

Manitoba Association of Cottage Owners

Garden City Inn

2100 McPhillips Street, Winnipeg

April 15, 2015

Minutes

Present: Dave Crabb, Pat Dunlop, Mo Tipples, Jim Nicholson, Jim Neufeld, Cathie Zarfes, Ray Poole

Regrets: Ken Corbett, Norma Kerr, Marian Jones, Tom Thorsteinson

1. Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Candace Parks, Aquatic Invasive Species Specialist – guest presenter on Aquatic Invasive Species. She reviewed the various invasive species present in MB and focused on the severity of the problem of zebra mussels. Issues include:

- Movement of live bait – banned in western provinces, but not in MB. No change likely during election period, but letters to Minister would be of value.
- high survival in MB due to calcium deposits
- can survive 7 to 30 days out of water, attached to watercraft.
- Differences between inboard and outboard motors and difficulty in cleaning – which almost requires discussion with manufacturers.

It was questioned whether government is enforcing inspections on watercrafts – for example, watercraft that is bought down south or used down south and returned to MB.

Zebra mussels were confirmed mid October 2013 and a rapid response protocol was used. Treatment with potash was carried out in four harbours and was 100% effective but zebra mussels were found outside harbours in south basin; there are no other treatment options due to the size of Lake Winnipeg. It is important to delay the spread due to the negative impact on native fish species and lakefront property values. The effects on Great Lakes will happen here. There were 3000 watercraft inspected and 136, decontaminations with high temperature water were performed.

Due to by-election in The Pas, all legislative activity is on hold but it is expected that new legislation for aquatic species invasion will be put in place that will call for stricter cleaning requirements, hopefully in time for open water season. Mantra is clean, drain,

dry, dispose, not just watercraft but all water related equipment before it comes out of Lake Winnipeg. If legislation passes, will be mandatory to stop at watercraft inspection station, previously was voluntary. Tools are available but there are lack of resources for enforcement. There are only two people in the province dealing with AIS.

In terms of what MACO can do,

- Candace to send Dave some proposed wording for review
- Create greater awareness of the issues, with website links, prominence on front of MACO's website, access to the presentation that was given tonight – a brief one to capture attention and a longer one for those that want more information, exposure during cottage show
- Citizen scientist monitoring - collect water samples of high priority water bodies; deploying substrate samples; check infrastructure at the end of season and report back.
- Connections to highway signage or billboards – locations are needed
- Letter writing campaign to the premier and MLAs calling for greater resources to address the problem.

Contact information for Candace Parks - 1 877 867 2470 candace.parks@gov.mb.ca

2. Adoption of Agenda

Agenda adopted (Pat/Cathie) CARRIED

3. Adoption of Minutes of February 2015.

Minutes of Feb 20, 2015 were adopted (Cathie/Jim Neufeld) CARRIED

Notes from the March meeting when there was no quorum were circulated.

4. Financial Report February 2015

a) Approval of Financial Report

Jim Nicholson reported there was little activity over the past month, cheque sent for website work, there is a balance of \$7676.

Financial report of Mar 31 accepted (Jim Nicholson/Mo Tipples) CARRIED

*Receipts from members for purchases – None brought forward

b) LWRC – Pat and Garry to attend at Fort Whyte

c) Update on Grant – Dave thanked members for filling Mothers Day session at McPhillips St. Station. First session happened last night, halfway to collecting the grant.

5. Standing Items

a) Membership

Mo and Pat met and entered as many email addresses as they could – went back based on 2 years of membership forms. Possibly there will need to be someone to assist membership if Marion is no longer available. Dave has full association list and master membership list which he will circulate to the Board.

b) Cottager Magazine

Cathie – deadline is May 16th for June 16th issue The article should cover what we are doing as an association and they do not want to repeat previous articles. There have been changes in the expectations on articles. Could ask for input re: what improvements are desired for the website and what services people would like MACO to provide. Could have a draw for people that send suggestions – e.g. \$25 to \$40 gift certificate. Could have tick off box – “please add me to your email list” on suggestion slip.

*Facebook

Norma – Dave took picture last evening; should be taking such photos and posting to create some interest.

***Website** – link to ASI to be added. Pat noted that Bill Campbell had donated the extra time he had spent. Sent bill for yearly management. Donation to MACO for \$280.

Pat/Mo moved to offer advertising on website for Bill Campbell in appreciation for the time he donated for website (estimated at \$280) CARRIED

Lake Winnipeg Research

Education Tax Issue – Larry not in attendance, Dave referred to his comments on this issue published in the Free Press.

CBC I team – no update, Cathie not sure she can tackle it. Need to look at different approaches. Biggest issue is ignorance, most don't understand what paying education tax with after tax dollars and property taxes costs them. Most don't know what portion of their property tax is education tax. It was suggested that this item be taken off the agenda and put on the backburner.

***Lake Manitoba** - still up in the air. Larry emailed Ralph Eichler and said that information on lake levels is not available on government website.

***Advertising** - Norma was looking after it so will carry forward

6. Business and Action Items Arising From Minutes

***Tax Rally** – Larry – question whether we want him to set a date? Coordinate with CTF? Pat will contact Larry for his advice on timing.

***Spring Cottage Show** – reviewed schedule for manning the show. Pat to circulate.

***MACO on Escalating fees in Provincial Parks** – discussion ensued on this matter. Some exceptions have been made, not directly in Parks but on Crown lands. Point raised about capital costs vs operating costs. Meetings being held with different groups and parks. MACO letter could be resubmitted.

***New Drainage Guidelines for Wetlands** (all) – remove from agenda, complete

***Road Restriction on Water Delivery** – carry forward

MACO Board's position on participation in the CEC hearings – link on website so that all postings can be seen – like a daily Hansard report.

7. New Business - none

8. Correspondence Received/Responded to:

Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship – letter received from Minister McIntosh re: amendments to Act to advise it's been approved. Circulated for review in October 2014. Update on public land use.

Issue with junk mail in MACO mailbox – request to stop it.

No comments back to Jim on piece for newsletter – agreed that it looked good.

9. Next Meeting Dates are Tuesdays:

Next meeting dates are: May 19, June 17, July 15, August 19, September 16.

10. Adjournment – 9:25 p.m.