

Tainter Menomin Lake Improvement Association, Inc.

(TMLIA)

Monthly Meeting

Dunn County Fish and Game Clubhouse

Date: July 10th 2018

6:00pm

People in attendance:

Ben Hartenbower, Liz Usborne, Mike Kneer, Matt Wegneke, Dick Lamers, Randy Sommerfeld, Mike Tomasek

Introductions:

Introductions were had by going around the room and greeting each other... Ben and Liz shared that Ben received a promotion at the DNR, congrats Ben!

Negotiate Agenda:

Dick asked that an agenda item be added regarding a Dairy Farm and government influence. Randy mentioned that the dredging equipment for Jarrett Creek has been dropped off and work will start shortly.

Approval of minutes:

Since there was not a quorum tonight, this will be skipped.

Questions on the agency and committee reports:

Randy Sommerfeld recapped that equipment for Jarrett Creek dredging is here and that it will take "at least weeks" to get that done. The dock located right there has a sign posted for that it is closed until work is done.

Mike Kneer noted that DATCP will be doing well testing throughout the county for agricultural byproducts and septage along with the Dunn County Health Department applying for a grant for well testing, the funds if awarded will be used generally in SE Dunn County. Also, a map of environmentally sensitive areas was shared at the Dunn County Board of Supervisors meeting today. Mike noted that only a few sites are on the map this time around, the goal is to map 100+ sites in the future. This map will help continue the conversation for more help in these areas while also helping to highlight problem areas. Liz asked which category of wells will be tested and Mike responded it will be a mix rather than commercial wells or something in particular.

Dick noted that 16% of the county wells are over the safety limit for Nitrate levels. In other news, the Board of Supervisors found out that business owners in rural areas don't have to take waste to the city for processing, but you can ask owners to participate like they do in Pepin County. Moving on, the zoning commission for Dunn County doesn't have citation authority when finding violations and can only refer for further action. Dick questioned why have a group that doesn't have citation authority even be formed and inferred that he wishes they had authority. Mike will miss next month's county board meetings and PR&D meeting.

Liz inquired if the new board members have the same passion for water quality as the previous administration. Mike started breaking down the organization structure of that group and explained that an administrator would oversee that group and others rather than direct supervision per group. The board, in general, seems supportive of the Land/Water team and other pro-water teams within the Dunn County government.

Dick then brought up a few topics for discussion... First, the Iowa nitrogen pollution issue is getting worse (article from Telegraph Herald). Second, the California dairy farmers supported the current administration and now are being affected by tariffs (Tribune newspapers). Third, the new EPA chief after Scott Pruitt is a former coal industry lobbyist (AP article). Fourth, (article from Milwaukee Journal Sentinel) Dick started talking about how dairy lobbies in Wisconsin are working with the state government as opposed to different state structures of working with lower levels of government as found in Illinois, Minnesota, etc. The article talks about that after filing some FOIA requests revealed that lobbyists and government officials have been working for seven months on plans without having the public be in the know with public meetings, etc. Dick shared his experiences in Madison hearings about the legislative bodies blaming the DNR for being too slow and causing progress to not occur when in Dick's opinion, the DNR is understaffed and can't move faster, so it is a self-inflicted problem.

Mike Kneer discussed that the state didn't actually purchase the Tyrone nuclear plant land south of Downsville. According to Mike, the state was hesitating on purchasing all that land without a need for it.

Dick recapped a meeting where he met Greg Beskow, plant manager from Anderson Windows regarding heat recovery, metal recovery, and effectively recycling materials at Anderson windows. Liz noted that we have tried to partner with Anderson in the past and is looking forward to reaching out and exploring future work with them.

Liz asked if Mike Tomasek heard from Dan Cronin on transferring the website data and Mike said no but will continue to follow-up. Liz noted that the missing membership through PayPal was found and thanked Mike for his time. Mike disclosed that he corrected an error in his own membership that artificially extended his membership to 2020 when testing PayPal for functionality. For each test and refund, the membership was extended. Liz asked Dick if there was an invoice coming for the Red Cedar watershed conference and Dick said he would look into it. Liz recapped an email for the "Hill of Beans" promo at the Menomonie food co-op and let everyone know that when you use your own reusable shopping bag at check-out, you receive

a bean that you can put in our slot that will translate to 5 cents towards our organization.

Treasurer report:

Ben recapped the treasury report for all present, a vote to approve it could not be had this evening as there wasn't a quorum. Liz noted that a \$1500 match was offered to Dunn County for the Fishers and Farmers Grant contingent on if Dunn County receives the grant; Ben just asked for an invoice from Dunn County if they do receive it. Dick asked Liz if she will be going on the Wisconsin Dairy Tours on July 17th, though Liz noted she has to be at a St. Croix event that is part of her day job that she is actually hosting, so she can't join the tour. Dick encouraged everyone to come to the event if you can because the Sonbow Farms near Spring Valley are using new tech that is similar to a waste water treatment plant onsite. Ben asked for more information and Dick shared an article from the Eau Claire Leader that will allow the farm to discharge clean water from the farm once the DNR approves the permit. Ben recapped a story for a hub/spoke digester that had a \$20m RFP opened that treated the water to water quality criteria. Ben and Dick took some time to discuss the differences between the Spring Valley system and the one Ben was familiar with. Matt asked for more information regarding the tour and when it will be. More information can be found in the July 2nd Leader Telegram.

Update on Grant Project Progress

Liz submitted the acceptance forms for the \$3k Xcel grant.

Vote on Governing Document

This will be skipped until next month since we don't have a quorum, though Liz asked if anyone had any questions. The group was encouraged to provide feedback by email to Liz.

Upcoming activities

July 10th – Wilson Annis Creek Watershed Partnership meeting - Liz recapped that she was able to attend the meeting as some of that watershed is in St. Croix County where she works for their environmental needs. Liz modeled phosphorus and sediment reductions due to management practices going on in the watershed and shared that information with the group. Liz shared that Ted Ludwig isn't able to monitor the head of the Wilson Creek watershed and might be able to move that further upstream. Liz noted that the Little Brown bat population has been decimated by white nose fungus in the area and that is affecting the growth in mosquito population and has a monetary effect on agriculture due to increased purchasing of insecticide. Bat populations that were hit 10 years ago in Pennsylvania are just starting to recover.

July 11th – Chamber of Commerce Good Morning Menomonie event

July 12th – Music over Menomin

July 17th – St. Croix County Groundwater Field Day

July 18th – Civic Governance Meeting

July 26th - Chamber of Commerce Business of Information

August 1st – Red Cedar Water Quality Partnership meeting

August 8th - NRCS local workgroup meeting- Barron and LAKES REU research reception,
Menomonie and Chetek

August 14th – Next TMLIA meeting

August 18th – Menomin Meander 2018 Bike Ride

Reports submitted after the meeting:

Outreach-Kate Edenborg

Email suggestions to Kate at edenborgk@uwstout.edu

Main Needs:

- Suggestions for upcoming books?
- Seeking newsletter editor

Book Club & Community:

- For the kid's book Creekfinding, we'd like to have a citizen science activity involving children in collaboration with the Friends of the Red Cedar Trail. Connecting for a potential collaboration in August.
- Selecting books for 2018-19 book club. One in fall and one in spring.
- Connecting with Dunn County Historical Society about a community event about the local lake history.
- Developing ideas for an art-related event/contest.

ONGOING –

Summer Intern à Research and Writing

- Our summer intern is Deon Canon. He is doing our social media content (Facebook) as well as an analysis and writing for the newsletter. Will explore idea of an “Ask TMLIA” prompt on Facebook to allow the community to post questions that our board or experts can respond to – a direct way of educating and communicating about issues.
- Developing calendar of TMLIA-related events based on what we've done the past few years.

Outreach / Community Collaboration Efforts

- Planning to attend Music on Menomin on July 12th.
- Kate received funding (for 2018-2019 academic year) to continue research with 2 undergraduate students that examines local newspaper coverage of Lake Menomin over time was presented at Research Day and other spring events.
- Citizen Science Efforts: Connected with the Beaver Creek Reserve Citizen Science Center steering group. Will provide updates when I have details about events and opportunities.
- One of the colleges at UW-Stout is doing a theme/topic every few years called the Intellectual Commons— the first one is Water.
 - o The Center for Applied Ethics is planning a screening/discussion of a film about water scarcity. I'll send updates on times/dates.

Newsletter

ALWAYS LOOKING FOR ARTICLES FROM THE BOARD :) LET ME KNOW IF YOU HAVE IDEAS. **I NEED VOLUNTEERS FOR FACES OF TMLIA FOR THE ISSUES!**

Publication deadline dates 2018

* **First issue** = Before the watershed conference (Feb/March) PUBLISHED ALREADY

* **Second issue** = Before the annual meeting (Sept/Oct) DEADLINE AUG. 10