

Manitoba Association of Cottage Owners
Board of Directors

Virtual Meeting

August 20, 2020

7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Present: Gus Wruck, Guy Walker, Shelley Morris, Jim Nicholson, Gina German

Regrets: Val Hammond, Ray Poole, Dave Crabb, Ken Corbett, Gordon Campbell

Chair: Gus Wruck

Recording Secretary: Shelley Morris

1. Call to Order - The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Strategic Plan

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the next draft of the strategic plan. Gus referred to the draft strategic plan prepared by Guy (attached as Appendix 1) and encouraged him to continue working on it with input from other Board members. Comments should be sent to Guy before the next meeting

Board comments and recommendations include

- Municipal contacts – possibility of developing a list of municipal contacts - each RM office with phone #s for bylaw enforcement, public works, conservation. This could provide an easy access point to help MACO members
 - MACO connecting with municipalities by attending municipal meetings and letting them know the issues MACO is concerned about. If we hear from members that they are not getting results from their RMs, then MACO could request meeting with local councils.
 - 40% of all our association members are in Alexander or LDB – those 2 municipalities are the ones we should concentrate on.
 - Jim referred to his comments that he circulated re: updates to the bylaws which would need to go to the AGM – see Appendix 2. He asked for comments on bylaws 1 and 2. Changes would need to be made at the AGM
- 3. AGM** – it was agreed that it would be virtual for 2020. Event invitation would be sent with deadline to register with members asked to designate a voting rep. A registration form would be set up and link would be sent to those that register. Under article 12, the meeting is to be held between October 15 and November 15. It was suggested that a registration form be sent out before the September long weekend. Guy will draft letter to membership and talk to Bill about

building a registration area on MACO website. The proposed date for the AGM is Wednesday November 4, 2020. Shelley to canvass Board on this date. (Note that the website is now showing the AGM for Sat Nov 7 – would need to be updated)

4. MACO Budget

Guy asked if it would be possible to develop a MACO budget so that we would know what we have coming in annually and what we can spend on operational expenses such as an advertising budget. Efforts are needed to make MACO more visible – use of signage, bulletin boards, local newsletters, posters, ad in Cottager magazine. There could be interest in a story about people buying cottages and the issues they will face. Cottage ownership is transferring all over Canada. Discussion re: fee of \$400 paid for website management, what hours that covers annually.

5. Nominations

Board nominations need to be completed prior to AGM. Suggested that there should be minimum number of Board meetings attended as a requirement of serving on the Board. Gus to contact Dave Crabb to see if he can be responsible for nominations as Past President. Gus will call Oak Lake reps regarding their interest in continuing on the Board. Guy to contact prospects from the survey re: interest in serving on the Board.

6. Action Items

- Guy to be responsible for continuing work on the strategic plan – Board members to submit their input to Guy
- Guy – draft letter to membership re: upcoming AGM
- Jim to work on bylaws

7. Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday, September 16, 2020

8. Close of Meeting – 8:10 p.m.

MACO Strategic Plan 2020-2024

Vision: Be a major and respected voice to promote the best interests of cottage owners in Manitoba

Mission: To promote and advance the common interests of cottage owners in areas throughout Manitoba

Goals:

1. Public Policy

Represent the interests of cottage owners on public policy issues

- a. Reduction/elimination of education taxes on property
- b. Environmental issues
- c. Building relationships with all levels of governments

2. Information Services

Serve as a central resource for information curation and dissemination on issues of interest to cottage owners (website, Facebook, email)

3. Member Services

Provide access to cost-effective insurance program for cottage owner associations.

4. Organizational Effectiveness

- a. Board/volunteer recruitment
- b. Strategic plan implementation
- c. Effective Board meetings

Action Planning:

1. Public Policy

1. Taxation

Volunteers: MACO Board of Directors

- Continue to promote reduction /elimination of education taxes on property
- Pressure Provincial government on election promise to eliminate education tax on property taxes
- Continue to research current status of education costs and taxation
- Review provincial property tax comparison
- Prepare comparison re: education costs by province, including number/cost of school divisions in each province .
- Submit current position to government
- Seek out organizations that may be interested in forming a coalition e.g Canadian Taxpayers Federation, real estate association, Chambers of Commerce
- Create awareness and build public support for MACO position
- Promote MACO position on Facebook
- Update position on MACO website
- Communicate MACO position to membership through email
- Engage MACO membership in communicating MACO position to local MLAs
- Promote MACO position at annual Cottage show.
- Develop inventory of examples of education tax burden on cottage owners with documentation to verify.

2. Environmental Issues

- Continue to be an active participant at all levels in the reduction and elimination of phosphorus discharge into our lakes and waterways
- Partner with committee set up to work with City of Winnipeg to reduce and meet acceptable levels of Phosphorus discharge into waterways
- Continue to warn all cottage owners of the dangers of Blue Green Algae
- Work with all levels of Government on the elimination of Zebra Muscles in Manitoba's lakes and waterways
- Work with all levels of Governments to reduce shore erosion
- Continue to be an advocate on safe recreation on all Manitoba's lakes and waterways

3. Information Services

Volunteers: Dave, Ken

- Serve as a central resource for information curation and dissemination on issues of interest to cottage owners.
- MACO will use its website, Facebook page and email distribution to disseminate information of interest to cottage owners e.g. legislative changes, water quality, land management, environmental issues
- MACO will serve as a central contact for media seeking the position of cottage owners on public policy issues of interest to cottage owners.

4. Organizational Effectiveness

4.1. Board/Volunteer Development - Recruit additional Board members and volunteers

ACTIONS:

- Develop Advertising MACO for posting/distribution with website and email address to build awareness of MACO
- Review current membership brochure and update as required
- Create greater awareness of opportunity for individual membership in MACO (e.g. Facebook posts)
- Seek greater participation from local cottage owner associations in recruiting Board members
- Seek volunteers for short term projects in addition to ongoing Board participation.
- Seek information on status and best practices of provincial counterparts.
- Build list of people interested in getting information from MACO – as prospects for membership / short term project interest.

4.2 Board Meeting Management

Actions:

- Board meetings 3 to plus annual meeting annual meeting) (Board schedule to be developed based on time-sensitive requirements – e.g. planning for annual meeting, cottage show etc)
- MACO Board to approve annual budget that would include and provide authorization for annual expenditures e.g. annual corporate filing, Canada Post, CTF membership. (*what is MACO's fiscal year, when should budget be tabled?*)
- Finance report to be distributed monthly and reviewed at quarterly Board meetings - Jim

- Strategic Plan progress to be first issue on Board agenda, administrative matters to follow.
- Timed agenda

MACO Timetable

Task	Month	Responsible
Annual Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Set date - Book room - Program development - Distribute notice of meeting - Nominating report - AV equipment - Confirm #s with hotel and room set-up - Registration fees 	November	Shelly/Guy
Annual membership invoicing & collections	December	Val
Annual budget	December	Jim
Regular financial reports	Meeting Dates	Jim
Review website to ensure up to date	Ongoing	Guy
Board meeting notices/agenda distribution	Meeting Dates	Shelly
Board meeting minutes	Meeting Dates	Shelly
Facebook posts	Ongoing	Gus

MACO contact for general inquiries	Ongoing	Shelly / Gus
Strategic Plan update	Meeting Dates	Gus
Insurance program review	Ongoing	Gordon
Cottage show <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Volunteer timetable- Exhibits/handouts	March	Board of Directors

Appendix 2 – Feedback from Jim Nicholson

MACO Planning Review Comments from Jim Nicholson

Aug. 19, 2020

Constitution and By-laws of the Manitoba Association of Cottage Owners – By-Law No.1

Article 3 - Membership, Section 8 -Membership Applications, Fees and Continuing Membership

(b) The executive reserves the right to reject any membership application for just cause. What are the “just cause” ?

Article 6 – The Executive/Board of Directors, Section 2 – The Board of Directors of MACO shall consist of;

(a) A minimum of 5 and a maximum of 10 directors. To avoid tie votes, should the maximum be changed 9 or 11 ? And should the BOD number always be an odd number of directors? Or should we bother to consider possible BOD tied votes?

In Article 13, Section 1, the President shall cast the deciding vote, in the event of a tie vote. OK.

Article 7, Section 4 – Election of Officers/Directors, and Terms of Office.

(e) The maximum number of directors shall not exceed 10 at any time. . To avoid tie votes, should the maximum be changed 9 or 11 ? And should the BOD number always be an odd number of directors? Or should we bother to consider possible BOD tied votes?

Article 12 – Meetings, Section 1 – Annual Meetings. The annual meeting of MACO shall be held between Oct 15 and Nov 15 each year. How will this work going forward?

Article 12 – Meetings, Sections 1 & 2. Perhaps change “mailed” to “mailed or electronically emailed”.

Article 14 – Protection of Directors, Officers and Others, Section 1 – Perhaps change from “the Corporations Act” to “The Corporations Act” of Manitoba.

Constitution and By-laws of the Manitoba Association of Cottage Owners – By-Law No. 2

Section 1 – Approved annual fees shall be:

(c) The individual member increased from \$20 to \$25. They are still listed as \$20.

(d) Municipal member. What is the number definition of Sm, Med, Lg ? Are the Med @ \$150 and Large @ \$200 too high? We have 0 municipal members.

(e) Corporate member. Is the \$300 too high? We have 0 corporate members.

(f) Associate member. Still listed @ \$20. Should this be the same and consistent cost as Individual member cost at \$25? Not sure, but do we have 0 Associate members?

Strategic and Operation Plan for MACO 2010

Mission of MACO

- Change or remove the word “recreational”? To “residence” ? in entire document. More people and some like Dave C, have their principal residence in historical cottage areas, and not a non-

principal residence. The word “recreational” could be used against MACO in debates about school/education and property taxation.

- Our missing is to promote ... interests of “cottagers” **change to “property owners”** ??? in cottage areas in Manitoba. In the document.

Major Goals for MACO in 2010

3. Communicate to government the need to “**eliminate or reduce**” **change to “phase out and eliminate”** school taxes from all property.

MACO Strategic Plan 2020-2024

Goals.

Public Policy.

- Consider changing “Reduction/elimination” to “Phase out and elimination” education taxes on property. In the document.

1. Public Policy

1. Taxation

- Pressure Provincial government on **their 2019 election policy and promise** to eliminate education taxes on property and property taxes.

- Seek out organizations that may be interested in forming a coalition e.g Canadian Taxpayers Federation, real estate associations, Chambers of Commerce, **Keystone Agricultural Producers, agricultural associations, etc.**

2. Environmental Issues

- Continue to be an active participant at all levels in the reduction ~~and elimination~~ of phosphorus discharge into Manitoba ~~our~~ lakes and waterways.

- Partner with committee set up to work with City of Winnipeg to reduce and meet lower ~~acceptable~~ levels of Phosphorus discharge into waterways.

- Work with all levels of Government **for** the elimination of Zebra Muscles in Manitoba’s lakes and waterways.

4. Organizational Effectiveness

4.2 Board Meeting Management

- The MACO fiscal year is Sept 30 previous year to Sept 30 present year.

- MACO does not appear to have done a formal budget in the past. I have tried to ensure MACO is cash flow positive (revenues are greater than expenses) for the year, so to slowly increase assets.

MACO Timetable

- Correct spelling of Shelley’s name.

