

January 2010 Minutes

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

Date: Tuesday, January 19, 2010
Time: 6:00 PM
Location: CanadInns - 2100 McPhillips Street, Winnipeg
Present: Dave Crabb, Gus Wruck, Donna-Jean Crabb. Marian Jones and Jim Neufeld.
Regrets: Lorne Britton, Mo Tipples, Larry Baker, Shirley Nixon, Gary Dunlop, Casey Jones, Rilla Britton, Sid Bloomfield and Pat Dunlop,

1. Call to Order

Dave Crabb called the meeting to order at 6:17 pm.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Gus Wruck moved adoption of the agenda. Seconded by Marian Jones. Carried.

3. Adoption of the Minutes - Gus Wruck moved adoption of minutes of October 6, 2009. Seconded by Donna-Jean Crabb. Carried.

4. Financial Report –

Marian Jones moved that the financial report be adopted. Seconded by Jim Neufeld. Carried.

- Gus Wruck is unable to do the additional task of Treasurer therefore a new Treasurer must be appointed.
- No new expenditures during the Christmas season to report

5. Business & Action Items Arising From the Minutes

- East Road Write up for website, Dave – Carry forward
- Member orgs to website, Pat & Gus – Determined that name, location and number of members will be put on – Carry forward
- Publish LWRC, Mo & Gus – Mo to follow up
- Health and Safety at the Cottage – Gary & Pat
 - Closing Wells – completed and requires review next meeting
 - Human Anaplasmosis - added
 - BGA Poisoning of Pets – added
 - Tornadoes – completed and requires review next meeting
- Garbage poisoning – Gus- added
- Porcupine quills – Gus - added
- Blastomycosis (animal) – Gus - added
- Wildlife safety – Lorne Britton - carry

- School Taxes – already posted on website
- Waste Disposal – Donna Jean Crabb – carry
- Conservation districts – Shirley Nixon –carry
- Provincial Land Use Planning Survey – carry
- Recreational water safety – Rilla Britton – carry
- Recycling – Casey Jones –carry
- PLUPS- Carry forward

6. Old Business

- Tembec – Tembec for sale, no new information
- Website – Bill Campbell doing good job keeping website current with minutes and additions.
 - A review of the health issues and some links will be added by Jim Neufeld to make them more comprehensive
- Lake Winnipeg Research Consortium – RBC Blue Water
Would MACO qualify – information reviewed. It was suggested that Water Conservation Districts would qualify and that this information should be directed to them. Also suggested to include the information in the newsletter.
- Clean Environment Commission – Still no answer to letters. Carry forward.
- School Taxes - Larry's brief report read.
 - Larry offered to make arrangements for rally if we chose a date. June 10 was chosen as preliminary Tax Rally date. Larry will be contacted to see if this is appropriate.
 - Dave Crabb mentioned that people need to participate in their Regional Meetings being held by the Province for input to the upcoming budget. This is a chance to present concerns about local needs, and school tax concerns.
 - Carry forward.
- Strategic Planning – Attendees participated in review of planning session (vision and mission).
 - Some Directors have forwarded their comments to Gus. For this to work, it was pointed out all Directors must participate. More interesting input was added to plan. This is a chance for new and innovative ideas to be brought forward.
 - This is a plan for success and growth that can help MACO evolve.
- Lake Winnipeg levels - Dave Crabb attended a meeting of the St. Clements Association Presidents.
 - A brief report was emailed to all Directors. It allowed cottagers to help decide the level of funding for some projects. It also educated them on the upcoming tax mill rate changes and efforts to encourage changes to lake levels at an upcoming meeting with the Province.
 - The South Basin Committee, RMs around the South Basin of Lake Winnipeg are pushing for a dredge on the Red River.
 - Minister Melnick has committed she will review the Hydro contract and report back to the South Basin Committee.
 - Carry forward

7. New Business

- No new business brought forward

8. Correspondence Received/Sent

- The Cottager Magazine interviewed Dave Crabb. Contacted via website. Upcoming issue will have article on property taxes. It was pointed out that some RMs are adjusting mill rates accordingly but that in most rural areas with cottagers, only 30% of the tax bill is RM taxation, and that the rest is school taxes.
- Email list updated. Dave Crabb has moved MACO email list to webmail. It is evident that a lot of people have changed emails due to MTS changes and Shaw changes to email systems. As a result, many emails are not working anymore. A concerted effort is needed to get updated email addresses from people interested in being on the email list for MACO. This is a list for anyone who chooses to receive updates from MACO. Membership is not required. Only an interest. Many of those acknowledging their emails were very supportive in their comments.

9. Directors' Reports

Gus Wruck – Showed video of snowmobile club getting trails cleared and improved with grant money from federal government incentive plan. Announced fish derby has been incorporated and will be held on March 12. This fixed liability and insurance issues and helped with decisions.

Marian Jones – Snowmobilers trespassing in park area, and other private lands causing a lot of problems. Channel was not dredged due to permit difficulty. Is looking into GWL grant available to employees in volunteer organizations. Seeing if her involvement with MACO qualifies. Hydro has announced some major changes to their Point Du Bois project and have cancelled a lot of previous announcements like local road improvements. Will try to get some answers and forward details to Directors. Work on the dam and the road replacing their private railway will begin this spring.

Jim Neufeld – No report.

Donna-Jean Crabb – No report.

Dave Crabb – Local erosion control project in trouble. Lake has severely damaged it. Boulder Bay pumphouse being moved shortly. Lake Winnipeg has put it in peril of falling into lake due to erosion after over 30 years in same place. Costing the residents close to \$7,000. No assistance from outside the association. This is only source of water for many residents. Wells are not available to most because of lack of water aquifer. Ice fishing is more popular than ever in Balsam Bay. Never seen crowds on ice like this year.

10. Date of Next Meeting – February 16th, 2010.

11. **Meeting Adjourned** - Gus moved meeting be adjourned at 9:05 pm. Seconded by Marion Jones.