

MLRA ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES – JUNE 25 2022

Attendees:

Board of Directors Present: James Verity (President) Gary Thibodeaux (Vice President)
Rich Eagleston (Treasurer) Mark Rousseau
Glenn Baxter David Landry
Dick Jagger Roger Guntner
Gary Brown James Gilbert
Jill Bonina Patti Baxter

Members Present: 74

G. Thibodeaux taking Minutes for the 2022 annual meeting.

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance:

J. Verity called the meeting to order. D. Jagger led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Opening Remarks (J. Verity, MLRA President):

J. Verity opened the meeting with Acknowledgement and a thank you to M. Rousseau, who stepped down as President. Further remarks about the previous year included 319 Grant work, site inspections, boater safety courses, beach improvements, database updates, the newly established MLRA Dive Team and erosion control work. J. Verity introduced the MLRA BOD and volunteers

J. Verity talked about volunteerism and how the MLRA could not exist without the work of our volunteers. In recognition of this, we are adding a tab on the website where all past and present Directors and Volunteers since the MLRA was founded in 1956 will be listed. We are missing data from 1974-1986. If you have any info from these years, please contact the MLRA.

Approval of 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes:

Minutes are approved.

Treasurer's Report (R. Eagleston, MLRA Treasurer):

R. Eagleston reports that the MLRA is financially sound. We are a 503C non-profit organization. We have lots of initiatives and take responsibility with your money. We have \$72,823 in assets. We support the ASYCC with approximately \$6,000 donation/ year. About 20% of revenue goes to operating costs. Typically about 10% of revenue goes to operations for non-profits. We try to maintain the water quality fund for emergencies.

Motion to Approve Treasurer's report: Approved

Membership Report (R. Eagleston Presenting):

Patti Baxter is doing a phenomenal job!

In 2022 we have 495 members with 336 paid. In 2021 we had 460 members. In 2020 we waived the membership fees but 229 members still donated and 172 donated to the WQ fund. 46% of members donate above the membership fee. We are trying to update our payment options online to get away from mailing dues.

Guest Speaker: Bill Mageary (Selectman- Town of Shapleigh)

Received \$13,000 grant for Goose Pond and Mousam Lake improvements.

Talked about milfoil infestations.

Water Quality (D. Jagger Presenting)

Talked about SECCI disks and how water clarity is measured. We currently have 5 locations in lake and water clarity is being affected by pollen.

Talked about phosphorus and how runoff can cause algae blooms in lake. Please use fertilizer with 0 phosphorus if you must use it but it is best to not use it at all.

Talked about dissolved oxygen and what can affect the levels at different depths.

Talked about lake water turnover and how long it typically takes to turn over Mousam Lake. If we have suspect areas in

the lake we take samples and send them to DEP or VLMP for analysis.

Talked about our boater safety course. Our next class is July 23. Starting in 2024, Maine will require a boater safety course for operators under 21. Men aged 25-50 are the worse offenders of boater safety laws.

Question: Will we be offering any more classes? Next year we will offer more classes. The size of classes are 25 but booked 30.

Question: How healthy is the lake? The lake is on good shape but we can't let our guard down.

Question: Thank You to the BOD! Is there a safety class notice at the boat launch? Yes unless it's been removed.

Question: Is there a minimum age for the safety class? 12 years old. Test is geared to 5th grade level.

Question: Do fireworks have an adverse affect on water? Yes.

Question: Why doesn't state outlaw them? Maine used to outlaw them but the law changed.

Question: Feedback on boater safety class? Good- basic class for boating operation.

Comment from J. Verity: We need your help with boater safety. Tell people that no wake is 200' from shore. Wakeboard boats should be 450' from shore.

Comment from D. Jagger: No wake is about speed not wake.

Comment from R. Eagleston: Don't use dock lights when underway at night.

Beach Report (R. Guntner Presenting)

The beach is owned by the MLRA and is open to everyone. Please help keep the porta potty functional by properly using it. Please help keep the beach clean by cleaning up after yourselves. Have a good time!

The MLRA had an access ramp installed.

Comment from G. Thibodeaux: A reminder that there are NO boats allowed in a swim area. This includes canoes, kayaks and paddleboards.

Comment from J. Verity: Thank you Roger for your efforts.

319 Water Quality Grant (D. Landry Presenting)

We were successful getting grant money because of risk level. Mousam Lake has 10% of all boats launched in Maine! Clean water is important to towns and revenue.

Phase I of grant: we received \$95,000 in 2018 for projects identified in survey. Those projects were completed in 2021.

Algae blooms can happen quickly, MLRA is watching lake water quality.

The 2017 Water Quality survey identified 190 sites: 42 high impact and 6 major road projects with 15 smaller sites completed by ASYCC. On certain shore sites ASYCC provided essential services.

Garden mulch does not prevent erosion.

Question: where do you get erosion control mulch? Shapleigh Transfer Station has the mulch for \$10 a load. The 319 grant so far has provided \$47,000 in matching funds. Hundreds of hours have been put in by ASYCC and MLRA. 5 tons of runoff have been prevented annually.

Phase II of grant is \$66,000. 4 large projects and 15 residential projects. 9 have been done. Up to \$400 reimbursement for materials.

ASYCC is having trouble getting workers for this year.

Goose Pond has 200 pounds of sediment washed in per year. 65% of properties on lake do not have adequate buffer strips. Lawns make poor buffers. Fertilizer is bad for the lake.

25% of phosphorus in lake comes from septic systems. We have lots of residences, steep shores and sandy soil. One bag of 10-10-10 fertilizer undoes one year of erosion control.

Question: Can we educate people about fertilizer on Facebook? Yes.

ASYCC (J. Chamberlain Presenting)

We are a non-profit organization. A sister organization to MLRA.

Day boaters are a concern to the lake. 23 lakes in Maine are infested with invasive species, most of them in York County. The CBI takes suspect plants and animals and sends them to the state for analysis. The CBI found floating bladderwort this year and removed it from the boat before it could get into the lake.

There are 7 inspectors for Mousam Lake with Dave Burns as the Supervisor. They work May – October. The Erosion Control teams work June – August. They took a 1 year hiatus in 2022. They will help with site inspections and design but the owner must do the work. They are waiving the \$75 fee and can get a \$200-400 reimbursement through the 319 grant.

In 2021, there were 8211 boat inspections in Maine, 7100 were on Mousam Lake. 2022 should match 2021's numbers. Thanks to Bill for helping ASYCC! Thanks to MLRA BOD. We can't live without you!

The Annual ASYCC Golf Tournament is on August 5, 2022. It is one of our biggest fundraisers.

Dam Committee (R. Legere Presenting)

Mousam Dam Watershed Commission formed in June 2014 with members from Acton, Shapleigh and Sanford. It covers Emery Mills and Sanford Dams. It met in May.

In 2019, spent \$378,000 on dam repairs and road access. The Emery Mills dam was built around 1894. It is considered high risk because of what would happen if it fails. Performed dam failure exercises this summer to test responses. Spent \$37,600 on dam maintenance, 50% from Sanford and 25% each from Acton and Shapleigh. The dam operator is an employee of Sanford

Comment: Sanford owns and operated the dam and pays taxes to Acton and Shapleigh. Alex Hammerle puts in a lot of time. Question: Is Emery Mills dam open? Must keep the dam open some to keep Sanford's sewer system operational. Sanford keeps records of water level. Target water level is 30" below crest of dam.

State DEP is taking case by case approach to walls. May include installing of small wall or rip wrap. Check with code enforcement officer of your town.

Comment by J. Verity: Get permission and permits for work. MLRA has no control of water level. The dam controller is listed on the website. Right now we are at normal summer level. We installed a clearance marker on the bridge a few years ago.

3 Rivers Land Trust (C. Brunault Presenting)

Acquired 547 acre Sanford Community Forest in 2021. Planning improvements for the fall.

Goat Hill trail is under construction for accessibility improvements. Should be completed in August.

We are pursuing new projects. Working with the Pepin family about acquiring land.

Upcoming events: Monthly volunteer lists out every 2nd Saturday. Breakfast or dinner auction on July 24. Kite Day is September 17.

Back Office Enhancements (J. Folsom Presenting)

MLRA will be going paperless in 2023. We want to make the website the go-to for info. Our newsletter costs a lot to produce and mail.

We will be using Constant Contact to send email. We are updating email addresses. You can choose to unsubscribe. Please text Mousam Lake to 22828 to update.

Facebook: We reach 870 people with 587 engaged.

We are developing a Lake Dweller's handbook for Mousam Lake. We are looking for volunteers and graphic designers to help. We have permission from SPIA to modify their handbook for our use.

Warden for Hire (M. Rousseau Presenting)

We asked Warden Service if we can pay for additional coverage. We were provided a copy of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for another lake. The fee was \$20,000 for coverage, which is a little steep for us. We are providing to the Membership for discussion.

Thanks to Dick Jagger for providing safety course.

Skip Bartosch recorded ice out and sent info to the state. Ice out is getting earlier but don't know about ice in. We are asking for volunteers to help with recording ice out/ ice in.

Question: Wardens are government employees. Does state recognize large use of boat ramp and will help? It's a problem of not enough people to go around.

Comment from R. Guntner: emailed official. They are not interested in pursuing more people. They can bring in Wardens on their off days for \$25,000.

Invasive Plant Patrol (D. Landry Presenting)

The state owns the water. With ice coverage, more ice means more oxygen.

Contracted with Laurie Callahan for IPP training. We are looking for volunteers for the IPP team. We are continuously looking out for plants.

MLRA Dive Team

We were invited to a SPIA dive team event to learn how to keep the Chinese Mystery Snails at bay. Their team collected 2200 pounds of snails a year for 11 years. They don't think they can get rid of them and are just barely keeping them under control. We encourage property owners to take the initiative to clean their shorelines.

The snails like 12-15 foot deep water. Suggest a survey to locate areas. Please police your property and let us know if you see them.

Comment from G. Brown: SPIA is a great partner!

MLRA is purchasing dive equipment for 2 divers. We need tenders and spotters. We will have a sign up sheet for help on the team or host a 2 hour drive.

Comment: Taking snails out for several years. Where do you take them? Transfer Station will take them. Don't remove native snails.

R. Eagleston: We have money budgeted this year for equipment. SPIA helps subsidize dive training with expected volunteerism.

Comment: Post pictures of native snails.

Question: If they are floating are they dead? Not always, they migrate that way too. Snails wanted dead or alive!

Question: do they carry parasites? They carry some parasites.

J. Folsom: We will start a Rapid Response team.

Question: Are good and bad snails the same color? More Research is needed.

Comment: Thank You to SPIA! Please mind the dive flag. Certification not needed just training.

Nomination of Directors

J. Verity, R. Eagleston and R. Guntner terms are expiring and have agreed to continue. All are re-elected.

Calendar of Events

Boat Parade: July 4

Kid's Fishing Derby: July 16

ASYCC Golf Tournament: August 5

Ending Comments

D. Landry: If you have a boat launch, check boats for plant and animal material before launching. R.

Eagleston: The Kid's Fishing Derby registration is at the Baxter dock near the foot of the lake.

Thanks to our local businesses for their support. Please support them as well! **50/50 and Door**

Prizes

Adjourn at 11:27am