



Monthly Board Meeting Minutes July 21, 2020

Via Zoom

4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

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

(1) Agenda Approval

There was a motion by John Forney seconded by Barbara Courneya , to approve the 7/21/2020 PRWA Board Meeting agenda. Motion carried.

(2) Approval of Previous Minutes

There was a motion by Ron Meyer seconded by Barbara Courneya, to approve the 6/16/2020 PRWA Monthly Board Meeting minutes. Motion carried.

(3) Committee Reports

- Finance
 - o Received a Thank You note from Richard Smith for our (PRWA) \$5,000 contribution to Friends of the Headwaters.
 - o We continue to receive multiple contributions for the current year due to a second mailing for membership dues.
 - o There is an invoice from CW SWCD for \$2,989.00.

There was a motion by Ron Meyer seconded by Barbara Courneya, to approve payment of an invoice for \$2,989.00 from The Crow Wing Soil & Water Conservation District. Motion carried.

- o Receive donations even after membership dues may mean people are paying more than once per year without knowing it. Request to track current, repeatedly donating and potential board member list.
- Land and Waters
 - o Have not heard from Darrell or Judy W. Met with Dave K. to close the loop with communication and review grant funds, lack of qualifying applicants. Barb and Jodi E. would like to join the group in order to focus on grant application promotion and decision-making on who gets funding.
- Website/Facebook
 - o Could run another FB ad at any time for \$5+ for any newsworthy posts such as Land and Waters grant etc.

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- Land and Ag
 - o The Crow Wing Forage Basin is holding their tour visiting 4 or 5 sites the week of September 14th. On Wednesday September 16th visiting The Sun-up Ranch. More details to follow. August 21st is the CLC Ag Day, without food, outdoor event where cover crop trials (22 varieties) will be highlighted.

What is a cover crop: In agriculture, cover crops are plants that are planted to cover the soil rather than for the purpose of being harvested. Cover crops manage soil erosion, soil fertility, soil quality, water, weeds, pests, diseases, biodiversity and wildlife in an agroecosystem—an ecological system managed and shaped by humans.

- Conservation/Enbridge
 - o Making changes to conservation priorities on the landscape at NWLT.
 - o Enbridge: There was a FB meeting by Honor The Earth. They spoke about the goal is to tie things up in the court system and that the tar sands will be “dead” by that time. There are upcoming meetings from Enbridge.

(4) Upper Whitefish

- a. Thanks to John and Jim Brandt water sampling is continuing. Secchi disk readings are showing 24 feet, back to 16 now (twice the depth of middle and lower Whitefish). Assuming that is due to low water levels. Arrowhead is a lot slimmer on the surface this year. Tom H. is testing Arrowhead Lake.

(5) Harvest Dinner is cancelled for 2020 and planning is underway for 2021

(6) 1W1P

- a. Officially Approved for funding.
- b. Lake Improvement
 - i. Will send out a survey to lake homeowners on targeted lakes and then allow the lake associations to meet 1:1 to go-over future conservation steps for improvement. Meet with Associations in a week-or-so and then get the surveys out soon thereafter. This is a pilot study first to see what to do with other targeted lakes within the watershed.

(7) Grazing management project

- a. There is currently one official project with cover cropping and water-tank/grazing.

(8) Up the Creek Meats

- b. Meeting with Sun-up Ranch and Lake Associations. There are choices that need to be made: purchase an already-processed cow, purchase ahead of time or cuts of meat etc.

(9) Grassland 2.0

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- a. Began with a project through The U of W to perennialize the landscape. More agricultural lands under perennial forage. Now they'd like to establish 5 learning hubs across the Midwest – 2 in WI and the rest other states. Shape policy, marketing, education and better management practices for pasturelands. They want the learning hubs relatively small such as smaller watersheds. Local gov. Units, SWCD or a local organization to facilitate the process. There is some funding, \$7,500, to help pay for staff time, outreach materials etc. This is highlighting community development (story map) and technical assistance to livestock producers. Two of the learning hubs will have feasibility for supply-chain marketing.
 - b. There is a coordinator to take care of the story map and some learning-hub roles. The PRWA might have regular scheduled meetings within a 3-5-year process.
- (10) Project – Meat Processing at Happy Dancing Turtle
- a. Approached by a research institute (AURI) and they wanted to be involved in “Cows for Clean Water” and feasibility study more. They were interested in the local market, consumer-driven funded model for processing locally. Most small-scale are funded by producers who want direct market consumption. AURI has offered \$5,000, budgeted project at \$20,000 to hire a company to continue a feasibility study for this direct market approach. They might offer more than \$5,000 now but the rest of the funds will have to come from or be found via Happy Dancing Turtle. Jim is wondering if The PRWA would be able to contribute funding.
 - b. The funding would be to study the feasibility of a local **processing plant** in the Pine River area marketed toward soil health, water quality, pasture management and specifically looking at consumer-driven funding for the process.
- There was a motion by Ron Meyer seconded by Barbara Courneya , to approve donating \$5,000 dollars to the Happy Dancing Turtle “Cows for Clean Water continuation” feasibility study. Motion was not carried.**
- c. Things need to happen on the land that take commitment to go to pasture-raised such as; water tanks, fencing etc.
 - d. Butchering is out at least 6 months for any livestock due to Covid-19.
 - e. Discussion commenced on whether or not The PRWA members would agree that funding this study fits the mission of The PRWA or not.
- (11) Zoom versus in-person meetings – We will be remaining on Zoom for meetings.
- (12) Board comments
- a. Jim Brandt – Glad to see that The Upper Whitefish clarity has improved, about twice as much and more. Watched Bio-char presentation, thought very

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interesting. Listened to Jeff Forester's wake boat webinar, they're putting a lot of effort into educating on the topic.

- b. Ron Meyer – MN COLA is trying to raise funding to do research on wave impacts to lakes including wake boats. The U of M would perform the research.
- c. Jodi Billy – There are differing opinions on wake boats but there are potential effects on not just shoreline but fisheries, water quality etc.
- d. Jim Chamberlain is now a Conservation Technician at Happy Dancing Turtle and will be working closely with farmers.
- e. Sheila Boldt – Heavy water sampling, still working from home when we can as long as there is office coverage. Great interns and staff. A lot of easements being processed by newer hire Adam!
- f. John Forney – Hwy 66 project is behind due to de-watering. The loon study is moving towards exhibit planning and hopefully next year permanent documents, shoreline restoration will be established.
- g. Clay – Would like to talk more about land easements at the next meeting. Progress and where the funding is coming from. Would like to look into Arrowhead lake more because of the poor water quality (slimy appearance) over the last 30 years. There was funding for treatment of Arrowhead lake (Alum) in the 1W1P.
- h. Steve Roe – Enjoyed the conversation about beef processing, Jim's proposal and John's questions. It has taken time to understand the contribution that organic food systems make on our water quality.
- i. Barb – Agree with Steve's comments and always learns something from Jim and in our meetings.
- j. Lloyd – Town board has insisted on in-person meetings however; Lloyd can hear better on Zoom meetings versus through masks in-person. Re-naming The Lake Association group for AIS as The Environmental Action Committee) they're doing a lot more than just AIS work). A demonstration of lakeshore restoration (also a public landing) to publicize and show people how it can be done. Identify properties from lake-side on properties that could better improve their shorelines. Hybrid meetings would work also.
- k. Jodi – Thank you for lively input at this meeting and would like to keep bringing up the wake boats. How to allow and incorporate wake boats within certain boundaries. People can get thrown off their docks by the strong power not just on the lakeshore but also recreationally and ecologically.

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