

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
February 9, 2010

Board members present: Robyn Morin, George Brews, Dick Lamers, Ted DeZurik, Dick Rueckl, Diane Bassett, and Ted Ludwig. Absent: Russ Ziebell, Lynn Englehorn, and Justin Kemp.

Guests present: 7

- I. At 7:08 p.m., Robyn introduced Lance Klessig from Dunn County Land Conservation Division and Melanie Baumgart from River Country Resource Conservation and Development Council. They presented an overview of the Grant Township project and the results. Overall it was felt that good results were achieved and the project will continue. One finding brought out was that the landowners did not associate the water quality in the streams on their property with the water quality of the lakes downstream of them.
- II. The board meeting was called to order by Robyn at 7:59 p.m.
- III. A motion to approve the January minutes was made by Diane, seconded by Dick R. Motion carried.
- IV. Dick R. presented the Treasurer's report. Motion to approve by Ted L., seconded by Diane, motion carried.
- V. Robyn reported she spoke with Randy Eide and the city is moving ahead with plans for Wolske Bay. The initial plan would utilize pumps and cost around \$100,000 and because of the cost a method using propeller devices for circulating the water is being planned. This method will cost about \$6000 and utilize existing utilities. It is anticipated the system would be operating by June.
- VI. Diane reported she attended Senator Feingold's listening session.
- VII. Dick L. met with UW-Stout for a meeting lead by Steve Nold. Stout biology has a project in the works for testing chemical treatment of algae near where the Red Cedar enters Menomin. Ted L. stated he will be meeting with the student involvement coordinator and some of the biology staff to discuss how students can be involved in TMLIA projects.
- VIII. Robyn and Ted L. reported they, along with Russ, attended the Citizen-Based Stream Monitoring Symposium at UW-Stevens Point. This is an annual event and was hosted by River Alliance. An article will be written by Ted L. for the newsletter. At the end of the sessions a drawing was held for some donated monitoring equipment and TMLIA won a thermistor which is a device to measure water temperature on a continuous basis and Ted won a turbidity tube.
- IX. Robyn reported on the TMLIA attendance at the NR 151 hearing with discussion on what was brought up and the comments. All present were encouraged to send in their comments. Some discussion on how e-mail notification is given to members. Ted L. stated all members with e-mail are notified of important events.
- X. Robyn stated that after the NR 151 hearing, a meeting including Dick R., Ted L., Lynn E., Dan Zerr (UW-Extension Lower Chippewa Basin Educator), and Paul La Liberte (DNR Watershed Supervisor), was held to discuss TMLIA goals. The first goal was the basin coordinator which is felt to meet DNR goals, also. Melanie then informed us the RCRC&D Board has approved the development of the basin coordinator and she is working on getting stakeholder groups together to develop a position description. The next item covered was the AIS issue. Paul provided a contact in the DNR and Ted L. talked with this person. We can manually remove AIS without a permit and early open water is the best time. The economic study was discussed and we already have an estimate from UW-Whitewater and we are waiting for one from a source in Barron. Funding and uses of the study were discussed. We will get copies of other studies that have been done and look into the used made of them (Action Item)
- XI. A proposed comment on NR 151 was discussed. The comment was drafted by Dick R. and Ted L. A motion to submit the comments was made by Dick R., seconded by George. Motion Passed. The comments will be emailed to the DNR by Ted L. (Attachment 1)
- XII. Discussion on the annual meeting was held. It was decided to have in on Saturday, July 31st. Planning will continue around this date. Robyn will check on availability of DC F&C for site. (Action) Robyn reminded us to think about nominations for the Good Neighbor Award.
- XIII. Committee reports:
 - Education – No meeting held. George reported he has received copies of the DNR radio broadcasts and is currently looking into a spokesperson from the local farming community. Dick R has submitted the grant proposal.
 - Finance – covered in IV
 - Membership – Door to door will take place in spring
 - Environmental – Ted L. reported training for CBCW and stream monitoring will be scheduled in April and May.
 - Clean the Green - Submitted combined request for funding for two events. Funding for the Spring Home & Garden Show, March 27-28, in the amount of \$249, was motioned by George, seconded by Dick L. Motion carried. The request for the 4th of July should be submitted separately.

- XIV. The board & committee chairs will meet with Allison Werner of River Alliance on March 8th. This will be the March meeting and will not be an open meeting.
The April meeting cannot be at the F&G and will be at Tainter Town Hall if available.
- XV. Meeting went into closed session at 9:22p.m to discuss organizational structure and communication policy.
- XVI. Board came out of closed session at 10:40p.m. Motion to adjourn by Dick L., second by Ted D. Approved.

Attachment 1

Tainter/Menomin Lake Improvement Association, Inc. is an organization with 160 active members working for the protection and improvement of Lakes Tainter and Menomin. The following is our position statement on the proposed changes to NR 151 and companion administrative rules:

Stewardship of the land is everyone's responsibility. Actually 'land' is a very limiting term. It implies that our responsibilities end at our door or property line. A better phrase to use is 'Stewardship of the Earth', which implies we are responsible for anything we do to this planet we live on. Frequently we hear someone say, "I am a good steward of the land". The key word in this phrase is 'good'. The word good is relative and for the term good stewardship to mean something relevant there must be a standard with which to compare.

NR 151 is one of the standards by which the phrase 'Good Steward' can be judged. Setting a P index establishes a numerical standard to evaluate our stewardship. Many of us would like to see this value set below 6, possibly 4, but having the flexibility to modify this where a TMDL is established can make this base value effective. The tillage setback established by this rule should help to reduce erosion and loss of topsoil and nutrients to our waterways. Erosion is a contributor to the nutrient loading in our waterways and topsoil loss is significant when our best farmland ends up in our lakes or the Gulf of Mexico. An additional benefit of the tillage setback would be a habitat improvement for both aquatic and terrestrial species. An issue that has yet to be addressed is the tax situation of the land that is set aside to meet the tillage setback requirement. The agriculture community should not acquire a tax penalty by not using this land as cropland.

The health and environmental problems caused, either directly or indirectly, by the excessive nutrient or pollutant loading of our waterways is something that is difficult to economically assess, but is easily visible. Preliminary testing and anecdotal evidence this past summer attest to the fact that Lakes Tainter and Menomin have both gotten to the point of creating health and environmental hazards for our community. In addition, the algae problems throughout the world and the "dead zone" in the Gulf of Mexico are highly visible examples where there is a significant economical cost.

The Tainter/Menomin Lake Improvement Association firmly supports the proposed revision to NR 151 and companion administrative rules.

Signed for the Board of Directors

Robyn Morin
President
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Sent to WDNR on 2-10-2010