

Tainter Menomin Lake Improvement Association, Inc.

(TMLIA)

Monthly Meeting

Room 58, Dunn County Government Center

Date: April 11th 2017

6:00pm

Introductions and review of the agenda

People in Attendance –

Liz Usborne, Michael Tomasek, Ben Hartenbower, Barb and David Kleist, Melissa K., Dick Lamers, Amber Georgakopoulos, Mike Kneer, Lindsay Olson, Joan B., Brooke Rossi, Kate Edenborg, Dick (Lake Wissota Improvement and Protection Association), Ted Ludwig, Ryland Erdman

Introductions

Liz introduced herself and people in attendance were introduced.

Red Cedar Basin Monitoring Group water quality testing presentation

Ted Ludwig gave his presentation around citizen driven water monitoring along with animal tracking/monitoring. Notes of that presentation will not be documented here as it had no written or electronic documentation.

Negotiation of agenda and approval of minutes

No changes were made to the agenda. A motion was made by Amber with a second from Ryland, and unanimous approval was had.

Agency Reports

City of Menomonie – Ryland Erdman

The new recreational park stormwater pond had 30lbs of P in a sample that was measured. 54 tons of trash was pulled off of the streets in the past year by the street sweepers. A second stormwater pond is in the planning stages, but isn't budgeted for as of now. Total suspended solids from water treatment are required to reduce 20% over the past year. So far, initial estimates are 33% and exceeding expectations. Dick Lamers suggested that the City start

accruing for a stormwater pond once every two years. The location of the second stormwater pond is TBD. Liz commented on how the city is going above and beyond for their work and even working towards 4MS standards. Ryland was happy with the Street department and Randy Eide's team for working on water issues; including using salt brine instead of just rock salt in the winter, too. Ted Ludwig noted that the salt going into the watershed here has plummeted since that switch.

Dunn County Board of Supervisors – Mike Kneer

Mike Kneer thanked Liz for sending out the team goals for this year. Mike Kneer thanked Liz and Dick for going out to Sheila Harsdorf listening session to share the information. Mike is on a committee for updating the water quality standards for the county. Mike thanked Ron Verdon for his efforts and he voices TMLIA's concerns well when the committee meets. Mike attended the [Cranberry Creek Public meeting](#) for a permit for a [CAFO](#). Mike elaborated about the meeting and the results of the meeting.

Dunn County Land and Water Conservation – Lindsay Olson

Lindsay's work has been dedicated to the [Wilson Creek project](#) for their 303 impaired water body that has Annis Creek under impairment for excessive sediment. Teaching the shore owners how to help repair the watershed is gaining traction. Trout stream restoration on Wilson Creek including some public easement repair has started with all the groups who are helping fund and participate in this repair. Once completed, it will create a total area of 3/4's of a mile for Trout fishing when combined with a former repair project. A [TRM Grant](#) application for the TMDL issues in the watershed has been shelved for this year as time and prep need to be put into next April. Also, working on the Livestock CAFO study group with Ron Verdon and Dunn County Public Health for studying [N](#) and other chemicals going into the water shed. Environmental field day for 5th graders in the area is coming up soon, water quality, fish, wildlife and other topics will be covered including soil health for an entire day. Lindsay and Randy Eide have been working on lowering P output at the water treatment plant, currently at .6 pounds and targeting .1 pounds of output by 2024. Randy and Lindsay are working together on some alternate P reduction options as opposed to P reduction at the water treatment plant as the cost/benefit is very high going from .6 to .1 pounds. [Trading these credits](#) can only occur outside of the TMDL area, but lots of land in our area is part of the TMDL study. In addition, full credits cannot be had in these situations. For example, Lindsay's gave an example of reducing an area from 100 pounds to 10 pounds. If the land in the example should have only had 20 pounds of P naturally, the credit given for reducing it to 10 pounds is only 10 pounds (20 – 10) as opposed to 100 pounds minus 10 for a net of 90 pounds. Dick asked some questions about the trading of P including measurement of the net results. Ben and Dick spoke around how the measurement is based on modeling and trade ratios that are established. Ted Ludwig noted that if the city wants to drop 100 pounds, the other partner in the trade must drop 200 pounds so it isn't an even trade to just shift responsibilities, it's actually intended to make the trade worthwhile. Lindsay believes thousands of pounds are still needed to be reduced by Menomonie in total. Mike Kneer thanked

Lindsay and her team about the CAFO work as they were really impressed with the data Lindsay presented to Mike's committee.

Committee Reports

Outreach – Kate Edenborg

Kate noted that the report is online and will be in these minutes [online](#). Kate did highlight that our community involvement has been increasing, including the Community Conversations event (see Activity report below) and helped drive more membership. Kate thanked Brooke for manning a booth at a Stout event, too. Kate then shared a story about a few faculty members that want to join TMLIA, but do more than attend meetings. Kate then talked creating more [Citizen Science](#) projects and more hands-on opportunities for members and future members. Some fun activities include [bat monitoring](#) amongst other projects. Another topic was some books that Kate came across that covered water quality and was thinking about a book club that talks about water quality and can create networking opportunities amongst interested groups.

Legislative – Dick Lamers

Dick covered the five meetings that occurred since February 21st and our last TMLIA meeting. Liz reported on the first meeting as she attended and wrote a letter to [Rob Stafsholt](#) as he is on the [Natural Resources and Sporting Heritage Committee](#). Water and Education was discussed a lot during this meeting amongst other topics. The second meeting was regarding water quality and trying to break water issues out of the joint finance budgeting. Dick then plugged a meeting in Spooner next week and Wednesday at [Ellsworth](#) for joint finance budgeting comment period. The meeting can last up to 6 or 7 hours historically, so sign up an hour early before the meeting to ensure you can comment and speak to the committee. Dick asked if anyone is going to the Ellsworth event this Wednesday. Dick will be asking if there is more policy mixing with the budget in this committee. For example, there is a mandate for any projects that are \$10m or more being paused and reviewed rather than continuing towards execution. Dick is also planning on talking about the potential 43 jobs being eliminated at the DNR as part of the budget cuts. Liz asked if people can write in questions to Dick to share with the joint finance committee and Dick said sure, please share, but he only has a two minute time limit to share his points. Dick also noted that UW-Extension continues to get cuts in budget proposals. State of Wisconsin realtors had 10 items to support this upcoming budget including the [reorganization of the DNR](#), Dick asked if we can ask local realtors about their support of reorganizing the DNR and ask them to oppose that stance.

Dick recapped the March Red Cedar watershed meeting at UW-Stout. Good feedback in general with more networking and booth time. There were mixed reviews on the speakers and there is still negative feedback on food and parking. 430+ attendees this year and for the sixth conference

and sixth year in the row, an increase in attendance. Dick noted an increase in students and reduction in farmers, he speculated the changes were due to the keynotes. Dick asked for feedback and Liz shared she liked the exhibit and booth time this year. Dick got more comments that the day is too long still and they will consider condensing it a little more. First meeting for next year's 2018 conference is tomorrow night. Dick asked for help on funding for local businesses in advance for 2018. Ben asked what the capacity for the conference is in the UW-Sout Great Hall. Dick noted that the max is 500 people with "stadium seating". The only other option for growth is the Field house going forward. Ryland asked if the group will be targeting groups more (e.g. more farmers, more students, etc.). Dick wants to keep a focus on farmers as 60% of the P load comes from "land", note that "land" means all land, not just farming land. We need to continue to draw all around Barron and Dunn County. The next meeting recap in the list, Dick was unable to attend and no one attended. The last item, Dick and Melissa attended and Melissa presented a bit to the attendees and Dick thanked Melissa for her speech. Dick wrapped up by plugging a few items including the [Wisconsin Natural Resources Magazine](#) and the [Popular Science magazine for March](#). Dick passed around a Dunn County ground water implementation map for people to inspect and review as [N can contribute to health issues](#).

K-12 Education – Amber Georgakopoulos

Amber is working with the 3rd grade Science teachers for the end of May at Wakanda for a four hour event similar to the farmers market events we have hosted in the past (e.g. games, educational time, etc.) and a walk to the rain garden at Wolski Bay. Rain Garden signs continue to be designed and pricing is coming out soon. Amber is recruiting for the Blue Devil Lake alliance along with Amber's Lakes-REU project involvement that will start this year, she's happy to be joining the group as a continual member. Amber is looking to help present the Lakes-REU presentation event in Chetek later this year. Amber reported that Nels is working on presenting to a 2nd grade class for Earth Day, the location is unknown. Lindsay asked about the Environmental Field day event she mentioned earlier, she is looking for a handout to share and if we had anything to share at this time. Amber noted that we haven't made anything, but some ideas are being developed. Kate noted that a few items are coming to the newsletter (e.g. Wordfind, etc.). The group shared some brainstorming ideas that could be created or added at a later date.

Membership – Liz Usborne

Liz recapped that we are at 73 members, 9 business sponsors, and have started selling "My Lakeshore" journals.

Treasurer – Ben Hartenbower

Ben recapped the treasury report for Feb and March, the information will not be published in these notes. Motion to approve the treasures report was made by Mike Tomasek, second by

Amber, unanimous approval was had.

Website – Mike Tomasek

Nothing much happening with the website other than preventative patching to secure our member's data. This month, I will be moving the membership website to a new server than is faster and is mirrored, meaning if one server fails, the website will stay online for better coverage. I would like to start the process of redoing the website and seeing if the board would be open to discussion. First, it's really hard to get support as emails go unanswered. Second, the layout of the website is old and isn't tablet/phone friendly. Third, the website could be reorganized and easier to manage/format as the tools that are on this website are common tools from 5-10 years ago.

Ron Verdon's report (presented by email)

-Mike Kneer will likely cover the status of the Dunn County Livestock Study Group. It is going well and we are at a point of reviewing all the data and information and nearing the development of recommendations.

-As you know the Red Cedar Conference went very well. I believe the final attendee total was 430-Dick will have further details.

-The 3M event went well with lots of employees circulating through the booths. Had some good conversations with 3M employees, the plant manager, 3M grants staff. A worthwhile event!!

-Please ask TMLIA to support the \$125.00 match for a total of \$250 dollars for continuing the Civic Organizing/Governance efforts for 2017. I will write a check for the match of \$125.00 if TMLIA will match it.

-The insurance decision I trust to the judgement of the collective Board of Directors.

-Please let Ted Ludwig know that I was hoping to see his presentation and appreciate all he does for the Red Cedar Watershed and WI!! Please express my regrets for not being able to attend.

Insurance Policy discussion

Mike Tomasek presented the final pricing and recommendations around the Insurance coverage to the group. Mike was asked to get clarification if Committee chairs are covered who are not directors, which Mike responded he would follow-up and share next meeting.

Activity Reports

March 11th Community Conversations (Ron, Liz, and Ben) - All three attended and recapped

some of the water quality questions that the public had.

March 15- 17th 2017 WI Land + Water Annual Conference (Liz and Lindsay) – [Tom Quinn](#) from Farmers Union was on a panel, lots of talk around P credit trading, ground water questions, and other topics were covered. A Dunn County student placed in a speech at the event and qualified for the national event around soil quality later this year.

April 4th 3M Employee Earth Day (Ron and Ben) – Ben and Ron attended, Ron shared some notes and was able to have some conversations around grants with the 3M team. Ben enjoyed speaking to many people at the event about water quality, ground water, soil and more.

April 11th Wilson Annis Creek Watershed Partnership Meeting (Liz, Ron, Chris, Lindsay) – The group just met earlier today. Lots of good work around trout stream restoration and fishing easements along with the topics discussed earlier tonight.

TMLIA to give \$125 in support of Civic Governance for 2017 (Ron) – Ron Verdon asked that Liz cover a request that we donate a \$125 match to Civic Governance. The first half of the match will come from Ron and Debbie Verdon. Liz made a motion to approve a \$125 contribution, second by Lindsay, unanimous approval was had.

Meeting Evaluation

Ratings:

Ben – 4.5

Mike – 4.5, wish more notes were sent in ahead of time as Liz requested and we did go over again

David – 5, very informative

Barb – 5, good information tonight

Melissa – 5, cool to hear what was done and looking forward to more

Dick – 3, enjoyed having the speakers tonight, but would wish we alter the meeting or add 15 minutes to accommodate the speaker's time so we aren't rushed at the end. More discussion between membership would be encouraged with that time.

Ryland – 5, went well, agreed with Dick's comments though

Amber – 4, positive and feels good after hearing data. We still have a lot to do

Mike Kneer – 4, would like to not feel so rushed

Lindsay – 4.5, agree with Dick and could have had a little more time

Brooke – 5, informational and enjoyed Ted's talk

Kate – 4, we need to consider a chance to network and connect a little more during meetings.

Dick - n/a , enjoyed how well organized we were tonight and happy to have visited.

Ted – n/a, enjoyed the night

Ted's wife (name unavailable) - 4.5, enjoyed the conversation... a small ding for time.

Liz – 4.5, wish the time balance could be better, continuing to strive forward on making a better balance.

Upcoming events –

April 21st & 22nd St. Croix Summit

April 22nd Clear Lake Earth Day Fair

April 20th and 27th CAFO meeting at community center

Don't forget to checkout the [Red Cedar Basin Monitoring Group](#)

Next Meeting: May 9th 2017, Room 58, Dunn County Government Center