

## **Deer Lake Watershed Association**

Board Meeting – Monday, May 4, 2020

Carpenter Township Hall

CALL TO ORDER: the meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by President Bill Cromell. Board members present: Bill Cromell, Gail Blackmer. Chris Fischer and Mark Smith participated via speakerphone connection. Alternate board member Val Cromell was present.

AGENDA REVIEW AND APPROVAL – Following review of agenda, Gail moved to approve the agenda as revised. Seconded by Bill. *Note that there were no guests present to provide comments due to COVID-19 recommendations and that those present were separated by placement of tables and chairs at >6ft. distance.*

PRESIDENT’S COMMENTS: Bill provided comments regarding current conditions which may affect activities of DLWA due to COVID-19 pandemic, recognizing that personal commitment to community service must be balanced with an individual’s safety in times like these. He stressed that the past couple years have had intense work done on projects such as maintaining continuous outflow on Deer Lake creek and water quality testing procedures, along with detailing the structure of the organization through documentation of membership files and officer duties. This groundwork will allow the board and general membership to continue to do the things we can, while stepping back from group activities which could put someone at risk to their health. Our mission remains strong, which states: “To protect, maintain and improve the natural resources of the Deer Lake Watershed for current and future generations”.

BOARD RESIGNATION: Sheila Vorland submitted a notice of resignation from the DLWA board of directors, effective May 3, 2020. Board members expressed their appreciation for the advances she made to the Treasurer/Bookkeeper position in the past three years in which she served as an officer of the board. Also noted was her technical skill in getting the newsletter into electronic format, which we hope will continue with her volunteer assistance.

The resignation leaves a vacancy on the board and the treasurer position vacant. The board discussed ways to continue the work of the treasurer, including making bank deposits and paying for current invoices for membership dues to ICOLA and Minnesota Lakes and Rivers. Bill remains as an authorized signer on checks to continue making necessary payments. Val Cromell volunteered to temporarily assume treasurer duties. It was determined that the vacant board position could be filled by appointment, and that the treasurer would be elected by board members following the annual meeting. Notice to the full membership will invite interested persons to submit their names to be considered for appointment to be a board member, and that person would serve until nominations and voting by full membership takes place at the annual meeting.

TREASURER REPORT – Sheila had provided treasurer report on a spreadsheet, listing current fund balances as follows: General fund - \$3911.16; Continuous flow fund - \$2137.48; Water

protection fund - \$670.53; CCC camp savings account - \$190; Website business contributions- \$302.85.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Gail provided Secretary's report, noting that the minutes from the March 3, 2020 meeting had been distributed via email to board members. A paper copy of these minutes is available at today's meeting. Minutes of the March meeting were approved on a **motion** by Chris, **seconded** by Bill. The March minutes may now be posted on the website.

#### COMMITTEE UPDATES:

##### A. Continuous Outflow Committee

1. Outflow creek condition – Bill noted that the outflow of Deer Lake was flowing freely, and it appears that the vigilance of last year's efforts has kept the beaver population down.
2. Boat Run Volunteers – Mark Smith stated that no new volunteers have come forward to assist with boat runs yet but hopes as summer progresses there will be people available. Mark is spending more time here during these "shut down" orders and will do runs himself as needed.

##### B. CCC Camp Project Status

Bill stated that the lease through the DNR has just arrived in the mail and will be reviewed. The DNR wants to be added to our insurance as they are signers on the lease, and an officer of DLWA needs to sign as well. We will investigate if the chair of the CCC camp committee can be considered as the signer, as this would need a board resolution. There is still the need for the CCC camp committee to raise the \$500 upfront lease fee. Bill will check with our insurance company and allow them to review the lease as a first step.

*Note: At approximately this time, technical difficulties prevented Mark Smith's participation by phone connection. Alternate board member Val Cromell remained to allow a quorum present to continue business.*

C. Membership committee – Val Cromell, committee chair, provided a written report on membership activities. Currently there are 128 paid household memberships, including two business memberships and eight lifetime memberships. A mailing will go out this summer to property owners who have not yet joined the organization, as well as reminder mailings to expiring members. There are five business advertisers currently. Val presented updated membership form to be used in 2020 and beyond. Val was thanked for her work on the membership committee.

D. Events – The MN DOT roadside cleanup has been done with minimal volunteers participating, however, it was done on two occasions, with volunteers practicing social distancing. Discussion held on the likelihood of restrictions of large group gatherings will likely continue for the short term at least, therefore, Gail made a **motion** to cancel all events for the summer of 2020. The motion was **seconded** by Bill, and passed. We will explore options to conduct the annual meeting virtually and determine how that could be done.

## OLD BUSINESS

A. Bylaw Policy referencing for Treasurer/Bookkeeper and Membership Renewal positions - Written procedures have been compiled standardizing the duties for these two positions. Bill will write a reference that will be added to the bylaws, and the procedures included as an addendum to the bylaws.

B. Grants – The grant request for water quality testing submitted to Carpenter Township was approved at the township annual meeting. The \$250 grant will be deposited into the Water Protection fund and used for testing of water quality within the watershed. A similar grant submitted to the Round Up program was not funded as that organization funded only projects relating directly to COVID-19 relief this funding period.

C. Water Quality Testing – RMB Labs will be operating this summer with COVID guidelines. Bill plans to continue the testing procedures. Battle and Mirror lakes will likely be tested by the SWCD as their timeline allows.

D. New Walleye regulations – Membership has been informed via email of the new fishing regulations in effect for this season.

E. Website Update – Chris reported on updates and visit counts. He suggested it may be time to look again at an electronic method of collecting membership payments.

## NEW BUSINESS

A. COVID-19 Situation – Board members brainstormed ideas as to how an annual meeting can be conducted without physically gathering. Agreed that a pot-luck meal is not consistent with guidelines and likely will not be allowed for the near future. We will work on a way to do this, as well as considering the next board meeting on a computerized platform of some type. Tentatively scheduled next board meeting for June 29.

## ADJOURN

In keeping with members' needs to limit meeting to 1.5 hours in length, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m. on a motion by Gail, seconded by Bill.

Minutes submitted by Gail Blackmer, secretary.