

BRULE RIVER PRESERVATION, INC.

Minutes of Board of Directors' Meeting

May 29, 2017

President Bob Banks called a meeting of Brule River Preservation's board to order at 10:10am in the Winneboujou Club clubhouse on May 29th, 2017.

Fifty-one (51) people were in attendance. They included: Jane Anklam of West Wisconsin Land Trust, Bob Banks, Dave Bibbs, Katie Bibbs, Duncan Chisholm, Valerie Damstra of My Lake Superior Northwoods, Sophie Frost, Will Frost, Pegi Harkness, Grant Henry, Elisabeth Walker Hurlbert, Deborah Holbrook, Matson Holbrook, Rana Holbrook, Will Holbrook, Dave Hyde, Diana Johnson, Don Johnson, Jim Knoll, Morley Knoll, Chip Lindeke, Terry Campbell Lindeke, JoEllen Lottsfeldt, Caroline Marshall, Paul Marshall, Sarah Marshall, Chris Mason, Carl Meyer, Jane Meyer, Scott Morrison, Gordon Mosser, Nina Mosser, Susan Ott, Bill Parke, Will Parke, Shane Peterson, Paul Piszczek of the DNR, Dennis Pratt of the Brule River Sportsman's Club, Cindy Raab, Ray Raab, Kristin Rasmussen, Tom Rasmussen, Bill Rogers, Brent Rogers, Lynne Rogers, Dave Schultz, DNR Brule River Forest Superintendent, Sarah Holbrook Slaughter, Michael Spencer, Nancy Weyerhaeuser, Ted Weyerhaeuser, and Dave Zentner of the Brule River Coalition.

Bob opened the meeting, presented a full agenda, and introduced Paul Piszczek of the DNR (Fish Habitat improvement) and Valerie Damstra of My Lake Superior Northwoods.

Secretary's Report

Highlights include: Muffet has applications for the Big Lake Pass. Those interested may also apply online. Temporary passes available from Brian Tucci. A PDF is also available online on the Brule Sportsman's site. Thanks to Susan Ott for writing online pass. Bob and those in attendance thanked Muffet for years of outstanding service. Bob introduced the incoming Secretary, Elisabeth Walker Hurlbert.

Treasurer's Report

Highlights include: Michael reviewed the BRP Statement of Financial Position balance sheet for the years 2015 and 2016. Capital gains are down. To maintain our low tax rate, the State of Wisconsin requires timber sales. Our previous cut was handled by Lewis Castle. The most recent timber sale proceed was \$56,885.03. Jeff Groeschel forestry was paid \$4598.50 for consultant services for this project.

Brule River Coalition

Jane Anklam and Dave Zentner met this winter to discuss our robust river system. Jane advocates for 'intelligent tinkering' at an up-coming event at Northwestern High School

on **August 12, 2017** from 8:30am-12:30pm. The hope is to attract a broad audience with lots of marketing and a nominal fee. The goal is to establish a network of support that includes NGOs, local government, and residents. Anticipated activities include: sharing what we think we think we know, exchanging information, addressing problems and how to solve them, break-out groups, and a keynote speaker. All areas of the watershed will be represented.

Forest Fire History and River Temperature Monitoring

Bob enthusiastically shared the Brule River Preservation Fire History document which dates fire in the area back to at least 1771 and records the last fire in 1918. Bob also shared stump samples from the area. Bob anticipates a presentation this summer and emphasized that the fire history project is a jumping-off point to greater understanding of regional history, climate change, and past and present landscape conditions.

The water temperature monitoring is underway with the gauges installed in 2014. Replacement of two gauges needed.

West Wisconsin Land Trust

Jane Anklam mentioned that Stephanie is coming up mid-June for property visits. Bob shared that the original agreements made years ago be updated to reflect

Fire Wise program suggestions and include rewriting easements for property protection.

Brule River State Forest Master Plan

David Schultz reviewed the on-going master plan update. Public meetings and comment period have concluded. Input is being reviewed. New additions to the plan include; camper cabins, mountain bike trails, additional angler parking, and Lake Superior camp sites. Information available online soon for program updates. The draft of the masterplan will be followed by a public review process and DNR approval in the fall.

David asked the audience whether they had seen a 'culture change' regarding river behavior by visitors. Opinions varied; someone suggested he seek the opinion(s) of local guides.

Brule Fish Habitat Improvements and Brook Trout Restoration

Paul reviewed last year's habitat project which included six (6) habitat complexes made from meshing logs and stumps. These were installed at Rainbow Bend/Cutler Creek and at Doodlebug Rapids. He also spoke about the Lake Superior landscape restoration project which will focus on restoration and maintenance of up-river areas.

My Lake Superior Northwoods

Val presented a wealth of information regarding their partnership with numerous public agencies and non-profit groups. They strive to provide necessary services and information for care of property, wildlife, woods, fields, and waters. She highlighted brook trout – keeping cold streams cold and slowing/reducing run-off that threatens fish habitat.

Brule River Sportsman's Club

The club has gone digital with their newsletter to help defray costs. Dennis encourages visiting the website: www.bruleriversportsmensclub.com for a club calendar and work items. Club sponsored a number of events including the 46th annual spring clean-up and provided support staff at the Brule Forest/Brule Hatchery Family Fun day. The club now has a Facebook page. Dennis encourages

volunteer work on the river and suggestions regarding involving youth/young people in river preservation and stewardship.

Upcoming Summer Events

June 29th Our Amazing Dragonflies and Damselflies! at 2:00pm with Bob 'the Dragonfly Guy' DuBois. The presentation begins at the Winneboujou Clubhouse, includes a trip to a local pond and concludes with beverages and hors d'oeuvres.

July 4th Parade of Short Ships at 4:30pm: gather at the Weyerhaeuser landing to canoe down to Winneboujou Clubhouse for party following.

August 12th Brule River Watershed Roundtable: *Conserving Together* from 8:30am-12:30pm at Northwestern High School – Maple, WI Register online at: www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3017165 or contact Michelle at West Wisconsin Land Trust: mcopley@wwlt.org or (715) 235-8850.

There being no further business, the group adjourned at 11:50am

Respectfully submitted,

Elisabeth Walker Hurlbert, **Secretary**

