



Monthly Board Meeting Minutes March 16, 2021

Via Zoom

4:00 pm – 5:45 pm

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

Guests: Darril Wegscheid

(1) Agenda Approval

There was a motion by Barbara Courneya seconded by Steve Roe , to approve the 3/16/2021 PRWA Board Meeting agenda. Motion carried.

(2) Approval of Previous Minutes

There was a motion by John Forney seconded by Barbara Courneya, to approve the 2/16/2021 PRWA Monthly Board Meeting minutes. Motion carried.

(2) Committee Reports

- Finance

- Would like to have the board approve payment to Crow Wing SWCD.

There was a motion by Steve Roe seconded by John Forney, to approve payment to Crow Wing SWCD of \$2,710.12 for contracted services. Jim C. sustained. Motion carried.

- Lake associations that are members of The PRWA pay everywhere from \$100-\$500 for their memberships.

- Land and Waters

- 6 applications are being reviewed using a scorecard to grade them. The committee will be deciding how to allocate the funds on Wednesday Applicants asked for \$69,000 and have \$23,300.

- Website/Facebook

- Continue to share information including Jodi's articles. Send Sheila any upcoming events you'd like advertised on website or FB.

- Land and Ag

- Farm tours for bale grazing early in the spring and another later in the summer. 5 or 6 field days total for 2021 are planned. Silvopasture (prescribed



burn) trial at The Sun-up Ranch is being planned, tour in the future. Cover Crop tour planning in progress with J. T.

- Conservation/Enbridge
 - o There were two meetings this month, good attendance this winter. Was not able to attend but there will be minutes. There are continued calls to Gov. Waltz & Biden to halt construction due to out of state workers (Covid), women's safety etc. Construction does continue.
- Membership
 - o ACCL (Association of Cass County Lakes) would like to become members of The PRWA.

(5) 1W1P

- a. Stormwater projects are starting to move. Hoping to start on grazing management this summer in particular.
- b. (Jim Chamberlin) An option is added mapping and nutrient loading details for some of the particular sites that were identified (Ag sites). Cost-share dollars versus nutrient reduction (return on investment). If it's not something that 1W1P cannot fund, maybe The PRWA should take this on. Cass County SWCD may also have some funding available to put towards this effort.

(6) Upper Whitefish

- a. Will replicate water testing for 2021 with potentially added sites (deep water sampling). Need to decide in April.

(7) Up the Creek Meats

- a. Trying to direct people to the website for people to purchase individually.
- b. Communicating through newsletters about the project to reach people.
- c. Website: Fish and Water Conservation Fund:
<https://www.fishandwatersconservationfund.org/up-the-creek-meats/>
- d. Beltrami County was interested in joining the efforts. They were wondering if the farmers participating go through a certification program. That is not necessary, the farm bio from the farmer is sufficient for customers to read and determine if they want to purchase (or if the farmer is sustainably farming). Other farmers are welcome to join on the website if they write a bio also.
- e. According to laws, the direct sales means the customer needs to go directly to the farm to pick the meat up. If a Lake Association buys a lot of meat to distribute they may need a permit for distribution.

(8) PRWA Media Efforts

- a. Front page article in The Northland Press & The Echo about The PRWA and restoration work locally (Manhattan Beach). Thanks Jodi!

(9) Record Retention



- a. Ron will continue to work on.
- (10) Grassland 2.0
- a. Waiting for approval to start.
- (11) Teune Cover Crop Project
- a. John is developing a cover crop plan for 2021. Might be a simple cover crop plan due to the history of herbicides and carry over issue.
- (12) Wave Action Study
- a. Information was distributed to PRWA via email. LARA did send a letter to Josh Heintzman not to vote on the legislation yet. There's opinion that, that is not far enough away from the shoreline. His response was that doing something now is better than nothing. The first phase of the study did not give results yet.
- (13) Meat Processing & Grazing Management
- a. Received report: 1) Idea of Up the Creek Meats bundles/packaged to people in the watershed. Looking at how to cooperatively market and sell those. 2) Grass-finished meat products was analyzed. Wanted to relate the cattle management techniques more to water quality. Let the farm tell their story, connect with customers locally. Concern about which animals don't make the cut (low grade). This could be a ground beef cooperative effort. Will be moving forward (Lance Bragstad) with an educational event for local producers. It would be nice to have a couple people from PRWA attend, it's mainly farmers attending. Loon Lake Townhall (West of Pine River) on Thursday March 18th at 6:00pm.
 - b. Have talked about the fact that The MN Ag. Water Q. Certification has not been proven to provide any economic incentive to the farmers (opinion).
 - c. Difference of grass-fed (less marbled) than other non-local/corn fed products. There are other local meats too, besides just beef. Marketing how to cook the meat better, education about the benefits.
- (14) Board comments
- a. Jim Brandt
 -
 - b. Barb Courneya
 - c.
 -
 - d. Sheila Boldt
 - Back to Basics. Hiring new forester/easement person
 - e. Jodi Eberhardt
 - Sent Sheila a Gull article that will be sent to the press soon.



- MN Lakes and Rivers is releasing awards so that will be the next story for April.
- Jim Chamberlin will be helping with a soil health article after that. Spring farm tours?
Understanding Local Producers & What They're Doing (Jim & Jodi)
 - 1. *CLC mentioned that could do a video for it?(Ron)*

- f. Steve Roe
 - How to cook grass feed meats.
- g. Darril Wegscheid
 - i.
- h. Jodi Eberhardt
 - i. Thanks to Sheila and Jim for Back to Basics Presentations (PRWA promoted).
- i. Jim Chamberlin
 - Midwest Soil Health Summit – Nutritionists & Scientist who has studied Phytonutrients from soil affecting food nutrition. More of the benefits of regenerative Agriculture.
- i. Tom Kuschel
 - *N of Nimrod farmer considering setting up a processing facility. Challenge*
- j. John Forney
 - With regards to records, does not think he's qualified. Crosslakers are moving forward with the fourth project, by the Crosslake Charter School and The Pine River (between the dam and the bridge). Involving the county highway, city works, Corp. of engineers etc.
- k. Clay Shulte
 - Appreciate learning about the south fork of the pine agricultural nutrient loading and cost-share not being a permanent fix. Thankfully have not seen much Covid-19 in Crosby. The Governor's original Buffer Law was good intentioned but then there were so many amendments. How about, saying to farmers that if you 'reduce your runoff, put in a buffer, fencing out of streams, sustainable farming' etc. than you can receive reduced taxes.
 - "Not holding water on the soil" Buffers are helpful but the soil on the farmland is just as important.
- l. Ron Meyer
 - i. Read *Animal Vegetable and Junk* about how we got to industrial agriculture.
 - b.
- m. Jodi B.
 - a. Event that Jodi will share information with everyone.
 - Read *Animal Vegetable and Junk* about how we got to industrial agriculture.