

## MEETING MINUTES



**August 28, 2020**

**Present from Board:** Kevin Horrocks, Gary Pulford, Jim Coors, Chris Bedwell, Mark Laustrup, Dick Laumer, Jeff Aspenwall, Dave Zimmer, Paul Eckerline, Mike Persson

**Present from Committees and Guests:** Alf Sivertson, Rick O'Neill, Dan Tyrolt

Recording **Secretary:** Mark Laustrup

Kevin Horrocks call the meeting to order at 3:17 PM.

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion to accept the July minutes was made by Gary Pulford and seconded by Jim Coors. The vote was unanimous.

**Treasurer's Report:** Chris Bedwell summarized income and expenses for the month. There is a balance of \$129,880 that does not include Eco-Harvester money. She paid Ellison for SELT work, Limnotech expenses and the cost of upgrading the website to allow for monthly credit card donations. Chris redesigned the budget sheet to allow for the comparison of the original budget and the revised budget.

The revised budget sheet shows a \$25,740 overage. Alf Sivertson mentioned that there is \$20,000 from the Eau Claire Foundation that we can tap in to in January 2021. Jim Coors pointed out that there is another \$4,000 we can take out of Foundation account. Dave Zimmer asked if we should we be carrying a line item for tax returns. Alf Sivertson said we should assume we are a 501c3 and act accordingly. Dave Zimmer suggested earmarking \$2500 for tax preparation. A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by Jim Coors and seconded by Paul Eckerline. The vote was unanimous.

**Annual Meeting:** The meeting has been cancelled along with the picnic. Kevin Horrocks asked that even though we are not using Bass Lake Town Hall or the St. Francis Mission this year, should we go ahead and make the donations. A motion to do so was made by Gary Pulford and seconded by Mark Laustrup. The votes were unanimous.

**AIS 2020 Time in Kind:** Kevin Horrocks said that we need to move forward. Gary Pulford said to the numbers to Jeff Aspenwall by October 1, later moved up to September 15. See below.

**Aquatic Plant Management Plan Update:** Dan Tyrolt reported that he is just about done and should have a draft out the early part of next week and send it out to the committee for revisions. Dan is focusing on the goals and objectives. We should be able to wrap it up in a couple of weeks and send it off to WDNR. The week following distribution to the committee he suggested setting up a Zoom meeting to finalize. Gary Pulford asked that Chris Peterson be added to the committee list.

**State of the Lakes:** Kevin Horrocks is cleaning up version 3 of the questionnaire and all property owners on LCO and Little LCO will receive it. It will provide us with a fresh look at the attitudes of property owners. Kevin will send it out to the board when he is finished with revisions.

**Research:** View from Your Dock. Jim Coors said that electronic and mail are going out to all property owners with 20+ questions (see above). It will go out within a month. Jeff Aspenwall pointed out some ambiguities and asked if there is time to edit the draft. Jeff will work with Jim to revise. Kevin Horrocks mentioned that he spoke with Ted about Trails End people who might be interested in COLA membership/partner.

**Fundraising Plan:** Alf Sivertson said he and several others met with Barb Beard (Victory Heights) who has been in the fundraising business for 30+ years. She mentioned that her experience has been that 1% of donors can account for up to 80% of donations. She encouraged engaging everyone on the lakes to provide an opportunity for fund raising. Use CELT, State of the Lake and email blasts to engage. When people know what they are donating for, they will do it. Move to fewer categories 1-1000, 1001-5000, 5001-10000 over 10,000. If COLA thinks it is important to publicize the donations, make sure people authorize letting their information go public. Find a mechanism to get people talking with their donating peers. Alf mentioned that we have updated data and could look at property values to target potential donors. Advertise specific projects to draw donations. Continue working with the Eau Claire Foundation for the legacy fund. Begin work on the annual fundraising letter that goes out in December. Work on scheduling one on ones. Begin planning the Annual appreciation dinner. Alf will get something down on paper and out to the board.

**Membership:** COLA is changing the model from membership to partner. Kevin Horrocks asked how and when do we introduce the change. The rollout needs to be coordinated with fundraising. Change the sign to "I'm a COLA partner".

**CWA Action:** Alf Sivertson said they are still working to integrate new data in the petition.

**Tales of LCO Reprint Costs:** Kevin Horrocks got estimates from Advanced Printing and is a little bit queasy adding anything to this year's budget. Discussion followed. In COLA communications, ask if anyone is interested in the product. Mike Persson asked if it should be updated? Jim Coors suggested reestablishing a historical committee to update. Kevin Horrocks said that we will put it on the back burner and hold off for a winter project and put off printing until next year.

**501(c)(3) Certification:** Alf Sivertson said that the IRS is overwhelmed and far behind. A discussion of the impact on ESRI licenses followed. Mark Lastrup will email Alf our most recent ESRI quote and cc. Jeff Aspenwall and Kevin Horrocks.

**AIS Update:** Gary Pulford said that we need a full accounting before we get an extension to access the remaining \$30,000 in the AIS grant. We have to lay out what we will do with the money. Alf Sivertson asked if we can use the money for Eco-Harvester expenses. A decision was made to move the deadline from October 1 to September 15 to get it all done. Jeff Aspenwall will be unavailable at the end of the month.

**Eco-Harvester:** Kris Sivertson was unavailable to attend the meeting but provided an outline of what will be necessary: training, lake access, insurance and registration, dump sites, ordering trailer to haul

weeds, etc. We need to get dumping sites identified early on. Kevin Horrocks asked the board to go over the list and see what each could help with.

**2021 Surveys:** We still need to deal with septic and shoreland resurveys.

**Grant Writing:** We need to identify grant sources.

**Watershed Forestry:** Paul Eckerline met with Allison and she is moving forward with the project.

**USACE Grant:** Dan Tyrolt said there is no new news. He will put it up higher on his to do list.

**Water Levels:** Kevin Horrocks said there are a lot of conflicting needs and that the county will reset gages.

**Other:** Mike Persson brought up the musky spawning habitat project. Dan Tyrolt said he has \$34,000 of use or lose money to spend on musky habitat projects. Sediment testing must come first before permits will be issued. Dan said we need to go through the LCO Conservation Department. Mike will provide Dan with cost estimates. Gary Pulford said he would hate to see LCO money spent on a project the WDNR will not approve or permit. We need to get approval before we spend any money. Get all the WDNR principals and Limnotech together. Dan asked if the permit application has been submitted? If not, now is the time; WDNR will not move unless they are on the clock. They have 30-days to approve or deny a permit. Kevin Horrocks said that they are waiting for and okay from the water quality section. Mike will get clarification on what is going on.

Adjourn: 5:02