

WASHINGTON STATE LAKE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

Board of Director's Meeting

November 9, 2009

Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District, Liberty Lake, Washington

ATTENDEES:

Present: Tom Brattebo, Jacob McCann, Bijay Adams, Jane Anderson, and via telephone- Beth Cullen, Sally Abella, Chris Burke, Neil Harrington, Steve Kalenius, Marissa Burghdoff, Rob Plotnikoff, Dustin Hinson, Frank Wilhelm, Rebecca Dugopolski

Absent: Jonathon Frodge, Kelly McLain

CALL TO ORDER:

President Jacob McCann called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM in Liberty Lake, WA and Beth Cullen seconded it.

APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING MINUTES:

Neil noted that he did attend the last meeting; however, the attendance list did not note that he was present. This will be changed. Beth moved to approve the minutes and Dustin seconded it.

TREASURERS REPORT:

The report emailed out earlier today by Rebecca was that of the year to date report. Rebecca is still receiving payments from the conference. Made \$360 profit to date and collected \$940 in dues since January. Jacob moved to approve the treasurers report and Frank seconded it.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Committee Updates - Members

Publications: Jacob McCann, Bijay Adams, Beth Cullen, Sally Abella

Membership: Chris Burke, Dustin Hinson, Steve Kalenius

Scholarship: Frank Wilhelm, Tom Brattebo, Neil Harrington, Rebecca Dugopolski

Elections: Kelly McLain, Jonathan Frodge, Rob Plotnikoff, Marissa Burghdoff

Bylaws: Jane Anderson, Dustin Hinson, Jonathan Frodge

Conference Planning: Chris Burke, Beth Cullen, Sally Abella

Public Policy: Beth Cullen, Jonathan Frodge, Rebecca Dugopolski, Chris Burke, Steve Kalenius

Committee Updates – News and Discussion

Beth mentioned that a synopsis is needed that outlines each committee's responsibilities and associated deadlines. Bijay will start this project and share via email.

Publications-

The discussion centered on whether to change *Waterline* to an electronic- based newsletter from its current print and PDF distribution and format. At the last count, approximately 20 WALPA members prefer to receive the paper version. Frank noted that it may be beneficial to add a side-bar in an upcoming newsletter to ask for member input on a potential change of format. Sally asked if an e-format would allow the reader to print the article. This is unknown and Beth will ask Kevin.. Bijay noted that e-mail versions may not be picture friendly, especially for government recipients. Jacob asked whether an online version that provides direct links to advertisers' websites from the WALPA site presents a conflict with WALPA's non-profit 501 (c)(3) status. Marissa noted that Snohomish County has used an interactive newsletter and it worked really well. She will e-mail everyone some examples. Beth will also get some examples from Kevin. Beth noted that the initial design would be expensive, but once created it would just require updating and will be less costly. Also, Beth noted that Kevin could design and make the links live and he could manage the web-based version.

All advertisers' contracts have all expired. Bijay will follow up with the existing advertisers and will search for more. Sally offered to help if needed. Shannon and Jacob have contact info for those who advertised at the conference.

Lakes Day 2010

Beth noted this year that only government agencies are allowed to post display boards in the Capital Building. WALPA can do a handout, but not a display board. It was decided by all members to do a WALPA tri-fold. Steve asked about a government agency sponsoring WALPA but Beth noted that most do not want to be associated with a non-profit, especially due to our lobbying activities. Bijay asked Beth to have Kevin get a bid for the tri-fold. Beth suggested using the same pictures and info from the recently updated display board and will have Kevin get an estimate and will send to the board for a vote. Beth will follow up on an insert for legislative material in the tri-fold.

Membership-

Beth discussed the idea of suspending membership fees since we don't offer members anything substantially different from what can be downloaded for free from the website. Dues initially helped offset Newsletter costs, but if the switch is made of an e-format much of the costs would be eliminated. Monies can be raised at the conference and through fund drives. Any donations would be tax deductible. A benefit to the elimination of membership fees would be that WALPA membership could increase greatly, which helps form a more powerful voice for legislative actions.

- Frank inquired as to how votes are taken, who votes, and noted that someone must maintain the list. Maybe anyone can be a member but make them attend one event to remain members in good standing.

- Bijay felt everyone should fill out a membership application which would allow tracking of the members. Rebecca noted that she does not need member information for tax purposes. She also mentioned that she would like to find a solution to writing receipts, with the use of a program to generate electronic receipts rather than handwriting each and every one.
- Steve suggested two levels of membership, where premium members would have access to resources unavailable to standard members. For example, conference presentations could be available on the website for premium members only. It would still generate an income for WALPA.
- The idea of a greater number of members could raise the risk of a “takeover” was discussed. The question of voting within WALPA with a larger, potentially only electronically contacted membership was discussed. Neil looked up information on the Bylaws. It states ballots need to be sent out to everyone 45 days prior to the annual conference and 20% of association members can call a meeting.
- Marissa suggested doing a fund raiser with different levels of sponsorship. For example, for those that contribute provide an award and/or recognition at the conference. Ask those that send dues if they would like to contribute it.

Jacob asked the membership and bylaw committees to do research and discuss further during the January meeting and via e-mail.

Legislative -

Rick Eichstaedt, Spokane River Keeper, joined the meeting via conference call. Rick is involved in the Dissolved Oxygen TMDL process for the Spokane River and involved with the phosphorus ban on dishwasher soap. He stated that the Fertilizer P-Ban has potential support from Avista and the City of Spokane.

Beth noted the short session starts January 4th for 90 days. Two possible types of bans- a ban on sale versus a ban on use. The ban on sale requires Department of Agricultural and Department of Ecology support, which could be problematic because it would trigger a fiscal note. Beth recommends a ban on use. Golf courses would be exempted and without the fiscal note the bill would bypass ways and means.

The ban on use would be largely an educational bill. Tom asked how education would be tracked and how such legislation would be enforced. Beth noted that there would be no enforcement as there is no funding for enforcement. The bill would use specific language and include an exemption for biosolids.

Beth would like to see in the long term a ban on use and watch economics on phosphorous and how it plays out. If no improvement, then follow with ban on sale. The legislative Lakes Day will be held on Thursday, January 14th. If anyone has conflicts, email Beth ASAP. If anyone has ideas for allies in this legislation, it would be good to get in contact. Beth mentioned that Eco Net, which is a network framed by the Puget Sound Partnership, may be a good organization to ally with WALPA.

Also of note, the Freshwater Algae Program will be over in 2011. WALPA needs to be prepared to push for renewal with the emphasis that this is one of the most valuable water quality programs in the state.

CLOSING/DISCUSSION:

Webpage - Bijay will be updating the webpage and needs pictures.

Lakes Atlas – As Ecology has taken the lead on this project, Bijay will check its status with Tricia Shoblom.

Bijay is the new Regional Director for NALMS. Please contact him with any questions, and don't be surprised if he contacts you to join the organization!

MEETING ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm. Adjournment was moved by Jacob and seconded by Bijay.

The next meeting was scheduled to be held on January 11th, 2010 at 6pm.