

Tainter Menomin Lake Improvement Association, Inc.

(TMLIA)

Monthly Meeting

Room 58, Dunn County Government Center

Date: Sept 12th 2017

6:00pm

Introductions and review of the agenda

People in Attendance –

Liz Usborne, Michael Tomasek, Ron Verdon, Dick Lamers, Randy Sommerfeld, Ben Hartenbower, Sarah Freeman, Cathy Usborne, Sheila Steward, and Matt Wegneke

Introductions

Introductions were made to all the people in the room.

Negotiation of agenda and approval of minutes

Minutes were not approved as they were not presented from last month. Liz will follow-up with Amber.

Agency Reports

City of Menomonie – Randy Sommerfeld

At the last city council meeting a sidewalk from Kwik Trip to Culver's on the southside of US-12 was approved. In addition, on Main Street from 9th to 13th, they are working on reconfiguring the lane usage to help slow the traffic down and make a little more room for traffic and pedestrian use at the cost of parallel parking. Ron asked if any bids were received for the dredging out Jarrett Creek coming into Lake Menomin, Randy mentioned that none have been received yet. Liz spoke about permitting and soil control needs that would need to be considered once the proposal comes out and would like to see that info once public. Randy updated the group on the new well that is being worked on by the city water plant on the lake, they found old materials from a previous building that stood there and had to have that removed as it was a hazard and extra cost to the city, too.

Dunn County Board of Supervisors – Mike Kneer

Mike started with a Livestock and Water use [meeting](#) that the Board is part of on the 21st of the month at 6:30pm. The budget process has started and there are some additional funds for

nutrient management in this year's budget. Mike explained what Thrivent [is doing for donations](#). This allows their members to donate up to \$500 to most non-profits and suggested that it could be TMLIA if you were a member of Thrivent. Mike Tomasek spent a little time adding to that and explaining the program from his experience of talking to others.

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

Fishers and Farmers grant request has been composed and will be submitted after further review in the near future. This grant allows federal funds to be applied to the Wilson Creek watershed project and stream restoration projects if the grant is awarded to this project. As of now, the watershed isn't a *priority watershed* of the Fishers and Farmers group so it can be more difficult to obtain a grant.

Lindsay also noted that no-till drill equipment has been rented out for use, but needed repairs which were covered under warranty. Chris Gaetzke is in charge of helping farmers use it and delivery to farms. The group is also working on numerous grant applications including no-till, nutrient management, cover crop, etc. funding that can be used for cost sharing to help setup a demo farm in Dunn County. They are still looking for another demo farm in various parts of the watershed to allow other farmers to see the process in a demo environment. They are also looking for grant funding to discuss funding a spokesman to help answer questions about the topics above so it can help educate other farmers who may not have nutrient management programs, experience with cover crops, and more. It is early in the process and the research is just being done at this point. Lindsay also noted there were some contracts signed to take farming land out of production that are near watersheds and to be put into preservation for an extended period of time for watersheds and sensitive areas from erosion and other pollution in sensitive areas.

****Secretary's notes...** Chris Gaetzke forwarded the comments below to be added... The NT Drill is up and running planting covers and hay fields in the county. Project in the Wilson NWQI project are moving forward. Covers have been installed and more to be air flowed and flown on by airplanes the end of the month and early October. The Fishers and Farmers grant is coming along. We will have a draft out to the WACWP group soon to review and edit. A project with UW Stout classes are coming together to work on removing the remaining invasives from Lakeside Park and other parks within Menomonie. ******

Committee Reports

Outreach – Kate Edenborg

****Secretary's note, here are Kate's note as presented by email****

NEWSLETTER

Fall Newsletter starting up.

Publication deadline dates: - July 1 (heading into summer) - November 1 (fall issue - around annual meeting time) - February 1 (winter issue – around watershed conference)

New Intern (Social Media focus)

Hannah Lundquist started this week, doing social media, writing articles, helping with events and attending meetings. She'll also be helping us take a look at our social media statistics. Facebook Posts

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! UPDATES: Outreach / Community Collaboration Efforts

1. Connected with Chamber of Commerce CEO about ways to connect with local businesses/community (and avenues to promote events)
2. Connected with a community member who developed Community Conversations events (upcoming one on health care) and will see if we can partner on future events.
3. One of the colleges at UW-Stout is doing a theme/topic every few years called the Intellectual Commons— the first one is Water. Will keep everyone updated on events or collaborations.

Book Club: CONTACT KATE WITH RESOURCES! *For the February book, we'd like to have someone perhaps who builds canoes come and do a demo/talk? Does anyone have connections? * For the kid's book Creekfinding, we'd like to have perhaps a citizen science activity involving children. Thoughts on who might be a good fit for this?

- Thousand-Miler: Adventures Hiking the Ice Age Trail – Collaboration with Menomonie Public Library – Author presentation on Oct. 24th.
- Crossing the Driftless (Diebel) early February. A daytime/weekend event, perhaps we get someone who builds canoes to come talk?
- Never Curse the Rain: A Farm Boy's Reflections on Water (Apps) Early April. Weekday/evening event and there are resources that connect with this book. And he's willing to do a teleconference session.
- Creekfinding (Martin) — Children's book — maybe we tie this in to a school or citizen science activity?

Legislative – Dick Lamers

Dick started with noting that Kathy Stepp will be [leaving the DNR](#) and going to the EPA. Acid Mining bill (SB395) had [discussion](#) at the Rusk County Community Library in Ladysmith. Also, this Friday at 11:30 – 4 will be a [public viewing](#) of the proceedings regarding manure rules from the DNR at UW-EC. Liz commented that the [NR151](#) revisions that are proposed will help breakdown rules by geographic formations and influences as opposed to statewide, vanilla regulations that don't reflect the differences in the Northwoods vs Driftless area vs others. Dick continued by commenting on the state budget that has not been signed as of yet. One highlight is

a \$65k earmark for studying “bio-manipulation” on Tainter Lake and Lake Menomin. **Secretary’s note, the governor vetoed this after the meeting, info can be found [here](#)**. Dick shared his thoughts with Senator Harsdorf regarding funds being used on the Land and Conversation department on *known and scientifically tested* methods that can make a difference. Dick moved on the [Land, water, and food committee](#) notes he had to share with the group. He recapped the trip and offered a review of the notes to those in attendance at the meeting this evening. Dick then shared the Food, Land, and Water Conference on 10/16/17 and 10/17/17 in Elkhart Lake, click [here](#) for more info. Dick noted a story of signing up a member for TMLIA during a garage sale and sharing a Laketalk newsletter.

K-12 Education – Amber Georgakopoulous and Sarah Freeman

Liz filled in for Amber and Sarah Freeman that we have five new [Blue Devil Lake Alliance](#) members working on a few projects in the area. Ron asked who is leading the project out of the school system and Liz noted it is actually the Blue Devil Lake Alliance that is organizing sub-groups who have environmental passions. Sarah talked about bids she has received back on promotional calendars for 50 copies to be made and an ability to print more. Sarah covered that on October 21st that we have an Annual Meeting tentatively scheduled for then and that we need to follow-up on that. Sarah is also working on reaching out to volunteers and classes to come out and work at the Lakeside Garden. Liz inquired if we can use the same teachers, but a new graduating class, and Sarah mentioned she would try to arrange that. Liz shared that the pictures on the sample of the calendars looked fantastic and inquired if we have permission to use the photos on the calendars from the photographers; Sarah was going to inquire on the permission request. Sarah asked if anyone had experience using UW-Stout’s printing press and if it was open to the public. Ron Verdon will see if he can find a contact to help discover the possibilities of printing there.

Membership – Liz Osborne

No changes in the membership in the past month other than the one Dick just dropped off to the group. We are currently at 97 active members with Matt’s donation that is coming in tonight. Liz followed up on a concern from a past meeting regarding the pipe going into Tainter Lake, so Leo Schindler and a DNR agent will be going to look into it to understand the source. Liz moved on to working with Randy Sommerfeld on reviewing the Jarrett Creek Delta and understanding the soil and erosion issues that are happening there. Liz is also working on contacting Kato for new membership promo items. For the \$20 membership, there would be promo magnets. For \$100 and up, there would be reusable shopping bags as a thank you gift, but Liz is wondering if she can do something different as there isn’t a strong water connection to that gift. If you have further suggestions, please share with Liz. Lindsay suggested a bottle opener and Liz noted we need to keep it simple and light to ship while trying to find a lake connection to tie to the gift.

Treasurer – Ben Hartenbower

Ben covered the treasures report and it will not be included in these minutes. The report was approved with a motion by Ron Verdon and second by Cathy Usborne, unanimous approval was carried.

Website – Mike Tomasek

Updates are needed for the membership website and Mike has them scheduled for next weekend. Mike also found that there is an issue with our email server contacting one single server on the internet, it's an error tied to just a few users and doesn't affect our external communications to any of our members. Mike also finished the prototype website for another organization and the Executive team should review what it looks like even though the content isn't populated. It will still allow the team to see what the layout would look like. Mike noted a suggestion for adding a link to smile.amazon.com to the website that he'll had during maintenance.

Activity Reports

August 15th – Women Caring for the Land event (Liz & Lindsay) – Liz recapped that Liz and Lindsay attended, good turnout and good weather. Hosted at a farm in Wheeler, WI and presented good network opportunities. Lindsay noted it was a nice event and certainly worthwhile to attend.

August 16th – Joint Sustainable working group meeting (Liz) – Liz recapped that she has been in conversation with this group and updating them on our work to spread the message while sharing meeting minutes and more info. Liz invited that group to attend our meetings when they would like.

August 19th – Farm City Day (Liz, Ben, Cathy) – The group went out and attended the event, it was also a great day for networking with good weather. 2000+ people were in attendance seeing how a dairy farm works. Cathy Usborne brought up that she found it to be an excellent opportunity to understand how farms work from start to end and to clarify assumptions she had, quite enjoyable. Liz noted a good meal and cheese curds were shared.

August 26th – Clear Lake Eco Fair (Liz) – Cindy Hatella attended and noted her experience... Had helicopter rides, other environmental groups, and more.

August 28th – Farmer-Led Meeting (Liz) – Hay, Dunn County, Polk, and Kinnickinnic farmers spoke about demo days, cover crops, and more. Dick asked about funding for these activities and Liz recapped numerous funding resources for these demos. There was also an invasive species meeting that noted [herbicide-resistant waterhemp](#). Please make sure you clean your equipment between fields as the best theory on how to stop waterhemp from propagating. If a farmer outsources it, the farmer can make sure that is covered as part of the service by asking for it in most cases.

August 29th – Nutrient Management Workshop (Liz, Mike K.) - Very technical demonstration on Nutrient Management and the software suites that help write plans. Dick inquired if there was any discussion on the low nutrient management numbers (9% in Dunn County against the 33% state average). Liz explained that tax credits and regulation help drive the behavior of nutrient management plans. If a county has a [lot](#) of CAFOs, then there are more likely to be nutrient management plans found. Dick noted that Dunn County is the lowest in the state and was looking for more info to drive that number up. Liz and Mike Kneer spoke about it and offered their opinions on the matter. Mike noted that nutrient management plans are the first step to healthy waters as opposed to being a direct fix for the issue. Dick noted his frustrations that Dunn County is lagging due to voluntary compliance and voluntary enforcement through these methods. Ron noted that the study group report on raising these scores are on the Dunn County website and that the county is helping provide more cost share for these projects to drive up adoption.

Sept 5th & 6th – Lakeshore Restoration Training (Liz) – Liz recapped her trip to Tomahawk, WI for this event. The group is working on moving the training to online going forward and may keep onsite and online as an option for training. Design, permitting, real world examples, and other topics were discussed.

Sept 11th – Let's Go Fishing Meeting (Liz) – Recapped that Doug attended the meeting along with Liz. This is the event where elderly people can go on a float or pontoon that are wheelchair friendly to help people get out and enjoy the day. [Let's Go Fishing](#) is a bigger version of the event that happens annually on our local lakes. The conversation was around how to establish a local charter and help share experience with these local groups (15 local group and 30 boats). Doug recapped that he will continue to work on establishing a partnership in 2018 and continue having a boat and grow to two boats (one for Tainter Lake and another for Lake Menomin). Doug noted that our area is a little underdeveloped for establish wheelchair friendly boats compared to other areas. Let's Go Fishing helps share the costs of insurance and more, so it makes it easier to grow the non-profit through this co-op like effort. Liz noted that it was a good event for disabled vets, too. Cathy noted that kids that need wheelchair access are another group that can be included. Doug noted that his primary skillset is around boat mechanic and not being a businessman, so getting help is greatly appreciated to make this program better.

The final topic for tonight was with the team discussing some potential candidates for the annual award for helping the watershed in the area. Nominations were discussed and a motion was made for Paul Verdon and Mark Mozey to be the recipients of the award this year.

Meeting Evaluation

<skipped this month>

Upcoming events –

Before the events are listed, Dick presented a check for \$1k from a Jean O'Neill Trust along with a letter from the family. Dick noted that the gift will be noted during the conference. Celebrate the [Tyrone 991](#) event will be held later this month. Other items include:

Sept 13th – Red Cedar Conference Planning Committee meeting

Sept 20th – Civic Governance (Liz & Ron)

Sept 21st – [North American Stormwater & Erosion Control Association](#) Fall Field Day, Rice Lake, WI

Sept 21st – CAFO Forum

Sept 27th – [Red Cedar Demo Farm Field Day](#)

Oct 4th – Red Cedar TMDL Partnership Implementation Team (RCWQP) meeting

Oct 10th – Wilson Annis Creek Watershed Partnership

Oct 13th – Using Rye Cover Crops to Manage Manure Nutrients Field Day, New Auburn, WI

Oct 17th – Dunn County Conservation Alliance Meeting

Oct 18th – Joint Sustainable Working Group Meeting

Oct 18th – Civic Governance

Next Meeting: October 10th 2017, Room 58, Dunn County Government Center