

Tainter Menomin Lake Improvement Association, Inc.  
(TMLIA)  
Monthly Meeting  
Dunn County Fish and Game Clubhouse  
Date: June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
6 pm

**People in attendance:**

Liz Osborne, Nels Paulson, Matt Wegenke, Alyssa Quilling, Cathy Osborne, Lindsay Olson, Randy Sommerfeld, Amber Georgakopoulos, Ben Hartenbower, Chris Gaetzke, Mike Kneer

**Introductions**

Everyone introduced themselves and what motivates them to be involved with TMLIA.

**Negotiate Agenda**

An update of the Xcel grant was asked to be included in the other grant discussion under business items.

**Approval of Minutes**

Liz asked if there were any corrections for the May 8<sup>th</sup> 2018 meeting minutes, none were had. Approval for the minutes was motioned by Amber, second by Ben, and unanimous approval was had.

**Questions on Reports** (Reports submitted after the meeting deadline are included following these minutes)

Mike asked what the group would find useful to include in the reports. A very good discussion was had and we learned about a quarterly meeting Dunn County has with the Townships. Amber updated us on her first Lake Leaders seminar. Nels corrected the outreach report that the Xcel Energy grant we received was in the amount of \$3,000.

**Treasurer Report**

Ben presented the treasurer's report to the group. A good discussion was had regarding the restricted funds and clarifying all the different grants and the Red Cedar Conference account. A motion was made to approve the report by Amber, second by Lindsay, and unanimous approval was carried.

**Business Items**

**3M Grant/Stout Capstone Project ideas/Xcel Grant**

We've been invited to apply for a \$2,500 3M grant. This is an annual grant Ron has written for the past 5 years and it has funded such projects as the Jarrett Creek streambank stabilization, Red Cedar River shoreline erosion and habitat restoration, and the Lakeside Park Rain Garden. So far, some ideas that were discussed to use the funding for are the installation of pet waste stations along trails and in parks adjacent to our waterbodies, or educational signage at stormwater ponds informing citizens of their benefit to water quality and combating the notion they are mosquito breeding grounds. We are hoping we can use this opportunity to also partner with Stout students enrolled in Krista James's Environmental Science and Sustainability course as part of their capstone project, or Eric Evenson's design class. HOWEVER, last year's grant has not been closed yet, and Ben is waiting for information from Ron and/or Nels in order to write the final report. WE WILL NOT PERSUE THIS GRANT OPPORTUNITY UNTIL LAST YEAR'S IS COMPLETED.

Both last year's 3M grant and this year's newly awarded Xcel grant are going towards completing the signage for the Lakeside Park Rain Garden. It was discussed that there is poor communication between the implementers of the project and the Board. It is unclear who is responsible for completing the work and the Board is not being updated on activities in order to uphold our obligations to the grant administration. This issue is disappointing and one that needs to be resolved.

**Governing Document**

In 2015, TMLIA became part of the Midwest Active Citizenship Initiative as a member of the Interstate Civic Governance Organizing Agency. The group formed around water quality improvement and included Dan Prestebak, Amanda Hanson, and Chris Gaetzke (Dunn County Land and Water/Lower Chippewa Invasives

Partnership); John Haack and Dan Zerr (UW-Extension); Buzz Sorge (WDNR); Kyle Kulow (Sportsman Alliance and St. Croix County); and Ron Verdon (TMLIA). Liz has since taken Ron's place to represent TMLIA and incorporate Civic Organizing into our structure with support from Chris.

The original group recognized that, in our current system, water pollution is seen as government's problem to solve, with little obligation for other sectors to play a role, and little incentive to organize partnerships among all stakeholders. Government agencies, by providing a variety of expert-based services, have developed specialized areas of technical expertise as well as complex management systems to accomplish this work. As this expert-based system has developed, we have put much less emphasis on developing the social and political innovation needed to engage and sustain individuals as active citizens who take on their role in solving environmental problems. Therefore, we've adopted the Civic Governance approach as a new model to address this need.

Liz introduced a governing document, in alignment with the Civic Organizing Framework, for us to consider adopting. The document is included following these minutes. Liz went through the document, a discussion was had, and after time to consider it, a decision will be made next meeting on whether to implement it. Some questions were: who this would apply to, board members or all members; what exactly is copywritten and can we change; is there a shorter version/elevator pitch; can we try to use more accessible language; how exactly do we use the document. Liz and Chris explained their experiences using Civic Governing and how it could help build TMLIA's capacity. Amber agreed to work on the Mission statement, and Chris shared the website, ActiveCitizen.org, for more information.

### **Upcoming Activities**

- June 14<sup>th</sup> Lower Chippewa Invasives Partnership's Invasive Plant Tour-Chris's group will host a driving tour featuring invasive plants found in Dunn County. A follow-up article can be found here: [https://chippewa.com/dunnconnect/sports/outdoors/stranger-danger-invasive-plants-present-widespread-problems/article\\_9fe7af5c-6c32-5b00-83ec-01c811b9c956.html](https://chippewa.com/dunnconnect/sports/outdoors/stranger-danger-invasive-plants-present-widespread-problems/article_9fe7af5c-6c32-5b00-83ec-01c811b9c956.html), and more info can be found on their Facebook page here: <https://www.facebook.com/LCIP2011/>
- June 20<sup>th</sup> Joint Sustainable Working Group meeting-Liz will give update to the group
- June 21<sup>st</sup> LAKES REU student meet & greet-Liz and Ben will coordinate with Doug Dominick and Let's Go Fishing to welcome this year's LAKES REU students by treating them to a pontoon ride
- June 22<sup>nd</sup> Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference, Spooner (<https://cdn.evbc.com/eventlogos/135104924/2018brochureupdated5118.pdf>)-[Registration](#) is only \$45 and a flier with more information was included with the agenda
- July 4<sup>th</sup> Hot Dogs?-Not this year, Liz offered to support anyone willing to take the lead on this event, but there were no volunteers
- July 10<sup>th</sup> Next Meeting at the Fish & Game Clubhouse.

### **Meeting evaluation**

On a scale of 1-5, the meeting average was 4.4. Comments included: lost focus, good discussion, confusion over governing document, purpose was accomplished, regretted not being more prepared with grant ideas, lots of information, good discussions, maybe breakout meetings for heavy stuff, boring, need to be personally more aware of goal at start so leads to more focused discussion, uncomfortable.

## Reports submitted after the meeting:

### Outreach-Kate Edenberg

Email suggestions to Kate at edenborgk@uwstout.edu

Main Needs:

- Suggestions for upcoming books?
- Seeking newsletter editor

### NEW ITEMS:

- Developing calendar of TMLIA-related events based on what we've done the past few years.
- Proposing an idea developed by our intern Deon: Offering an opportunity to "Ask TMLIA" potentially on Facebook. It allows the community to post questions that our board or experts can respond to – a direct way of educating and communicating about issues. Will update at meeting in July.

### Book Club:

- For the kid's book Creekfinding, we'd like to have a citizen science activity involving children in collaboration with the Friends of the Red Cedar Trail. Connecting for a potential collaboration in June.
- Planning to revisit the book club this fall. Suggesting one spring book: Dan Egan's "The Death and Life of the Great Lakes." Will be used on Stout's campus in spring too.

### ONGOING –

- Summer Intern à Research and Writing  
Our summer intern is Deon Canon. He is doing our social media content (Facebook) as well as an analysis and writing for the newsletter.

### Outreach / Community Collaboration Efforts

- Kate received funding (for 2018-2019 academic year) to continue research with 2 undergraduate students that examines local newspaper coverage of Lake Menomin over time was presented at Research Day and other spring events.
- Citizen Science Efforts: Connected with the Beaver Creek Reserve Citizen Science Center steering group. Will provide updates when I have details about events and opportunities.
- One of the colleges at UW-Stout is doing a theme/topic every few years called the Intellectual Commons—the first one is Water.
- The Center for Applied Ethics is planning a screening/discussion of a film about water scarcity. I'll send updates on times/dates.

### Newsletter

ALWAYS LOOKING FOR ARTICLES FROM THE BOARD : ) LET ME KNOW IF YOU HAVE IDEAS. I NEED VOLUNTEERS FOR FACES OF TMLIA FOR THE ISSUES!

Publication deadline dates 2018

\* First issue = Before the watershed conference (Feb/March) PUBLISHED ALREADY

\* Second issue = Before the annual meeting (Sept/Oct) DEADLINE AUG. 10

## Governing Document for Tainter Menomin Lake Improvement Association

**TMLIA Identity Statement:** *TMLIA is a civic non-profit that reaches goals toward water quality awareness and improvement efforts by using Civic Governance to educate and organize the civic infrastructure needed to govern for the common good.*

**TMLIA Mission Statement:** Increase awareness of water quality issues, advocate resource protection, and celebrate our rivers and lakes through community engagement and diverse partnerships.

**Purpose for Civic Organizing Approach:** Every member develops ownership in the organization in order to maintain the capacity to address complex public issues, making TMLIA a viable and resilient organization for the long term.

### **Civic Organizing Principles:**

#### **Human Capacity** (to govern for the common good)

- *Every individual is a policy maker and has the capacity to know what is good, to grow in that knowledge, to govern for the common good, and to be a co-producer of justice in the world. Civic Leaders are obligated to organize the civic infrastructure to achieve this outcome.*

#### **Democracy** (A system of governance that requires citizens to govern for the common good)

- *Rule by "the people" is the best system of human governance. All stakeholders organize a civic infrastructure to govern for the common good and produce justice in the tension between individual and diverse interests.*

#### **Active Citizenship (Civic Leadership)** (Role that obligates all stakeholders to govern for the common good)

- *An active citizen is a governing member. In a democracy, citizens are obligated to govern for the good of the whole. In return for their contributions, citizens share in the rewards of a just society. Civic Leaders are obligated to organize the infrastructure needed for individuals to be active citizens in institutions of family, faith, community, work, learning and governance.*

#### **Political Competence** (mindset and skill needed to carry out obligation of active citizenship)

- *Politics is the "work of the citizen". All citizens are responsible to develop the political competence to define problems, produce solutions, and establish policies in light of civic principles and standards while achieving their particular goals. This mindset and the civic skills needed to carry out the role of active citizenship is dependent upon civic leaders who organize the capacity for key stakeholders in their jurisdiction to carry out the obligation of active citizenship.*

#### **Institutional Efficacy** (Societal structure needed to sustain democracy and develop active citizenship)

- *In a democracy, institutions of family, faith, work, community, learning, and governance sustain the democratic values of our society and ensure the capacity to govern for the common good. Civic leaders and active citizens know they are obligated to produce the civic institutions and infrastructure necessary to sustain democracy as a just system of governance.*

### **Civic Organizing Standards:**

- All those impacted by the problem are stakeholders and help define the problem in light of civic principles and the realities of their situation.
- All stakeholders are accountable for contributing resources (leadership/time, knowledge, constituencies & dollars) to solve the problem.
- All stakeholders are engaged in decision-making and policy-making that contributes to the common good.
- All stakeholders implement policies grounded in civic principles in the places where they have the authority to act.

### **Civic Organizing Skills:**

- **Critical thinking:** Distinguishing objective reality (facts) from subjective reality (interpretative) as both relate to achieving our principles and common goals.
- Open-ended questions to engage different perspectives.
- Strategic listening to determine and clarify self-interest as it relates to common goals.
- Suspending judgment to understand divergent points of view.
- Ability to negotiate and compromise while staying accountable to civic principles.
- Fostering constructive tension to work through values that are each good in their own right but often conflict (e.g. freedom and equality).
- Holding self and others accountable for following through on agreement