



COLA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEETING MINUTES

March 27, 2015

Present from Board: Kris Sivertson, Gary Pulford, Mark Lastrup, Steve Umland, Kevin Horrocks, Paul Eckerline

Present from Committees: Dan Tyrolt

Recording Secretary: Mark Lastrup

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 PM by Kris Sivertson.

Approval of Minutes: A motion to accept the January and February minutes was made by Steve Umland and seconded by Paul Eckerline. The vote was unanimous.

Treasurer's Report: Steve Lilliblad was absent due to health issues. A motion to accept the report he submitted was made by Paul Eckerline and seconded by Mark Lastrup. The vote was unanimous.

Review of Denial of WDNR Grants: Kris Sivertson informed the board that the Shoreland buffer grant was still in the process of evaluation and he thought a decision should come down next week.

Review of WDNR SSC and TMDL Comments: Gary Pulford stated that after an 8-month review, WDNR will not support the SSC/TMDL as submitted and that they are falling back to a 40 ppb standard for Musky Bay. The issue has become totally political and all decisions regarding COLA/LCO are coming out of the Secretary's (Governor's?) Office. COLA will provide WDNR with revisions to the SSC with a request that WDNR process the proposed SSC under current statute and rules and COLA will convert the TMDL into a 9-Key Element Watershed Plan and submit to WDNR/EPA.

Kathy Hanson Contract: Kevin and Sue Horrocks and Jim Coors met and agreed on Jim's proposal. COLA will contract with her for a 6-month trial period. Kris Sivertson suggested that COLA let her do one and see what she produces. There was some discussion on copyright. Topics need to be reordered and a group was selected to prioritize the provided list of topics. A motion to accept the proposal with amendments

was made by Paul Eckerline and seconded by Kevin Horrocks. The vote was unanimous.

Musky Habitat Design Study: With the grant application for the musky spawning habitat study being denied, Frank Pratt is willing to initiate the study if COLA is willing to move forward without external funding. The project will determine how much and where sediments need to be removed. Steve Umland mentioned the observations of Dave and Kathy Mathis. They observed muskies spawning in front of their Musky Bay house over a sand substrate. A suggestion was made to attempt to cost share with Muskies Inc. It was suggested that Frank Pratt come back with a proposal and a motion to provide \$500 for the proposal was made by Mark Lastrup and seconded by Steve Umland. The vote was unanimous. Gary Pulford indicated that the WDNR comments on the proposal that was denied were helpful and that next year, the application needs to be resubmitted with the comments addressed.

LiDAR Status: Kris Sivertson said that with the changes to the 2015 budget to fund the work necessary to meet the WDNR demands for changes to the SSC/TMDL, COLA can't afford to move forward with data acquisition. Dan Tyrolt suggested that the high resolution elevation data would be helpful in developing the 9 element plan required by EPA. Accurate acreage figures associated with agriculture will be necessary and COLA needs to consult with Limnotech on what they need to move forward. Both Sawyer County and NRCS have information on agricultural acreages in the watershed.

Revised 2015 Budget: Kris Sivertson provided a handout showing that the first four items listed under LCOFI support will be modified/dropped to provide the funding for the SSC/TMDL revisions required by WDNR. They include: West end ag, ag bmp's, runoff survey, \$20,000; Shoreline restoration grant match, \$5,000; Musky Bay spawning habitat restoration grant match, \$7,500. The numbers will change if COLA receives the Shoreland Buffer grant. A decision on the overall budget revision should be put off until COLA hears back on the grant. A motion to immediately move forward with Task 10 (SSC revision), Task 11 (9 element plan) and the letter to WDNR was made by Steve Umland and seconded by Paul Eckerline. The vote was unanimous.

Update on Complaint Filed with WDNR: Gary Pulford indicated that a reply to the complaint should arrive next week.

Loon Call Update: Kevin Horrocks reviewed assignments for the spring edition and requested that the materials be provided to him ASAP.

Update on LCO Tribe TAS Application: Dan Tyrolt summarized the process and indicated that everything was moving along. No problems have been encountered.

Preparation for 2015 Open Water: Steve Umland indicated that the CLP application has been submitted but that Stantec has not heard anything from WDNR. Allan Hoeft has agreed to cover Clean Boats and he is working with LCO Community College to

identify potential workers. Kevin Horrocks said that the volunteers to monitor the spread of AIS have agreed to continue this year.

Next Meeting for Watershed Coalition: Gary Pulford suggested a July/August timeframe.

Septic System Update: Mark Laustrup said that 75% of failures have been corrected and that Sawyer County expects to have everything completed by the fall of 2015. The county is currently working on 23 corrections (in progress) and 18 still need resolution. Sawyer County will survey Whitefish Lake in 2015 and Big Sissabagama in 2016.

Annual Meeting Theme: After some discussion, successes was tentatively agree to.

Boat Parade: Board members have been contacted about a lack of a COLA presence. The number of participants has been declining in recent years. The use of an email blast, the Loon Call, and adding the parade to the web site were suggested. Paul Eckerline agreed to head up the effort.

CWRLT Film Festival: Gary Pulford indicated that COLA has 6 free tickets. They went quick.

Other: The impact of proposed budget cuts on WDNR programs was discussed. A letter to the editor from the Chippewa Flowage association was passed around. Steve Umland volunteered to develop a draft that he will circulate.

The board agreed that COLA needs to recruit an additional 4 board members.

Adjourn: 5:40 PM.