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) that was almost received last year. Interview for this grant is this month.

(12) Board Comments

Steve – Has been playing catch-up. Crosslake has about 6 storm sewer outlets that go directly into The Lake – Crosslake (Loon Lake). How can we play more influence in what the county does? Local discussions are revamping curb and gutter and stormwater management.

Ron – John P. will be bringing a bill to the legislature to reduce the septic treatments plants down from 1.0 to .3 output allowance.

Tom – Ruud has been an extremely supportive politician in the environmental field.

Sheila – Found that we contributed \$100 in 2018 toward the shrimper's tickets for the Harvest Dinner

Lloyd – Neighbors didn't really want to talk about the shoreline and buffer but after talking to them they are slowly being influenced. Darrel W. and myself are trying to get folks together to look at projects that could use some money (little pine watershed).

Clay – planning to meet with Eleanor and give a summary back to the board.

Jim – A property lot that was recently purchased with only a separation of one or two feet to the ordinary water line, wants to put 3 or 4 motorhomes within 50 feet of the shoreline (supposed to be 100 feet). The DNR stopped it and said that the small lot could be one trailer at the most (county said 4 trailers). August 14th is the next hearing and they said not to use the lot until after that, but on the 4th of July it was full of their trailers.

Upcoming Events

- Harvest Dinner – August 17, 2019 Sun-up Ranch