

Tainter Menomin Lake Improvement Association, Inc.

(TMLIA)

Monthly Meeting

Room 58, Dunn County Government Center

Date: July 11th 2017

6:00pm

Introductions and review of the agenda

People in Attendance –

Liz Usborne, Michael Tomasek, Ben Hartenbower, Ron Verdon, Cathy Usborne, Amber Georgakopoulous, Dick Lamers, Kayleigh DeBruyne, AnneMarie McClellan, Matt L., Dawn Dock, Brenda Harrison

Movie about the Lakeside Park Rain Garden

The movie was played to the board and guests from a non-public YouTube link. Some light discussion was had including Dick Lamers asking about what RainToRivers.org will be doing with it going forward. Ron Verdon responded that the Dunn County Board of Supervisors enjoyed seeing it and it raises more awareness around how homeowners and citizen can make a difference.

Introductions

Liz introduced herself and people in attendance introduced themselves.

Negotiation of agenda and approval of minutes

Liz noted that there was an error on the agenda leaving Ryland Erdman as the rep from the city council, it should be Randy Sommerfeld. Dawn asked to have a moment to bring up a topic and it was added below. Liz introduced Cathy Usborne as the rep for TMLIA to work with the Red Cedar Watershed Committee and Liz explained her background through previous work experience to the board; the team had no further questions. Dick asked if Cathy could help with treasury between TMLIA and the Red Cedar group and she said she is happy to oblige.

Liz moved onto minutes and noted a spelling error that will be corrected. Motion made by Ron Verdon to approve the minutes, second by Amber, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Agency Reports

City of Menomonie – Randy Sommerfeld

Before starting the agency reports, Liz reminded the group of the goals of the group are posted online and updated regularly. Liz then recapped the minutes that were submitted by email as posted below:

City Council has appointed Robin Sweeny to fill the Ward 4 Alderperson vacancy. The council approved the trail bridge construction over I-94. This is going to happen probably in the next couple of months and there will also be a picture sign relating to Menomonie placed on the bridge.

Dunn County Board of Supervisors – Mike Kneer

Liz noted that Mike Kneer was not able to attend and recapped his summary that was submitted by email below:

The livestock operations study group hopes to wrap up the recommendations to the county board by the end of this Thursday. This is the group studying large livestock operations, known as CAFO's.

Not much else coming through the PRD (planning, resources and development) related to TMLIA goals.

Ron recapped some of his feeling with the Board of Supervisors and that they are doing a good job being transparent in communication and helping keep conversation civil.

Dunn County Land and Water Conservation – Lindsay Olson and Chris Gaetzke

Liz recapped Chris Gaetzke and Lindsay Olson's summary's which are posted below:

Lindsay's report:

As Chris mentioned the fall edition of our departmental magazine, The Resource, is being put together. For this edition I wrote a basic-level article about blue-green algae blooms: what they are, what causes them, and what can be done to reduce them.

I am working with several landowners in the Red Cedar on implementing grassed waterways and other conservation practices through the Wilson Creek project. Progress has slowed and I think it might be time for another mail blast to try and drum up new interest prior to the first deadline for 2018 funding in September.

I have taken on the WAV level 1 monitoring of two stream sites. One is at Eighteen Mile Creek at Cty Hwy M and the other is on Bronken Creek. These are not currently being tested for phosphorus but in the past have had some of the highest P levels in the state. Additional stream site volunteers are needed and appreciated, please contact Ted Ludwig or myself if you would like to do a site or two - it only takes a few hours once per month during the growing season.

Finally, I have also spent some time with the LAKES REU students, both at the pasture walk at Dan Prestebak's home and through one-on-one interviews. I am very excited to see the great work I know these students will produce!

Chris's report:

Work on Wilson Creek Projects has been slow. I am in the process of getting all the applicants of the over 1,000 cover crops acres to sign back up so they can get funding next year if everything works out. ENS department is working on the next edition of THE RESOURCE magazine that will be coming to all Dunn County residents in September. My article is on the history of soil conservation and current state we are in that needs A LOT of change in the landscape to increase infiltration and reduce runoff. The Dunn Environmental Education Steering Committee that I am chair of is trying to setup a environmental education field trip with the Boys and Girls Club of Menomonie this summer. If this works out we would like to request a TMLIA member to help out and teach the students about lake health.

Committee Reports

Outreach – Kate Edenberg

Liz recapped Kate's report as she was unable to attend which was shared with the team, in addition, Kate had a message through email:

Also, the library still has some spots (except August 3rd) for us to have a table for [Music Over Menomin](#). July 20th and July 27th are available. Would anyone be interested in helping man a table on either of these upcoming Thursdays? Email me!

Legislative – Dick Lamers

Dick recapped a meeting on June 15th with [Food, Land, and Water Association](#) regarding surface water and work with the steering committee leading up to the major yearly convention. Dick passed around information for a [public hearing](#) regarding Denmark Dairy on July 17th for up to 3,135 animal units. Ron Verdon commented on the hearing and some of the issues including a lack of land for all of that work and for altering the set back from County Road B to be closer to County Road B. Dick questioned how Denmark Dairy got a 3100+ plus animal unit permit while the CAFO (link) is in place for Dunn County, Ron replied that the permit was approved years ago and before the CAFO standards were placed.

K-12 Education – Amber Georgakopoulous

Amber mentioned she had no updates and deferred back to Liz.

Membership – Liz Osborne

Liz noted that we have 89 current members, received \$40 in donations from the July 4th event, and added one member. Also, let Kate Edenberg know if you are interested in helping with another [Music over Menomonin](#) event.

Treasurer – Ben Hartenbower

The financial report was covered at the meeting and will not be covered in detail in these notes. A motion to approve the report was made by Ron Verdon, second by Amber, unanimous approval was carried.

Website – Mike Tomasek

- Many minor updates to the membership portal this past Saturday along with Security updates.
- Still testing the new website template through another organization, Liz got a quick demo and we will be looking to move further with a recommendation later this year.

Ron commented that the website needs operator redundancy for operating the websites (membership.tmlia.org and tmlia.org). Mike commented that Liz and Mike can work on the website currently. Liz asked about the insurance and Mike mentioned he will follow-up with Heidi from Sandeen Agency as he was supposed to ensure the transition made it to Ben.

Tainter Lake channel above damn (check map name, Mike) – Dawn Dock

With jet skis and boats speeding through the channel south of Tainter Lake and north of the Cedar Falls Dam, it is causing significant damage including erosion knocking trees into the water, boat docks moving up to two feet back from their moorings, and other erosion damage to the shore. Liz started recapping [local](#) and [state](#) ordinances around boating through channels, the town of Tainter is in charge of administering the enforcement of the ordinances and that is done through Sheriff, DNR, and other resources according to Liz. Dawn noted a lot of damage occurred on the July 4th weekend and Cathy recalled that a complaint was already submitted to the Town of Tainter in June and the Town will take it up for discussion in July's meeting **Secretary's note, this [link](#) will expire based on the Town of Tainter's setup, but Cathy was right that a complaint was submitted at the end of the meeting. My guess the new link will be this [link](#) based on their pattern of minutes, please try it if the original fails**. The group discussed the damage they have observed and Matt asked if someone from TMLIA will be planning on attending the meeting. As of now, there isn't a person who is committed to coming as an official representative. The team then brainstormed combinations of promoting the state

standards, maps that have that information on it like the Tainter Lake maps we have, and other ideas.

Red Cedar TMDL Partnership Implementation Team meeting (Lindsay, Nels, Ben, Ron)

On June 14th, the four above attending the TMDL meeting. The report was shared and Ron recapped some highlights. Ron started by noting that a new member was added to the group, Andy Benson, who has a lot of land in the watershed and it was good to add another farmer's voice to the group. Ron added that this group is sharing this information with groups up and down the watershed, Eau Claire groups, UW-Extension, and the DNR to help make the implementation a serious effort and moving forward with the implementation.

Joint Sustainable Working Group meeting (Liz)

Liz recapped numerous groups that are involved in this meeting back on June 21st and shared a report of activities with the group so they are aware of our efforts in the watershed and the community including pretty much most of the items in the past quarter of meetings.

Civic Governance meeting (Liz, Ron)

On June 21st, Ron and Liz went to the Civic Governance meeting. Liz recapped that we already work under Civic Governance policies and recapped those points (e.g. Stakeholders are involved, have a voice, and are accountable to help fix the problem, transparency in discussions, etc.)

NRCS Local Work Group Meeting in Barron (Liz, Chris)

On June 28th, this meeting involved a lot of Western Wisconsin Counties and citizens to provide feedback about allocating environment cost sharing funds in the area. The four main types of land types discussed included forestry, farmstead, cropland, and pasture.

Tainter Lake Boat Parade, hot dog hand out (Amber, Ben, Cathy, Dick, Liz, Matt, Nels, Ron)

Liz recapped that this event was really fun and thanked everyone for coming out.

Wilson Annis Creek Watershed Partnership meeting

Liz, Amber, Chris, and a few others from TMLIA were out there. 19 of 20 samples were over the state limit for [P](#), only the headwaters at Wilson Creek passed those items. Dunn County would like to apply for a [Fishers and Farmers Grant](#). As of now, there is some money that is allocated to working on this water issue, but the money can only be used on Wilson Creek and not Annis Creek due to the source of the current funds and restrictions on those funds. The

Fishers and Farmers Grant can be used, if awarded, for Annis Creek. Liz proposed putting together a matching funds donation. Mike asked what they were expecting in donations, Liz mentioned that they were not certain what the totals would be. Liz noted that cash donations are needed much more than in-kind as there is plenty of in-kind help. Ron asked when the donations are needed by, Liz mentioned September. Mike asked how much we have in our donation budget, Ben responded that we don't have a budgeted item for donations to 3rd party groups . Amber suggested we add it as an agenda item for next month and the group agreed to that. Ron noted that other methods can help for support including a letter of support and other tools.

Meeting Evaluation

Ratings:

Liz – 4 “Timing issues”

Michael T – 4 “Went over time”

Ben H – 4.5 “Don't be late”

Ron V – 4.5 “Don't be late”

Cathy U – 4.5 “I was the one who was late ☺ “

Amber G – n/a

Dick L - 5

Kayleigh D - 5

Ann Marie – 4.5 “Don't be late, but with volunteers, it can happen”

Matt L. – n/a

Brenda H – 5 “I'm new and enjoyed the input and seeing the process work”

Upcoming events –

July 18th – Alliance of Dunn County Conservation and Sports Clubs

July 29th – TMLIA booth at Menomonie Farmers Market

Aug 2nd – [LAKES REU](#) research presentations at the Raw Deal

Aug 3rd and 4th – Wisconsin Lakes and Partnership meeting

Aug 4th – [LAKES REU](#) research presentations at Gilligan's in Chetek

Aug 8th – Next TMLIA meeting

Aug 9th – Red Cedar Conference Planning Committee Meeting

Aug 16th – Joint Sustainable Working Group

Oct 10th – Wilson Annis Creek Watershed Partnership

Dunn County CAFO Study Group

Red Cedar Assessment for Water Quality Improvement

Next Meeting: August 8th 2017, Room 58, Dunn County Government Center