

Tainter Menomin Lake Improvement Association
Meeting Minutes from Tuesday, June 13th, 2017
At Lakeside Park Pavilion
800 Wolske Bay Road, Menomonie, WI 54751

In Attendance:

Liz U, Barb K, Alysa Q, Nina, Laura, Amber G, Ben H, Lindsay O, Lisa, Linda S, Brenda, Cathy U, Paul, Dick L, Ann, Kristen, Chris G, Matt W, Katherine Z, Madison B, Elise M, Sadie H, Kayleigh D, Sarah M, Bailey K, Elizabeth S, Jimmy C, Lois, Tina L, Ron V, Nels P

Guest Speaker

Liz introduced the site where the meeting was being held and the nearby rain garden project before introducing Lisa of Meadowlark Landscape and Design. Lisa spoke about her background and how she wound up doing rain gardens. She clarified rain gardens are not retention ponds and explained all the different types they can be. She talked about planning, rain garden structure and engineering. The process usually starts with stripping the sod, calling 811, or digger's hotline, for buried utility information and what an important step that is! She spoke about the different shape options and how to conduct the rain into the basin. Next, she touched on some of the challenges with different situations and how one solution to a small space is a series of small rain gardens instead of one large one. For plant choice, she said natives are best suited and hardier and there are some species that prefer wetter conditions for the bottom of the garden and dryer species for the edges. She also passed out some informational handouts. She said some of the benefits of native plants are that you can have flowers all year long and attract birds and butterflies as well. Every rain garden is unique and a "one size fits all" approach to constructing one will not be successful. With a little creativity, anyone can have a rain garden. Next, Lisa took questions from the group. The first question was about maintenance. Lisa said rain gardens must be maintained and most of the maintenance comes in the first couple years until the plants establish. Most of the maintenance involves weeding and it is important to be able to tell weeds and natives apart. Sometimes maintenance includes burning, but these types of questions are asked of the landowner, and their other goals for the rain garden, before the project begins. She was also asked what the biggest rain garden she's ever done was and she said probably ½ the size of the Lakeside Park rain garden. She was asked what kind of edible plants can be used in rain gardens and she said strawberries, blueberries, wood sorrel, and asparagus. She was asked about soil types and having to do percolation tests and she said sometimes you have to remove some soil and add amendments, but sometimes it's just a matter of choosing the best plants for the area. She was asked about talking to the city about installing rain gardens around storm drains, like other towns have started adopting, and she reminded everyone that the council takes public comment before every meeting and recommends people use that opportunity. She said that funding those types of public projects can be a concern, but in the long term rain gardens save money overall. Cost in general was asked about and she said that anytime you can make use of reusing your water (especially free rain water!) you save money. Rain barrels can cut your water utility by 25% by eliminating lawn sprinkler systems. To determine the rain barrel size, you need to calculate the square footage you are trying to capture and it is dependent on space. NDS Drainage Solutions website offers those calculations as well as other products to help with home drainage systems. She was asked if the Lakeside Park rain garden was being well maintained and she said she hadn't checked it yet, but is bringing her Girl Scout troupe out to see it soon. It was mentioned that the Blue Devil Lake Alliance (BDLA) is responsible for maintenance as part of the agreement with the city, and TMLIA Vice President, Amber G, is a member of BDLA. Lisa was asked about houses on a smaller scale and she said most rain gardens can be found in back yards on a smaller scale. People wanted to know if there was a rain garden tour like the garden tour put on by Stepping Stones every year around this time. No one could think of one, but Matt Wegenke who volunteers at Stepping Stones said he would look into trying to incorporate rain gardens into the regular tour. Lindsay mentioned the video developed showcasing the Lakeside Park rain garden by Chippewa Valley closed circuit TV and how it is getting put together for public viewing available soon. We will show the 11 minute video at the start of the next monthly meeting. Lisa ended by saying she sees projects all the way through from design, planting, and installation. She orders plants straight from her trusted suppliers and the challenges and benefits between using seeds or plugs to start with. More info can be

found on Facebook.com/MedowlarkWI. Her email is meadowlarkwi@gmail.com and her phone numbers are (715) 235-0162 or (651) 775-7306.

Negotiate Agenda and Approval of April 11th 2017 meeting minutes

Ron requested that we talk about the Lakeside Park rain garden signage plan and Liz suggested we could add that item on where it was planned to talk about the 3M grant in the Activity reports.

Amber moved to approve the April minutes and Barb seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved without comment.

Agency Reports

City of Menomonie-Randy Sommerfeld was absent

Dunn County Board of Supervisors-Mike Kneer was absent but submitted the following report:

The work that is probably most relevant to TMLIA's goals would be the Livestock Operations Study Group (LOSG) meetings. The LOSG was formed in response to the concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFO) moratorium passed by the Dunn County Board.

We are working to have a draft report by the end of the month and to present a "final" report to the DC Board in July. We are in the "recommendations" phase now, specifically discussing ground and surface water recommendations. Our next three meetings are June 8, June 15, and June 22, after which we hope to present the draft to the Planning Resource and Development Committee before it goes to the County Board. (Ron added that they were granted an extension)

The PRD committee will also be involved with updating the Regional Bike Plan and promoting broadband access for rural areas-both indirectly affecting the TMLIA goals.

Dunn County Land and Water Conservation- Chris Gaetzke submitted the following report in advance:

The update from Dunn Cty LWCD is that we have a new Natural Resources Intern working with multiple organizations and agencies through August. His name is Jess Hessburg and he is a UWEC student studying Geology and Geography. If you have any events or site visits that would be good for him let either John Sippl at NRCS or myself know.

LWCD and NRCS are hard at work trying to install conservation practices through the rain storms this spring. I helped out on the Sharing Our Resources fishing event that had an alltime high participation of almost 50 disabled or elderly attend. We didn't catch a lot of fish, but did enjoy a boat ride on Ron Verdon's pontoon! Thanks Ron!!

I also attend the Kids event at Lakeside Park. It was a great experience with elementary students that I taught about aquatic insects. I hope TMLIA can organize more events like that one that the next generations can get engaged in.

The Lower Chippewa Invasives Partnership is hosting the 4th Annual Invasive Plant Tour this Thursday from 1:30 - 4 PM. The tour will travel around Dunn County and learn about 15 invasive plants, some of which can be aquatic.

Dunn County Land and Water Conservation- Lindsay Olson

Discussed they will be working on a DNR TRM grant application and it is on the RCWQP meeting agenda for tomorrow. She also explained the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) and how there are acres in the county where contracts will be expiring and the push to have those landowners reenroll. She encouraged everyone to share the information and let people know they are also accepting new participants into the program as well. The program is specific for water/riparian quality and interested parties can contact either NRCS or the county.

Committee Reports

Outreach-Kate Edenborg was absent but provided the following report in advance:

Please send any newsletter articles/ideas you have to Kate at edenborgk@uwstout.edu
We'd love to see you at the Music on Menomin library event on Thursday.

Also, our book club notification will be coming out shortly

Summer Newsletter in process!

** Summer Newsletter will include:

- a kid's page

- article featuring collaborators/partnerships

- SUGGESTED ARTICLES FROM THE BOARD :) LET ME KNOW IF YOU HAVE IDEAS. PLUS I NEED A VOLUNTEER FOR FACES OF TMLIA!

Publication deadline dates:

- July 1 (heading into summer)

- November 1 (fall issue - around annual meeting time)

- February 1 (winter issue – around watershed conference)

2017 FOCUS: PRESENCE IN THE COMMUNITY

GOAL – Have TMLIA present at, at least one community event each month.

ACTION TAKEN – Valentine's Day Hustle Bike Race, Feb. 11

Floating through History Event Feb. 23/25 at Library

Cleaning up the Ice event (NEXT YEAR)

Watershed Conference March 9

Communication Connection event March 29

Earth Day Event (Clear Lake, Wis.) April 22nd

PLAN -- Music on Menomin Library Event June 15

Farmer's Market Booth on Wednesdays/Saturdays

Tainter Lake Fourth of July

Book Club:

1. We put out a call for book suggestions on May 8th (Facebook and email)

2. Suggestions were due June 1 == We have about 10 books on the list.

3. We will decide on 3 titles by June 16

4. We will promote the dates/locations/times and of course books soon after June 16th — will do Facebook, mail, email and newsletter as well as postcards we can mail and handout

5. We will set up three dates (likely early November, maybe the 4th), Late January/Early February and early April 2018.

Citizen Science Efforts:

TMLIA as a liaison to connect members/community with local citizen scientists and citizen science resources.

The idea is we provide opportunities for some initial training and perhaps shadowing others who are doing this type of work. The idea is we help members/community take that first step and make a connection and then people can go from there.

*Clean Boats, Clean Waters — monitoring at boat landings. This requires a 200 volunteer hour commitment for the year.

*Water testing in waterways — Ted Ludwig's normal schedule is to leave his dock on Tainter about 0930 so as to be at the southernmost point about 1000. Will do 4 points and be back about noon. Then drive into Menomonie to do Menomin. Usually on the water about 1300 or 1330 and it takes about an hour to do the three sites plus check 4 spots in Wolske Bay for the city. Those sites just get Secchi readings and temperature.

He can take 2 people in the boat on each run. Most weeks do the run is on Tuesday and if it is a week for Phosphorous collection it has to be done on Monday or Tuesday so the samples get to the state lab by Friday.

Anyone interested can call Ted at 715-962-3953 or 715-556-4870

*Beaver Creek Reserve's Citizen Science Center — had resources and staff that could train members/community who are interested. Kate is on the Citizen Science Center advisory board and will connect with the director there to see how we could best structure workshops/training opportunities. They usually have seasonal Citizen Science projects that they need volunteers for as well.

*Local 4-H organizations/Scouting groups — this could be a way to involve younger community members. Most of the 4-H clubs have conservation related initiatives and we could see if we could collaborate efforts. Kate can work on 4-H, could someone else connect with Scouting?

ONGOING:

Intern – Hannah Lundquist in fall – doing social media, writing articles, helping with events

Facebook Presence

- Mondays: Did you know? à Post a tip, FYI, fact, etc..
- Wednesdays: Watershed Wednesday: (and news items as needed) — send me items that you'd recommend posting. These can be events and meetings.
- Photo Friday: Post a lake/water photo each week. We put out a call for water-related images on the Facebook page. Send me images!

MISCELLANEOUS (to present/discuss at future meetings):

* Third-grade research project at Oaklawn Elementary School about lakes and algae

* Research project with UW-Stout student examining local newspaper coverage of local lakes over time.

Legislative-Dick Lamers

Thanked the LAKES REU students for attending tonight's meeting and introduced the group working with Neil Koch about land spreading of septic waste. He is meeting in WI Rapids for the final draft to the state push for amount of acreage under Nutrient Management Planning.

K-12 Education-Amber Georgakopoulos

Final count of Wakanda 3rd graders that attended the Lakeside Park field trip was 82. The teachers and students had a great time and other schools have expressed interest in doing something similar. The LAKES REU students will be manning an informational booth this summer during the Menomonie Farmer's Market.

Membership-Elizabeth Usborne

We have 84 members, 11 of which are business members.

All of the activities from the past month listed on the agenda have been posted on our Facebook page, website, and have been emailed out with pictures.

After being contacted by John Sippl about TMILA giving money to the rotational grazing promotional pasture walk mailing, and telling him we would commit \$200 on two phone numbers and through email, I never heard back from him and I saw the mailer has been sent.

Someone needs to tell me when the 4th of July Tainter Lake boat parade is being held (the fourth is on a Tuesday this year, is that when they do it, or will it be the Monday before??), because Kwik Trip granted the request I submitted to donate 100 hot dog buns and I submitted a donation request to Walmart to cover the hot dogs and condiments. I also need to know who is going to actually attend the event with me.

Matt said the parade is typically held on the actual 4th of July at 1pm. Nels offered the use of his charcoal grill.

Treasurer Report-Ben Hartenbower

Lindsay moved to approve the treasurer's report, seconded by Amber, vote approved treasurer's report with correction of \$5,855 Con Agra Donation listed in graph to \$4,855

Website-Mike Tomasek did not attend but reported in advance that no changes have been made.

Activity Reports

*Liz shared a print off of the Dunn County News article, "Rain gardening our way to cleaner lakes."

*Matt bought his mom a ticket for the June 2nd Sharing Our Resources on the Water event and reported that she had a great time!

*On June 7th we were awarded a \$2,500 3M grant for use on the Lakeside Park rain garden signs and outdoor museum. Ron spoke about the signage planned and how we partnered with the UW-Stout "Signage and Exhibition" course to develop the design. Nels spoke about the competition students participated in and shared the winning design pictures. Now with this funding, the signs will be installed in the fall and be the start of converting the park into an interactive outdoor water museum. Ron thanked 3M, Rotary Club, and Rain to Rivers for funding. The Rain to Rivers \$1,000 grant was written by the Blue Devil Lake Alliance, of which, Amber G is vice president.

*We are still enrolled in the Hill O' Beans program at the Menomonie Market Co-Op. There are about 30 organizations on the list, as well, that rotate through, and only 8 go up per year since it's a quarterly program.

*We received \$48 from the Amazon Smile account, meaning members spent \$8,600 with us in mind this quarter

*TMLIA did not give NRCS, Farmer's Union, Dunn Co. money for rotational grazing mailing effort

*Kwik Trip granted our request for 100 hot dog buns for the 4th of July Tainter boat parade and submitted request to Walmart for hotdogs, ketchup, etc.

Wrap-up and evaluation

The meeting scored a 4.9 with comments on wanting progress on goals reported on more, delegation of minute recording, the meeting feeling rushed, and wanting reports sent ahead of time if absent.

UPCOMING DATES:

June 14th Red Cedar Conference Planning Committee meeting CANCELLED

June 14th Red Cedar TMDL Partnership Implementation Team (RCWQP) meeting

June 15th Music over Menomin booth

June 21st Joint Sustainable Working Group meeting

June 21st Civic Governance meeting

July 4th Tainter Lake Boat Parade, hot dog hand out

July 11th Next TMLIA meeting

July 18th Alliance of Dunn County Conservation and Sports Clubs

July 11th Wilson Annis Creek Watershed Partnership meeting

Red Cedar Assessment for Water Quality Improvement early July