

Lake Minnewawa Association
April 2007 Board Meeting Minutes

April 12, 2007

The Meeting was called to order at 9 AM by LMA President Bev Rath.

Board members present were: Bev Rath, President; Ron Conzet, Vice President; Greg Meredyk, Secretary; Pat Rath, Treasurer; Margie Marsyla, Steve Olson, Bill Warner, Leanne Anderson, Art Orosco, Pat McGinn and Kay Klumpner.

Absent were Bonnie and Jerry Maxwell.

Bev Rath announced the resignation of Board member Jeff Stuwve due to new job responsibilities. This leaves 2 vacancies on the board with the resignation of Secretary John Palmer. Chuck Munson by virtue of being runner-up will be asked to join the board to replace Jeff Struwve. Greg Meredyk mentioned that he knows of another person, Jay Robinson who has also expressed an interest in coming on the board and will be in contact with him. Bev will contact Chuck Munson to see if he is still interested.

Secretaries Report-

As the minutes of the October 2006 meeting were previously distributed the reading of the minutes was dispensed with. Bev asked if there were any corrections or additions. There were none. Bev asked for a motion to accept. Pat Rath moved to accept the October minutes. The motion was seconded by Pat McGinn. The motion passed.

President, Bev Rath also asked for a motion that the minutes from the E-meeting held in February be approved. The motion for approval was made by Margie Marsyla and seconded by Greg Meredyk. The minutes from the e-meeting were approved unanimously.

Bev Also mentioned that we are missing the minutes from April, July and September of 2006. Greg Meredyk will try to contact former secretary John Palmer to see about those minutes and any other board secretarial materials he may have.

Greg Meredyk also mentioned that he will be unable to attend the May meeting as he will be attending a family function.

Treasurers Report

The treasurer's report was given by LMA Treasurer Pat Rath. This consisted of 3 reports passed out to all board members. These reports consist of a comprehensive 1st quarter (January-March) Income/ Expense report and an Income/Expense summary sheet for the first quarter as well.

The association's total income for the 1st quarter of 2007 was \$7506.68. The associations total expenses for the 1st quarter of 2007 was \$2580.35. Presently, the association's liquid assets are \$4926.33.

Also presented was a comprehensive year 2006 Income/Expense report. The association's total income for 2006 was \$33,212.76. Our total expenses were \$32,526.76. The association's net balance for the year was \$686.00.

Pat Rath Also mentioned that the association's 3 CDs are rapidly approaching maturity. At that time we will be paying off our short term loan that was necessitated by the short fall this past winter. The treasurer expressed the need that we keep more funds available to maintain adequate liquidity.

Leanne Anderson suggested we take a portion of the CD's and keep it in a savings account that would provide easier access to funds should the board see a need. The dollar amount Leanne put forth was \$10,000.00. Board Vice President Ron Conzet stated that it would be better to keep more out than needed. His feeling was that we should keep \$15,000 out of the CD's and re-invest the rest.

The question was raised as to where to keep the liquid savings account. Bill Warner suggested E-trade. Steve Olson stated that it was a good idea but we have to worry about a minimum balance. After further discussion; the consensus of the board was to cash in a CD and deposit \$ 10,000 in a savings account. The interest from that CD account would be transferred to checking. The board did not as of yet arrive at a conclusion of what financial institution the board should keep the proposed liquid savings account with.

In conclusion Treasurer Pat Rath stated it was a "good" year fiscally speaking. He also stated it was a learning experience citing the budget shortfalls and the reasons behind them.

He also mentioned the amount that we are paying in workman's compensation insurance which was \$1500.00 and will try to work with the insurance company to get a more reasonable rate.

President Bev Rath asked for a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Greg Meredyk moved to accept. Vice President Ron Conzet seconded. The motion passed. .

Membership

Pat Rath stated that so far this year we have received memberships from 4 businesses. Bev stated she would be getting a comprehensive membership list.

Pat McGinn also asked about other means of income for the association. Specifically grants and who was in charge of this. Bev asked for volunteers and no one stepped forward.

Pat Rath thought that former board member Lowell Bartel was in charge of this. Bev stated that she will contact Lowell to see if he would be willing to continue this role for the association. Art Orosco was not too optimistic about Lowell's continued participation, citing his work with the Angels volunteer group taking up the majority of his time.

Pat McGinn also mentioned that in the past good sources of grant money had been The Lake Country Power, The Indian reservation and the local propane suppliers. Guest of the board Nancy Karjalahti from the board of Shamrock Township pointed out that those examples are actually donations and not grants.

Bev Rath is also maintaining a list of members who are willing to volunteer their time to assist with association events. She handed a copy to Leanne Anderson who is co-chairing the garage sale again this year with Greg Meredyk and to Kay Klumpner for the meatball supper.

Guests of the Board

Nancy Karjalahti from the Board of Shamrock Township came before the board to ask for our formal permission to use the Lake Minnewawa garage site for the south side drop off point for the spring yard cleanup day on Saturday April 28th. She also asked for volunteers to man the site. Volunteers will be needed from 9-2. There is a \$10 charge for appliances. Material from business will not be accepted nor excessive material from remodels or building sites. Wood will not be accepted. Nancy stated she will be in charge of what we accept and what we don't. Ron Conzet, Pat McGinn, Steve Olson and Lyle Marsyla have volunteered this year.

Leaf Dump Report

Pat McGinn stated that the leaf dump is in very good condition; however there is some trash toward the rear of the site. Nancy Karjalahti from the township board stated that she will get the township to pick up these items. Pat mentioned that the compost piles need to be turned as well and Nancy stated that the township will take care of that as well. Jerry Paulin should be contacted.

Water Quality Report

LMA Secretary Greg Meredyk dispensed with the water quality report as none have been made for this year as of yet. He did mention that the state DNR has approached him on doing enhanced water testing of not only Lake Minnewawa but of neighboring Horseshoe Lake as well. The hope is that the data from Minnewawa will confirm the DNR belief that the quality of the water is actually improving. These measurements will consist of Secci disc readings, temperature and water sample gathering. The testing on Horseshoe Lake will be a more involved proposition as there is very little data available on that lake. Greg did express some reservation about testing Horseshoe, citing the fact that there is an active lake association there. Several members of the board did point out that Greg did not have to do this testing for Horseshoe lake if he did not care to. However he has already contacted Janet Smude who stating he will do it. As Greg Has had only one season of secci disc readings to his credit, he will need to be trained. Pat McGinn will be a resource as he has done this testing before and will be able to train Greg in the methods to be employed.

Harvesting Report

Bev Rath presented the reports compiled by former Board President Mike Zell. 234 loads of weeds were removed from Lake Minnewawa in 2006. The cost of harvesting was \$18978.23 which was down slightly from 2005.

Equipment Report

Board member Steve Olson stated we will need to purchase the following items:

Oil at a cost of \$500.00 approximately for a 55 gallon drum

New conveyor belt at a cost of approximately \$3000.00.

The truck will also need a tune up. He stated that the maximum cost should be no more than \$500.00

Steve also mentioned that the harvester trailer is damaged but the harvester will need to be taken off the trailer to view the extent of the said damage and would not venture a guess as to the cost of the repairs.

Steve also reminded the board that we did receive a donation of a truck. The question is should the board authorize the selling of the donated truck to finance repairs to the truck currently in use.

The board's consensus was that it may be the best option to sell off the donated truck to help finance the repairs needed for the existing truck.

Steve also mentioned he would be working on the truck. He also mentioned that the rear seal is leaking and is in need of replacement on the existing truck.

Nancy Karjalahti informed us that the DOT is cracking down on vehicles not in good repair.

Steve will be looking in to repair of the rear seal.

Bev reminded the board that we have already approved the purchase of a new truck.

Possible options to explore to make the purchase include:

Military Vehicles in Moundsview

Auctions

The need is for a 2 1/2 ton 4 wheel drive truck.

Greg Meredyk floated the idea of fixing the new truck at the same time write a grant proposal to fund the purchasing of a new truck. He noted as Pat McGinn had already stated, grant money would not largely be available until next year from any organization and the time is now to submit a proposal. The DNR was suggested as a possibility to submit such a grant proposal.

New Business

Bev Rath brought to the attention of the board the unacceptable condition of the LMA website. It has not been adequately updated in 2 years. In the meantime it is costing the association \$75.00 a year to maintain,

She proposes that the site be taken down unless we can gain access and find some one willing to maintain it.

Bill Warner stated he would be willing to check with a friend of his who is familiar with web maintenance. Some members of the board believe that it should be maintained locally. Nancy Karjalahti mentioned the name of John Grones from Voyager Press, who maintains the township website as a local possibility. Pat Rath stated he would contact him. If John Grones doesn't work out, Bill will be contacted to pursue his acquaintance.

Among the reports for harvesting submitted by Mike Zell, was a comprehensive set of guidelines for job descriptions for a weed harvester operator and a new Weed Harvesting manager position.

Art Orosco questioned the need for a formal manager position and asked if we couldn't have some sort of "leader or chief operator". The reply given was that the position of manager would fulfill that role more adequately. Steve Olson has been asked to assume these duties. Steve has accepted.

We will be hiring 2 new operators. The current wage is \$10.00 an hour.

Pat McGinn questioned whether or not we should raise the salary to \$12.50. After much discussion and deliberation, the board to leave the salary at \$10.00/hr.

Steve Olson will be placing ads in the Voyager Press and the Hopper to advertise for harvester operators. He will then interview candidates.

Meet Ball Supper- Kay and Margie reported that plans are well underway and the supper is scheduled for Saturday, April 28th from 5 – 7 pm at the Community Center in McGregor. Ads will be running in the Voyager Press, The News Hopper, The Aitkin Press, The Manning Shopper and KKIN radio. Volunteers signed up to participate in various chores for the evening.

Highway Clean up- May 12th- Marge Marsyla will pick up bags at the Aitkin County Highway department. Kay Klumpner is in charge of this scheduled event and will find volunteers to help. Board members are encouraged to stay after the May meeting to assist with this activity.

Old Business

Lake management Meeting is May 15th. Pat McGinn will get a hold of the vegetation plan.

It was mentioned in review of our revenue generating initiatives that the raffle may not be the best way to generate revenue. Citing the relatively small amount of income generated by last year's raffle and the number of raffles from other organizations, this may be a source that is labor intensive for the outcome. As this issue needs more examination the issue has been tabled until the meeting on May 12th. Bev asked for volunteers to handle the raffle and no one stepped forward.

Handouts: New date for handing out the packets is the weekend of May 19th. Pat McGinn stated that the BSALWMP information sheet is an excellent idea for an addition to the hand out packets. Instead of rewriting, etc. Pat was going to check with them and see if we could reproduce the information sheet for our packets. The board approved this by consensus.

Leanne Anderson will look into the cost of having LMA bags made and will let the board know by April 19-20th. The board was reminded that bags supplied by the DNR are free.

Bev reminded the board that there are different associations that the Minnewawa association can belong to. Minnesota Waters is a potential group for us to join just as we have joined ACLARA. Its purpose is to act as a lobbying arm to promote lake area interests with the state legislature. She believes it is something that we should seriously consider.

Garage Sale: September 1st, 2007: 2 days this year vs. the three days. Leanne Anderson will be putting together handouts to be included in the spring handout. The handouts will attempt to specifically list things we cannot accept. The idea is to discourage the blatant dumping of non saleable items at the association garage. We will also be open less hours this year from 9-11 instead of 9-12 as in years past.

Having concluded all business President Bev Rath asked for a motion to adjourn. Greg Meredyk moved for adjournment, Pat Rath seconded. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11 am.

The next meeting will be Saturday, May 12, 9 am at the association garage.

Respectfully Submitted,

Greg Meredyk
Secretary, Lake Minnewawa Association.