

Tainter Menomin Lake Improvement Association, Inc.

(TMLIA)

Monthly Meeting

Room 58, Dunn County Government Center

Date: May 9th 2017

6:00pm

Introductions and review of the agenda

People in Attendance –

Liz Osborne, Michael Tomasek, Chris Gaetzke, Ben H., Ron Verdon, Randy Sommerfeld, Cathy Osborne, Matt Wegenke, Amber Georgakopulos, Mike Kneer, Dick Lamers, Lindsay Olson

Introductions

Liz introduced herself and people in attendance introduced themselves.

Negotiation of agenda and approval of minutes

Motion

Changes in Lindsay's section... Annis creek is impaired for sediment where Wilson Credit is impaired for P load. A second correction is around teaching landowners, not shoreowners. Third, trading credits can occur outside of the TMDL, but actually it is just harder to move credits inside of the TMDL. Finally, 3000lbs needs to be reduced as opposed to Thousands of pounds. Motion made by Ron to approve, second by Dick, unanimous approval was had.

Agency Reports

City of Menomonie – Randy Sommerfeld

The board thanked Randy for attending tonight's meeting. Randy mentioned he has only attended one meeting and nothing of note that occurred at the City Council meeting for the group to be aware of.

Dunn County Board of Supervisors – Mike Kneer

Livestock Operations Study Group Update (from ES Dept.)

“The “Livestock Operations Study Group” (LOSG) meeting was held April 27 at 10:00 a.m. at the Dunn County Judicial Center. LOSG discussed the upcoming additional meetings of May 11 and May 25, both will be held in the Community Services Building.

The group went on to consolidate the findings into a single document. The consolidated document will be shared with LOSG. Comments/corrections will be taken up at the May 11th meeting. If time permits, LOSG will begin working on recommendations.”

Note: I will be unable to attend the LOSG meeting on May 11.

Planning, Resources and Development Committee-items of interest.

At the April 25 meeting, the PRD committee approved a 45 day reinstatement of the CAFO moratorium which expires 5/4/17. This would have to be approved by the County Board at the May 17th meeting (or later) in order for the moratorium to begin again. It is unclear how this would affect any current operations, especially since there would be a gap when the moratorium would not be in force.

The PRD approved the use of the “Water Quality Contingency Fund” (\$10,000) for the purchase of a no-till drill that could be rented out to farmers. This would have to be approved by the County Board at the May 17th meeting (or later) in order for it to happen. It is a good way for the County to encourage conservation practices, especially among smaller farmers unable to afford the equipment.

Dunn County Land and Water Conservation – Lindsay Olson

Lindsay’s team is in the middle of pulling soil samples from the [County demo farm](#) on the far east side of town. Soil samples are pulled every three years to check on the health of the soil for carbon, biology make-up, and more. Two environmental field days were hosted, which Chris Gaetzke will provide more updates on during his report. Next item was in regard to the Red Cedar Watershed conference meeting where Buzz Sorgie, Ron Verdon, and Dick Lamers along with a small focus group of farmers provided feedback to help enhance the conference to encourage growth in farmer attendance. Some feedback included having more workshops and less of an all-day event due to time constraints. Dick felt some of the feedback was that DCLWC should sponsor more field days and education to the community along with a Ag 101-type workshop for non-Ag owners to understand why farmers do what they do with soil and field health. Last week, Lindsay and another DCLWC employee performed a survey of Dunn County fields and found that 20% of fields have some type of cover crop in the Dunn County area. Ron asked how many acres that was and Chris Gaetzke estimated between 4k to 5k acres. Finally, a

land owner on Tainter Lake had a question about potential [Curly Weed](#) in Tainter Lake and what options he had to remove the weed. Some research and options are being considered for that request, but it appears to be manual removal will be approved as opposed to mass removal with the help of a third party.

Chris Gaetzke started recapping time at the demo farms and a location in Knapp and Elk Mound, which included numerous educational opportunities including soil health, forest health, and more. A couple weeks back, Chris was asked to do a walkover for a Tainter Lake landowner and the landowner was looking for help stabilizing his shores from erosion along with a neighbor who joined in for education about the matter. Information and ideas were shared and this is available for others in Dunn County by appointment. Matt asked how other community members can reach out to Chris and the DCLWC for help on issues like these, Chris directed him to the [website](#) for contact info and phone info in particular.

Committee Reports

Outreach – Kate Edenborg

Kate was unable to attend this evening, but did provide a report by email which is found below.

Education & Outreach = May 9, 2017

Email suggestions to Kate at edenborgk@uwstout.edu

NEWSLETTER 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 –

PLAN --

Book Club:

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 Music on Menomin Farmer's Market

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1. Put out a call for book suggestions on May 8th (Facebook and email)
 2. Suggestions due June 1
 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 FB, 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.

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. Ted Ludwig is a resource here. Liz will connect with him to see what steps can be taken.

Water Testing in waterways — Ted Ludwig is a resource here. Liz will connect with him to see if there's a calendar of times he plans to go out.

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? 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

Dick started his recap with the Joint Finance committee update from his visit last month in Ellsworth. Dick then moved to a letter, found [here](#), that talks about not supporting the removal of EPA standards for point source phosphorus discharge. Dick encouraged everyone to read a [second letter](#) that spoke to the proposed change would allow some towns and cities to not have to lower their standards from 1.0ppm to .1ppm. By weakening our efforts to meet standards from the Clean Water Act, it inhibits the desire for communities to work together to continue to lower their discharge as funding will dry up and continue to push too much [P](#) into our watersheds in Wisconsin. The opposition to the Clean Water Act and this particular standard is that in 2010 there wasn't much scientific research put into this law, but the supporters dispute the lack of science and referenced the research in the letter. Ben recapped that Wisconsin is setting the pace for P reduction throughout the U.S. and what happens here can affect other states as, for example, Michigan and Minnesota are modeling based off what Wisconsin has done. Finally, Dick recapped that Neil Cook, who is a retired geologist/hydrologist from the USGS, gave a presentation in Dunn County regarding environmental issues in Dunn County and worked on creating an action plan item of reaching out to the DCLWC on why some fields are allowed to spread manure on fields that may be excessive and allows run off to occur into the watershed.

K-12 Education – Amber Georgakopoulous

Amber will be taking a 3rd grade class to the rain garden at Wolski Bay and is looking for any volunteers that want to help with the day at the rain garden. Liz asked what type of help Amber needed; Amber responded some adults would be great to help break the kids into smaller groups for planting and more interaction. Amber also noted that the Science teacher is putting together a kit of tools to help provide activities to do in addition to visiting the rain garden. Liz offered to help as she did something similar in St. Croix county with a school. Liz will put out an email to our membership to see if they want to volunteer.

Membership – Liz Usborne

Liz recapped that we had 77 members at this point.

Treasurer – Ben Hartenbower

Ben recapped the treasury report, this report will not be included in the minutes. Motion to approve was made, second, and carried with unanimous approval.

Website – Mike Tomasek

The membership server was moved after a few hours of work on a Saturday morning, it now is on a more reliable setup. Mike has been troubleshooting our spam score with some Internet providers and believe we have made two minor improvements in getting email delivered to our members. In addition, Mike received information at the start of the meeting and found an issue with the email server due to another domain being hosted on it which got our email a minor spam penalty. Kate Edenberg was kind enough to put Mike in touch with Rachel Dorn. Rachel may have interest in volunteering with TMLIA from a technology standpoint and Mike will be discussing with her this upcoming weekend. Finally, we have started discussing renewing our site with our current provider, Mike recommends going to quarterly while we explore other options. Motion to move to quarterly billing made by Ron, second by Amber, unanimous approval carried and Mike will reach out to Dan.

Insurance Policy discussion

After some minor discussion after Mike recapped the pricing and coverage, a motion to approve Sandeen/West Bend's policies was made Dick, second by Ron, and unanimous approval was had after Mike clarified questions on coverage for Directors and a simple recap of coverages.

Activity Reports

Liz recapped the 3M employee Earth Day event and Ron jumped in to recap further. Ron mentioned that 3M has been very generous and supportive over the past few years with grants for cleaning up the watershed over the past four years. Ron just submitted a report and photos to 3M for the last Grant which was for the [Rain Garden at Lakeside park](#). At the event, Ron spoke with the community relations director who extended an invite to apply for a \$2500 Grant to improve the watershed. Unfortunately, the Grant is due by May 18th, which is a short notice. Ron feels that we can work on proposing a signage system for that rain garden as Stout students have been working on the design where this Grant can allow it to be built. Ron then spoke about Nels Paulson's idea of further developing the rain garden, and upon the City of Menomonie's approval, expand the rain garden into an outdoor water museum. The grant could potentially fund both of these projects, or at least partially. Liz asked if Ron could write the grant and he responded yes. Liz asked for a vote to support Ron's ability to submit this grant on behalf of TMLIA. Motion by Ben, second by Mike, unanimous approval was carried.

In other meetings, Liz attended the St. Croix Summit Conference. She found it to be quite informative and helpful regarding challenges in the watershed over there. April 22nd was the Clear Lake Earth Day Fair, Liz attended with a booth for TMLIA along with the watershed model and literature and marketing gear. Liz was able to network with groups up there and sell some lakeside journals amongst the fun had there. Liz then referred to the Alliance of Dunn County sports club and the Sharing the Resources [brochure](#) which promotes a boating and fishing event on June 2nd for disabled or mobility inhibited people to get out on the water and have a nice shore lunch. Let Liz know if you are interested in helping and supporting the event. Cathy asked how long this was going on and Chris mentioned he believed this to be the 28th year.

Liz promoted the Red Cedar planning committee meeting for next year's conference. Liz included a budget sheet to the people present and asked if there were any questions surrounding the budget. Liz then shared that employees at the local [Conagra](#) reached out that they won a company competition and have a \$5k donation that would like to make to us. Liz then spoke about the Rotational Grazing brochures from NRCS, Dunn County, and Dunn County Farmers Union. She would like to potentially make a donation of \$200 to help with the mailers in exchange for a promotional spot on the flyer. Cathy asked a question about what would happen with the \$5k donation and Liz noted that it isn't earmarked since the funds haven't arrived, but we did share some of the projects that are upcoming, but weren't budgeted for as funds weren't available. Liz is open to hear suggestions and feedback from the group. Liz also mentioned that we will comp Conagra a table at the Red Cedar conference and two passes to the Red Cedar conference. Liz also mentioned that along with Paypal taking a processing fee out of the \$5k, we won't net \$5k after all the comps and Paypal work is expensed for.

The [Farmer led council in Dunn County](#) had a meeting last month to collaborate with other Western Wisconsin Counties to reapply for the McKnight funding that helps fund the group. One of the projects that the council wanted to work on was a mapping program that helps farmers working with profit model based modeling as opposed to just yield based (e.g. You will need to corn to sell at \$9 to break even as opposed to you can grow Y amount of corn on this plot).

Another idea that the council wanted was to potentially create a self-guided driving tour of the farming area and conservation areas where people can check these areas out and learn more about the conservation that was implemented at that marker.

Dick had a question around our membership committee chair and if that will be appointed since Liz has become President which was discussed amongst the group, but had no firm answer. Liz mentioned that a combination of email and postcard mailers will help drive renewals. Amber suggested getting our bookmarks out at key community locations and Liz mentioned encouraging the bookclub at libraries outside of Menomonie, too. Dick suggested a door to door campaign to help drive membership. Liz noted that hopefully our community engagement and promotion will help in a more effective way than door to door will due to lack of manpower. Cathy shared some ideas of sharing the postcards at our events on top of mailing will help make a difference. Matt mentioned that the post office food drive is upcoming and if we wanted to put our flyer into the campaign which Liz believed wasn't possible at this time. Randy wondered if we could put promotional material at the parks; Liz commented there was an ordinance forbidding that, but we could explore that. Dick and Liz spoke about paying for ads in the local paper, but Liz is concerned that the return on investment just isn't there from past promotions. Matt spoke about promoting with local radio where they give shout outs to local events and groups, more info can be found [here](#) and we could look into that. Dick did mention that giving more presentations to local business groups like Rotary, Lions club, etc. could help drive membership. Cathy suggested that if any members attending tonight could share postcards with member of the Rotary, Lions Club, etc. along with any Homeowner groups that it could help drive membership, too. Lindsay talked about potential plaques that can hang on private docks that homeowners could display for more information. Chris shared that the DCLWC has a twice-a-year mailer that goes out recapping some of the work that group is doing called *The Resource*.

Meeting Evaluation

Ratings:

Chris – 5 – Hit all topics and good brainstorming

Ron – 5

Randy – 5

Cathy – 5

Matt – 5

Lindsay – 5

Amber – 5

Mike Kneer – 4.5 – We're late

Dick Lamers – 5

Mike Tomasek – 4.5 – Went a little long

Ben H - 5

Upcoming events –

Alliance of Dunn County Conservation and Sports Clubs meetings May 23rd

Red Cedar Conference Planning meeting May 10th

Rain garden event with Amber and 3rd grade class – May 23rd

Sharing our Resources on the water – June 2nd

Wilson Annis creek watershed partnership meeting - July 11th

Next Meeting: June 13th 2017, Room 58, Dunn County Government Center