

Minutes of the Minong Township Lakes Committee (MTLC) meeting on May 4 at the Minong Town Hall

Present: Russ Robinson, Lisa Gabriel, Laurie Johnson, Doug Bush, Kate Zimmerman, Sam Lewis, John Ney, Jan Pierson, Don Johnson, Ron Brown, Tony Tubbs, Pete Miller and guest Bill Doeden, president of the Gilmore Lake Association

Tony told us about the MTLC bank account. There is \$3685 in the account which includes the \$750 that had been outstanding from the DNR fair grant. Russ mentioned that the last fishing pole had been delivered and that the third prize from the raffle of \$64 was never claimed. He will post one more ad.

Sam described how much Earl Cook, WAL president, and Karen von Huene, WAL executive director, liked and praised our lake fair last summer. They lavished praise on the fair at a fall WAL Board meeting and said that the fair was a wonderful example of how to connect with lake residents and their families.

Sally Dahlby, Pam Toshner and Sam compose a 3 person committee charged with organizing pontoon classrooms. Sam described tentative plans and needs which include picking a date for the event, the lake and the topics to be highlighted during the classrooms. Our Minong Flowage representatives volunteered the Flowage as the lake. It would have the advantage of having the park and pavilion in case we wanted to have a lunch. During the next month the committee will try to settle on a date and location for the event and start obtaining expert speakers. The 3 Fridays of July 30, August 6 and 13 were selected as possible dates. Laurie Johnson volunteered to help with the classroom event. We should invite the Town Boards of Minong and Wascott to the event as a way to connect with the towns. Committee members thought that we could pick some people who might benefit (upcoming lake leaders) for the classroom but that we also should open it to anyone who is interested in learning about lakes. The classroom event would not be appropriate for small children.

Tony described the \$10,000 Minong Township set-aside for lakes. That allocation is for 2010. Money drawn from that set-aside must be matched by grants or contributions from elsewhere (including our bank account). The town board is concerned that whatever is done with the money should be things that benefit the town as a whole, not just specific lakes. In that vein, Russ expressed the concern that we do not have a method of connecting with lake residents who do not live on lakes with associations.

Tony is working with the town assessor to get an idea of what % of the taxes are paid by lakeshore property owners.

A discussion ensued about how to spend some of the money. About \$400 might be needed for the classrooms of which \$200 could be town money. John and Tony described efforts to look at landings and the problems associated with town owned landings. Gilmore needs some work at their landing. The Bass Lake landing is evidently in sad shape. The town board is not supportive of improving landings, but they might be convinced to help work on them if we can present a good inventory describing them listing problems and concerns, including liability and handicapped access (lack thereof), and if we can present a multi-year plan for their improvement. Tony and John will work on the inventory using information Tony and Kris Larson from the DNR collated as a starting point. At the Minong Town Board meeting on Monday Russ and Tony will update the board on committee efforts—classrooms and landings as a way of letting them know what is being done and advising them that in June there could be requests for part of the \$10,000.

Russ asked if MTLIC should have a web site. It could be developed for free using Google Applications. It could be a link on the Minong Township site. No decision was made, but it was generally agreed that this was a good idea, and could also be used to promote the lakes in the township. Tony shared the Lac Du Flambeau township lakes committee newsletter as another way to (in addition to a web site) publicize what our committee is doing.

We will discuss the possible coordination of CBCW (boat inspections) at a future committee meeting. On the AIS score, Lisa Gabriel announced that her position with the county as AIS coordinator is funded for about 2.5 more years. SHE ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT SHE IS GETTING MARRIED ON AUGUST 7. CONGRATULATIONS LISA!

We then continued to discuss getting in touch with people on lakes without associations. Doug described efforts in Wascott to connect through a "Waters of Wascott" initiative sponsored by their Conservation and Recreation committee. They held two well attended meetings to gather concerns from lake residents. We then discussed trying something similar in Minong. Ads in the Shopper or a directed mailing could be used to attract residents to an event.

Prior to the close of the meeting Bill Doeden described the efforts he has been making with the DNR and a group of concerned folks who are looking at trying to describe what an AIS "containment" effort might look like. The DNR is working to redirect some of their resources toward "containment" rather than prevention. It is conceptually easier to contain AIS in some lakes rather than try to prevent spread by guarding many more lakes.

Future meetings of the committee will be the first Tuesday of each month. **THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE TUESDAY, JUNE 1, AT 9:00 AT THE TOWN HALL**

Sam Lewis
May 10, 2010