



Monthly Board Meeting Minutes October 19, 2021
Via Zoom & Ideal Town Hall
4:03 pm – 5:49 pm

Board Member Attendees: Ron Meyer, Steve Roe, Barbara Courneya, Clay Shulte, Sheila Boldt, Tom Kuschel, Lloyd Thyen, Jim Chamberlain, Jodi Billy & Jodi Ederhardt.

Other Attendees: Darril Wegscheid

(1) Agenda Approval

There was a motion by Barbara Courneya seconded by Steve Roe, to approve the 10/19/2021 PRWA Board Meeting agenda. Motion carried.

(2) Approval of Previous Minutes

There was a motion by Steve Roe seconded by Ron Meyer, to approve the 9/21/2021 PRWA Monthly Board Meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

(3) Committee Reports

- Finance
 - o Monthly report from Tracy handed out.
 - o The PRWA will pay an invoice of \$2,504.70 from Crow Wing SWCD for their contracted services.
 - o Discussion about PRWA membership dues, could increase to \$25 minimum.

There was a motion by Steve Roe seconded by Barbara Courneya to approve; regarding The Frandsen Bank & Trust PRWA account; Steve Roe as PRWA board member & financial officer, remove Gordon Reller & Judy Wallschleger from having signature authority, changing the account name to The Pine River Watershed Alliance & to add Tracy Nelson as the PRWA accountant with the following authority: sign checks & full access to The PRWA bank account including internet access.

There was a motion by Ron Meyer seconded by Barbara Courneya, to approve payment of \$989.00 to renew directors & officers insurance for The PRWA board of directors. Motion carried.

- Land and Waters
 - o Change to Breezy Point stormwater grant. The original contract was between the homeowner's association and Breezy Point, but they are not working



together, currently. Therefore, the partners who were expected to maintain the work are now not involved – turmoil is un-related to this project.

- Establish Barb as contact for 2021/2022 grant process. Tom Watson will set-up this Land & Waters Zoom meeting, but Barb will be the public contact.
- Website/Facebook
 - Send Sheila any local events that might interest PRWA followers or members.
- Land and Ag
 - Planning The Crow Wing Forage Council winter annual meeting January 20th of February 1st or 3rd.
 - Funding verified through Cass County, federal dollars and a research grant to help pay for a mobile slaughter unit (just over \$2 million dollars), owned by The Cass County Farm Bureau.
 - Looking to host an in-person meeting in Cass County next year to bring producers together. Prefer a professional facilitator to run the event.
 - Cover Crop Project Update: Ended up planting approximately 200 acres into cover crop. Hopefully the winter rye doesn't completely freeze out.
 - Working on a grazing plan on about 60 acres with a producer in the priority area of The Pine River Watershed.
 - Measurable results for reducing nutrient loading into streams or lakes.
- Conservation/Enbridge
 - The Northern Waters Land Trust – Conservation Committee in Bacus 3:00-5:00pm Thursday, Barbara cannot attend if anyone else can. Discuss specific easements that are pending, may need to sign a non-disclosure statement.
 - Event to wake people up & have them start thinking about long-term land planning. Had close to 20 people in-person and about 40 online.
 - The State of MN requested someone to join a group reviewing and prioritizing within a watershed (WRAPS) but does not feel qualified.
 - Enbridge is advertising that they are in production, one court case is still ending regarding wild rice.
 - Enbridge is being disputed due to a punctured aquifer that is apparently still not repaired. There is apparently other clean-up with chemicals and job-sites still needing to be complete.
 - Design is not qualified, no one is taking authority to disapprove the structures.
 - Darril: Crooked Lake Township, Roosevelt Lake Association, Washburn Lake Association Crooked Lake Association, AW lab & Enbridge are going to meet and work together to ensure proper monitoring and long-term planning for leaks in the pipeline. How can these organizations work together with Enbridge to confirm the identified locations that are the most concern, are being protected long-term.



- Membership
 - o CW SWCD mailed The PRWA brochure to the membership list, were able to correct the mailing addresses to a number of members.
 - Newsletter
 - o 1W1P Updates – Ron & Melissa
 - o Creative work with lake stewards this summer – Jodi E.
 - o “Why do we Love This Area?”
 - o Land & Waters – Highlight project - photos
 - o For the mailing: Newsletter & card
- (4) 1W1P
- a. Reviewed pounds of phosphorus loading at specific locations, prioritized the higher input location for a project first. Some of this is residual phosphorus in the water or sediment, if you’re going to make a large reduction then you have to tackle large locations.
 - b. There are a number of filtering techniques that can reduce the phosphorus, recycling the nutrients is part of the question. Biochar is able to recycle the nutrients as fertilizer, it is not an environmental issue. Streams where this could be utilized: Bungo Creek or Hay Creek (attached to a lake association for man-power maintenance).
- (5) Upper Whitefish
- a. Reviewing the data collected & discussion regarding the filamentous algae related to what Zebra Mussels excrete.
- (6) Tax Forfeited Land
- a. Have developed a committee of 5 people to meet and determine a long-term plan. Would like to establish ownership before it goes to auction, and a developer may purchase out-fro-under the group for a high amount.
 - b. Discussion involved a non-motorized access for the public to flow down the river (Round Lake, Bass Lake, Ossie, Pelican and then The Mississippi River). Ron could purchase, receive an easement payment (one year after the transaction), reserve a building site and then a portion becoming a “park?”
- (7) NWLT Presentation
- a. Ron met with the organization, they would like to work more often together. Would like to see more agricultural land easements or estate planning toward conserving farms and ranches. 60 Minutes had a special about a farm that placed an easement on a portion of their farm.
- (8) Board comments
- Steve – Thankful to be relieved of financial duties. Have to proceed all dialing with an area code soon on home landlines. Statistically Enbridge expects leaking, there is a specified leaks per miles.
- Barb – Also disappointed in Enbridge, was able to see a bobcat near home.



Jim Chamberlin – Have been looking into a no-till drill for rental, possibly housed and maintained by a local feed store.

Sheila – New Green Corp member, major in chemistry, expect to meet at The December meeting.

Jodi –

Lloyd – Collected approximately 25 pounds of lead fishing tackle (Get Your Lead Out event). Poster developed and is currently on a trailer, North of the town hall on Highway 6 for the public to view. The MPCA provided non-lead sinkers to pass out to the public. Working with the township, potentially at The Outing Town Hall to develop a recycling drop-off site for the public (only when being manned by a person).

Ron – Will be traveling South in a week or two.

Darril – A Manganese Mine is up for discussion and comments (location near Blue Lake which is connected to Roosevelt Lake). They're currently discussing an open pit mine because other techniques are not viable. Crow Wing Power is the stakeholder and according to co-ops they're not supposed to be doing anything not related to electricity. The members are the ones responsible; the state's hands are somewhat tied.

Clay – Upset at previous PRWA meeting with DNR for approving a permit in 2020 for a massive amount of dredging (5 days' worth with excavators). This one project has done more damage than numerous shoreline restorations will be able to fix on The Whitefish Chain. Discussion was that the permits are sometime grandfathered-in. The land sold, new landowner thought they could dredge it out and therefore, it's assumed they were permitted by The DNR to do-so.

Tom K. – Cass SWCD hosted The Area 8 tour, toured several run-off projects and the final site near Backus related to grazing management brought the best discussion.

Adjourn: 5:38 p.m.