

Tainter Menomin Lake Improvement Association, Inc.

(TMLIA)

Monthly Meeting

Room 58, Dunn County Government Center

Date: April 10th 2018

6:00pm

People in attendance:

Randy Eide, Matt Wegenke, Mike Tomasek, Sarah Freeman, Liz Usborne, Ben Hartenbower, Alyssa Quilling, Dick Lamers, Lindsay Olson, Chris Gaetzke, Cathy Usborne, Jackie, Larry, Ryan Curtis

Introductions:

Introductions were had by going around the room and greeting each other...

Negotiate Agenda:

Liz asked if we could change the agenda to allow Randy Eide to speak early in the meeting. In addition, a Humane Society event coming soon, Ron Verdon as a panelist for an upcoming event, and a grant opportunity discussion.

Approval of minutes:

Liz asked if the team had any corrections for the minutes, none were had. Approval for the minutes was motioned by Ben H., second by Chris G., and unanimous approval was had.

Questions on the agency and committee reports:

No questions were presented other than Sarah asking if the presentation Amber was going to give to sixth grade was on the agenda, it is...

Treasurer report:

Ben presented the treasurer's report to the group. A motion was made to approve the report by Sarah Freeman, second by Liz Usborne, and unanimous approval was carried.

2018 TMLIA Goals document and contribute updates

Liz wanted to take some time to review the 2018 goals and ensure any updates are included. Each item was reviewed and revisions/updates/corrections are noted below:

- Mike noted for item 3 that the new website is in draft review #2
- Randy Eide noted that he can share information with Liz for a Rotary event that is occurring later this year that can help drive our awareness, he will share this information with Liz for item #3
- Dick noted that item #4 is done and completed
- Sarah noted that she reached out to a contact for item #5, but he declined the position
- Dick recapped his contributions to item #6 and believes he has covered everything so far through the year including Patty Schachtner who was just elected.
- For item #7, Lindsay Olson noted that the project is on track and expecting to end in early 2019. Lindsay is continuing to work on the planning committee. Larry asked if anyone watched “University Place” on PBS as today’s episode covered watershed containment contributions into watersheds, they focused on farm reduction in particular today. Larry wondered if the work done in the community noted on “University Place” might be duplicated here, would that make a difference in our watershed?
- For item #8, an intern was hired to help contribute to efforts
- For item #9, Sarah, Chris, and Amber met to coordinate resources for educational events including environmental field day.
- For the last item, Alissa Quilling volunteered to be added to that item as a resource.

Business Item updates

Randy/Ben/Lindsay fill everyone in on the city’s nutrient trading -

Randy recapped the new permit for waste management from 1ppm over a month average to 0.1ppm over a month. The initial upfront costs could be millions to the City if the City wanted to reduce that output. Another option includes *trading* the requirements which can include reducing phosphorous at the source instead of filtering it out as it might be more cost effective. A report is due in Jan 2019 with the City’s recommendation of *trading* or filtering to the DNR and July 2019 would be the start of the process. The City is also working with Cedar Corp to breakdown the cost/benefit of these solutions. Lindsay jumped in and started talking about how her team is working on erosion control, soil sampling, and making landowner contacts for trading opportunities. Lindsay continued that Cedar Corp will be helping with cost/benefit of these solutions, too. Randy wants to make sure that whatever plan is developed that there is an easier maintenance solution as the City will be responsible for maintenance going forward. Ben commented on the DNR policy and requirements including that *trading* requires more than a 1:1 trade to avoid no net-reduction. Ben is looking forward to seeing what the city chooses. Dick asked a question to Lindsay to see if Inter-Fluve from Madison, WI has data from their erosion study earlier this decade rather than pay Cedar Corp, Randy and Lindsay mentioned that the reduction covers more than just the TMDL areas and the Inter-Fluve study didn’t cover phosphorous sampling in detail. Ben mentioned in addition that some of the calculation in *trading* is more complicated in the TMDL areas when they are closer to the rivers and streams.

Earth Day Project for Middle School on 4/27 -

Liz recapped that Paul Verdon contacted TMLIA and other orgs to see if we had some projects

that we can share with the schoolkids for Earth Day. Chris Gaetzke noted that middle schoolers will be coming out and identifying invasives on a sample property.

Amber speaking to 6th graders on 4/26 -

Sarah noted that the event is on 4/27, not 4/26. Amber sent a note that she is excited to speak with the 6th graders and will be with the kids all day talking about what the kids can do to help the watershed and lakes.

Red Cedar Conference Report -

Amber was unable to join the committee due to class conflicts. Dick mentioned that he had a farmer come up at the end of the conference who said he attended a ton of conferences and this year's was the most enjoyable. Other feedback included pricing being a little too high and a lack of national speaker(s) presenting drove attendance a little bit down from last year. 170 people provided feedback at the end of the conference including poor website layout. Positives included breakouts being better than the keynotes. Good and bad feedback about the lunch was shared. Another comment including wanting "more out of the conference" and the committee that met last night about this feedback along with others have decided that maybe the conference needs to provide more referrals to other groups for actionable items as the conference is more about education. Funding is good again and setup for next year. John Haack won the Blue Ribbon for his presentation on the *Ribbon of Life*, Cathy commented that John did an excellent job, too. Kevin Masarik got a Blue Ribbon for *Best Keynote*. Liz thanked the group for their work and Dick noted that fundraising will be starting soon.

Legislative Committee update -

Liz asked Dick if he will be reaching out to the new reps that have been elected since the Special Elections. Dick did speak with Patty Schachtner already and will be speaking with county officials. Liz and Cathy will be talking to the City of Menomonie going forward.

PR&D Water Plan update -

Dick encouraged everyone to attend this Thursday morning's meeting of the Dunn County PR&D committee in Room 58 of the Government Center at 8:30am. The Livestock Operation Study Group results will be shared along with a recommendation around those results for consideration. Dick feels that the study isn't going as far as it needs to for managing CAFOs, including better management goals, people assigned, timelines for completion, and more. Dick feels measurements are needed for goals, if you don't note the dates, then you don't know when you are making progress. If anyone in the group has any thoughts or recommendations to update the Water Quality Work Plan, you are welcomed to speak for up to 3 minutes during the public comment period that starts every PR&D meeting.

Dick moved on to ground water quality monitoring. So far, on the plan, Dick can't find anything that will help improve ground water in the Water Quality Work Plan, specifically for reducing Nitrates in the water. Liz asked if people have comments and cannot attend the 8:30 meeting, can they be forwarded to Dick and he said he'd be happy to share them. The team discussed if there was online submission, but no one was aware of that. You may share comments at [dlammersllc@charter.net](mailto:dammersllc@charter.net). Cathy gave her opinion that she agreed with Dick and found the

goals to be really ambiguous. Dick, Larry, Liz, Matt, and others had general discussion on how to be part of the process and participate in the PR&D meetings and other meetings, including borrowing some best practices from other counties.

Congrats to Amber as she was accepted to Crew 12 of Lake Leaders -

Liz congratulated Amber on her acceptance and TMLIA will reimburse her registration fee.

Amber's presentation in Oklahoma -

Amber sent a note saying her presentation went well and the presentation was "biology heavy". One of the LakesREU team members will be presenting in Madison tomorrow. If you want to see some of the posters that have the research, visit the [website](#).

Next guest speaker -

Liz asked for recommendations for the next guest speaker, she submitted the name of Bill James. Dick shared Dan Baumann while Lindsay suggested the group "Let's go fishing" or Chris Willger. Liz plugged a training from Ted Ludwig if anyone is interested in gathering water samples from the watershed in late May, look for more information soon. Dick suggested Missy Sparrow as a speaker, too.

Alternate location for TMLIA meetings -

Liz proposed holding some meetings at the Dunn County Fish and Game building if we want. Liz informed the group that the board for Dunn County Fish and Game approved free rental for meetings. Matt asked if the times and dates would change, Liz said no. Dick recapped that in the past, we had meetings there, but sometimes we were locked out and needs to be preheated. Cathy noted it is very pretty and Liz noted that it might make a nice summer location. Dick, Sarah, and others discussed how inviting or not inviting the current location is compared to other potential locations. Liz recapped we are reserved till the end of the year at the current location, but we should look at testing out some meetings during the summer. Liz will contact their board and let them know we are interested.

Kate update on DCHS exhibit on the lakes -

Since Kate was unable to attend, we will skip this topic till next meeting.

Museum archive TMLIA records? -

Liz asked the group if they were interested in archiving at least a few bins of TMLIA records, history, and more by possibly renting or gaining some space at the Dunn County museums. Liz is asking others to look into gathering more information.

June Bike around the Lake event -

This event is coming in the fall, stay tuned for more information.

Art event planning -

Liz recapped the idea of having a local art exhibit with art from the watershed, from there, Liz plugged a Minnesota event with Mary Solberg that helped remind her that we could do that here. Dick commented that the Community Services building in Dunn County has art that they rotate to display that we could contact to help feature the art. Dick also suggested the hospital and they may potentially rotate it for organizations, but wasn't sure. Liz asked for some art-friendly

volunteers to help with the project. Alyssa Quilling noted that *Raw Deal* does some art and other locations throughout the area were shared including Golden Leaf Cafe, Marion's Legacy, and Acoustic Cafe.

City Park Dog Station sponsorship? -

At the last city council meeting, discussion was had about allowing dogs in city parks. Liz wrote a letter saying that with the change to allow dogs into the city park, TMLIA might be interested in sponsoring dog pickup stations if the city is interested in having them. So far, she hasn't heard anything as of yet from the City. Lindsay inquired on costs and Liz was unaware of what the costs would be to the City. Liz then moved into discussing sponsorships for the *Fun Run* later this year that will have dogs included and if we want to sponsor the race. The sponsorship window is closed since our last meeting, but Matt will inquire on if donations can still be accepted and noted. After the group discussed some raffle items to potentially donate and the lack of items that tie into it, TMLIA will skip this year and plan for next year.

Tainter Lake maps reprinting or update info before reprint -

Liz spoke that we have tons of Menomin fishing maps, but the Tainter Lake supply is now exhausted. Liz asked if the group wants to reprint or update the map before printing. Lindsay and Liz shared that a Grant is available for funding for mapping of Tainter Lake. Matt, Mike, and others discussed options around maps to be created and mapping of the lakes. After discussion, the group decided to focus on Tainter Lake exclusively which includes the cost of \$16k for Tainter Lake mapping. For reference, a quote for \$13k for Lake Menomin and \$10k for the river channels. The group decided it was important to move forward, but we need to find \$8k for matching funds as part of the Grant's rules. Though we could donate some of the funds, TMLIA can't fund the entire match. The group discussed potential partners and Jackie shared concerns about using the money on the maps rather than using the money for cleaning up the lakes. Liz recapped that these maps are one of the most popular items we give out. The group decided we can't do anything without matching funds and since this one is about to expire, we will pass on it for this year and consider it for next year.

To wrap up, Liz noted some of the events that you can find on the bottom of the agenda that people can attend. Look for more information by email from Liz to the membership email group. Dick will be attending the Wisconsin Lakes conference later this quarter. Lindsay is looking along with others to start a regional cover crop conference for this part of the state. Liz asked if Dick will be representing TMLIA at the Wisconsin Lakes conference and he replied no, just as an individual. Lindsay plugged RotaryFest on April 20th and Liz thanked everyone for coming.

Civic Governance recap:

Ben – 5

Cathy – 5

Sarah – 5

Chris – 4.8 (a lot of data, almost too much)

Lindsay – 5

Dick – 5

Alissa – 5

Matt – 4.9 (likes the new format, but went over)

Mike – 4.5 (went over)

Jackie – 5

Larry – n/a (don't have a frame of reference to look back on)

Report submitted after the meeting:

Dunn County Land and Water Conservation-Lindsay Olson

We submitted a lake protection grant application back in February and learned last week that it was accepted. This grant will fund a project titled "Red Cedar Soil Health Outreach and Education Initiative." We are very excited and looking forward to implementing this project. I expect it will lead to large-scale adoption of soil health practices throughout the watershed, which will in turn lead to increased infiltration and reduced runoff and erosion.

I have been working on a couple of new CREP contracts in the RC watershed as well as several renewals of contracts set to expire in Sept. 2018. Overall we (NRCS, FSA, and LWCD working together) are looking to expand this program in the county and enroll many more acres. These waterway and wetland buffers are great for filtering out nutrients in runoff.

I am working on a water resources web page for our LWCD website. My goal is to have that live by mid-month, so keep an eye out for it. The purpose is to communicate to citizens about current projects, monitoring efforts and results, past projects and reports, and other general information about the water resources of the county, including both surface and groundwater.

The PR&D Committee renamed the LOSG Work Plan to the Water Quality Work Plan, since most topics do focus on water quality. The Land and Water Conservation Division is involved in most aspects of implementing this plan, along with other Dunn County departments including public health and highway. I will be making periodic progress reports to the PR&D committee as I work through the action items they have identified.

The Red Cedar Watershed Conference was held on March 8. Attendance was great and the speakers seem to have been well received. The committee is meeting today to debrief, look over evaluations, and discuss ideas for next year's keynotes. Please send any feedback or ideas to me or anyone else on the committee.

John Sippl organized two cover crop discussions between landowners, himself, and me. The purpose of the meetings was to get farmers who are using cover crops together at one table to discuss what they are trying for covers, what they like and don't like, what works and doesn't work, etc., and in general just get some conversations going between farmers on the topic. The first meeting was for farmers from the west side of the county and was held at the Menomonie Family Restaurant over breakfast on March 13. There were 10-12 individual farmers who attended. The second meeting was held in Colfax at Mom's Cafe for the east-side farmers. We had great turnout and discussion at that event as well. I received some interest in possibly starting another farmer led watershed in the Colfax/Grant township areas, so I will work to help that become a reality. Additional FLWs are a goal of our new grant as well.

I am working with the City of Menomonie, their consultant Cedar Corp, and WDNR to assess and implement water quality trading within the Wilson Creek Watershed. Trading by funding nonpoint source phosphorus reductions is one way for the City to meeting the requirements of their WPDES permit, rather than just brick and mortar solutions, which may be more costly. Trading within Wilson Creek would mean additional funding for projects in that watershed and

can be combined with federal funding, such as NRCS EQIP projects. I will be doing outreach to landowners for potential trade opportunities as well as some soil sampling and phosphorus reduction calculations IF IT EVER THAWS OUT. :-)

I will be leading the next Wilson and Annis Creek Watershed Partnership meeting, which is tomorrow, April 10. Randy Eide will be present to discuss the water quality trading opportunity. We have learned that Wilson Creek will receive at least one more year of funding through NRCS's NWQI program. I have a letter going out to landowners about that this week. I am working on wrapping up our second round of 2018 applications and am also planning on the construction of several projects I designed last year starting as soon as the weather breaks.

I am now gearing up for spring and working to expand the stream monitoring volunteer network. I have found some new volunteers to do the TP sampling for the three HUC12s that DNR has prioritized for 2018 (Wilson, Big Beaver, and Vance Creeks). I hope to continue to build the volunteer network so that we aren't relying on just one or two individuals to do all of the sampling in the future. This will strengthen the stream monitoring program and hopefully generate new interest by people to take an active role in improving water quality.

Feel free to reach out with any questions or comments. I appreciate all of the hard work everyone involved with TMLIA is doing in the interest of water quality!