

January 2011 Minutes

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**MANITOBA ASSOCIATION OF COTTAGE OWNERS INC.
P.O. Box 281, Station Main, Winnipeg, MB, R3G 2G9**

Date: Tuesday, January 18, 2011
Time: 6:00 PM
Location: CanadInns-2100 McPhillips Street, Winnipeg.
Present: Larry Baker, Mo Tipples, Jim Nicholson, Donna Jean Crabb, Gus Wruck, Dave Crabb, Jim Neufeld, Norma Kerr and Brian Blahey
Regrets: Rilla Britton, Pat Dunlop, Marian Jones, and Lorne Britton
Guests: Jurgen Fitzer (investigating MACO with respect to education taxes)

Introductions: Everyone introduced themselves and said where they were from for Jurgen.

1. **Call to Order** Dave Crabb called the meeting to order at 6:20 pm.
2. **Adoption of Agenda** Gus Wruck moved adoption of the agenda. Seconded by Mo Tipples. Carried
3. **Adoption of the Minutes** Noted that sub-committee on Water Mitigation be renamed Disaster Assistance. Items under "Adoption of the Minutes" should be under New Business. Gus Wruck moved adoption of the minutes as amended. Seconded by Larry Baker. Carried
4. **Financial Report**
 - Letter provided to Treasurer with names of individuals requesting subscriptions to Cottager magazine. Letter to be forwarded to Cottager. Brian Blahey to be added to list. Cheque to be sent.
 - Incorporation papers – information to be obtained with all names and addresses on it.
 - Error in Financial Report. Individual Membership \$10.00 to be changed to \$20.00.
 - Motion by Jim Nicholson to accept amended Financial Report. Seconded by Jim Neufeld.
5. **Business and Action Arising from the Minutes**
 - East Road write-up for website – Dave This is under Flood Control. Therefore the links should go to that topic.
 - Member orgs to website - Marian and Gus - Carry forward until Marian Jones returns.
 - Wildlife Safety - Carry Forward
 - Waste Disposal – Lorne Britton – Carry Forward

- Provincial Wild Life Planning Survey – Pat – Carry Forward
- Recycling – Carry Forward
- Snowmobile Safety – Gus Wruck requested that Snowmobile Safety be added to the Agenda as an ongoing item.

6. Old Business

- Eastern Beaches Coalition – Dave Crabb’s article will be published in the Selkirk Record (Government not working with the people – no consultation, support or community input. Canal in Beaconia declared illegal by Water Stewardship but Conservation Department proceeding with licensing of it. Departments to eliminate duplication and then move on. Slow process. MACO getting some attention on this.
- Website – Gus Wruck reported website is proceeding – usually updated within one day of Gus’s request.
- Clean Environment Commission – Rilla – Carry Forward
- School Taxes – Larry Baker requested that a half hour be set aside at the next meeting to strategically plan the next tax rally in relation to the upcoming provincial election on October 4, 2011. Larry to invite Heather Stefanson to speak at the rally. Larry also to get in touch with Heather Stefanson, Ralph Eichler and Lorne Weiss to attend the next MACO meeting to assist with tax rally strategy. Larry read the very comprehensive report he has compiled on action taken to date on school tax issue. Larry will prepare a package containing his report and copies of *letters to the editor* in various newspapers and provide each member of the Board with either a hard copy or an electronic copy. Larry reported that the Association of Manitoba Municipalities put MACO’s motion to eliminate school taxes from municipal taxes on the floor, but did not hear if the motion had been carried. (for agenda for next meeting).

Larry encouraged MACO members to attend public forums and use the above package as a resource to use to speak up at public forums. Gus Wruck reported that the Sunrise School Division has requested 10% of municipal taxes for school safety (sidewalks, lighting, etc.) Also, the school district in Lac du Bonnet is requesting 10% in extra tax money (TIP) and the planning department in Lac du Bonnet has hired a lawyer to oppose this. Gus will keep the Board informed on this issue.

- Lake Winnipeg Water Levels – Dave Crabb took an exploratory trip along Lake Winnipeg and reported on extensive damages to cottages and property. Lake levels are at record high with high levels of snow. This is a *wait and see* situation. MACO had previously put questions to Manitoba Hydro. Are these questions and responses still on the MACO website? Gus will check this. Manitoba Government planning to transfer responsibility for Lake Winnipeg to Manitoba Hydro. Members will be sent an email to advise them of the Manitoba Hydro link on the MACO website.
- Membership Categories – Jim Neufeld studied the membership categories and ended up drafting a new constitution for MACO. Long discussion followed, including *definition of executive, definition of terms, categories of membership, etc.* A complete new draft with suggested changes will be sent to members for approval. This discussion

led to the new Treasurer's questions as to who should have cheque signing privileges. Gus Wruck moved that Bill Russell and Gary Dunlop be removed from the list. Donna Jean seconded. Carried. Dave Crabb would like the Board to re-look at MACO being a charitable organization – at the next meeting, or before the next AGM.

- Is MACO Green? Carry Forward.
- Property Assessments – Carry Forward.

7. New Business

- Whiteshell letter to Conservation re: First Nations Co-Management Proposal (AGM Minutes)
 - Whiteshell Cottage Association sent a letter to the Premier with a copy to Dave Crabb. The cottage owners are requesting an archaeological study on First Nations cultural sites within the park before negotiations take place to develop a Co-Management agreement between MB Government, Brokenhead Reserve, Aboriginal and Northern Affairs and Culture and Heritage. Discussion by MACO Board – decision that this is a provincial issue. Copy of letter will be for information only.
- Cape Coppermine letter – Letter requested contact names of associations in the area. Because MACO can't provide this directly due to privacy concerns, the letter will be sent to MACO's member associations and they will make decisions on this issue.
- Disaster Compensation – Sub-Committee of Pat Dunlop, Bob Cox and Norma Kerr prepared a notice that was sent to 18 municipalities asking them to put the notice on their website and advise any associations they were connected with to do the same. A link to the DFA application was provided with information that applications should be sent by non-permanent residents and copies of refusals should be sent to MACO to be used as a basis for advocating for compensation for non-permanent residents. Only two municipalities to date have put the notice on their website. The notice was also to be sent to the MACO membership. The deadline at that time was December 31/10. Since that time, information has been received that all owners may be compensated in some way and that as many applications should go to as many departments as possible by as many affected owners as possible. Norma to develop a new notice and send to Dave who will ensure it is emailed to MACO members.

8. Correspondence received/responded to

- Letter to Minister Toews. Dave read a letter that was sent to Minister Toews by Pat Dunlop. Not sure if reply has been received by Pat Dunlop. Carry Forward. Signature on this letter will be changed to Dave Crabb, President of MACO, on behalf of all cottage owners and will be sent to all ministers of all relevant provincial government departments, the Opposition, and anyone else the Board deems relevant.

9. Directors Reports

- Jim Nicholson –The Financial Report was provided above, but Treasurer, Jim Nicholson advised of the following: he attended a breakfast meeting of the Association of Professional Engineers and

Geoscientists with speaker Dean Gould from the provincial Shoreline Erosion Protection Committee. The Committee is set up to give advice to residents on proper dike building and has provided advice to about 400 people to date. They are looking at moving lake safety height from 722 feet to 724 feet. Jim Nicholson advised of 4 Reports/Handbooks that he will e-mail to Dave Crabb to be put on the website for members: The Cottagers' Handbook; Planning Act Handbook; Manitoba Water Stewardship Annual Report; Lake Winnipeg Stewardship Board Report.

- There were no further Directors' Reports.

10. Next Meeting Dates

- Tuesdays – February 15 and March 15, 2011.

11. Adjournment

- Moved by Larry Baker that the meeting be adjourned.