

## MISSISSIPPI LAKES ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

Brunton Hall, Beckwith Township Offices, 23 May 2019

The PowerPoint Presentation for this meeting is available on the MLA website at:  
<https://mississippilakesassociation.org>

The AGM meeting Minutes were prepared by the MLA Secretary Andre Langlois and are available on the MLA website.

### Call to Order and Introductions

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:12 pm. With 40 members and 14 visitors attending, the Chairman, MLA President Rob Bell, declared a quorum and thanked everyone for the great turnout this year. He was pleased to note that councillors from Beckwith, Drummond & North Elmsley, and Mississippi Mills were in attendance and thanked the municipalities for their continued interest and support. He also noted that this year marks the 75th anniversary of the Association, which was inaugurated in Oct 1944.
2. The President introduced the Directors and the Chairs of the four sub-Committees of the MLA. He thanked them for their dedication and effort, without which none of the MLA's many programs and initiatives would be possible. He also thanked Ed Carew and Lynn Bell, who provided substantial support to the Board. Ed maintains the weekly lake level chart on the website, and was crucial to the lake bottom contour mapping project. Lynn is the Facebook manager and has been very effective in generating advertising revenue.
3. The President took the opportunity to thank Melissa Dakers and Carolyn Bredin who are stepping down from the Board this year. Melissa was first elected in 2008, and has served as Chair of the Environmental Committee and as the Lake Steward. Carolyn joined the Board in 2015 and has served as Treasurer and on the Private Roads Committee. Their efforts and contributions are well appreciated.
4. The MLA's many other supporters were also thanked for their active interest in the Association. Slide #5 of the AGM presentation listed the many advertisers and contributors from the business community and from governments and agencies who have helped the MLA further its objectives.
5. The MLA's ability to reach out to the community is a crucial factor in providing information to members. The three main channels are the website, the Facebook page, and *Your Mississippi Minute* e-newsletter. These have been highly successful, and MLA is working hard to continue improving its communications ability.

### Approval of Minutes of the 2018 AGM

6. The Secretary provided an overview of the Minutes of the 2018 AGM, noting the following highlights:
  - a. conduct of a lake bottom contour survey starting in Summer 2018;
  - b. installation of a MLA/Carleton Place sign at the Lake Avenue boat launch site;
  - c. launch of the Ecological Modelling Project in Oct 2017;
  - d. creation of a new MLA committee in Apr 2018; the Private Roads Committee; and
  - e. guest speaker - OPP Constable Gregory Wills

7. A **Motion** to accept the 2018 AGM Minutes was made by Ed Carew and seconded by Bonnie Robertson. The Motion was carried.

## Election of Directors

8. The President announced that, as a result of a Risk Assessment of the Association conducted in Jan 2019, improved policies and procedures were deemed required in some areas. To apply more rigour to the selection and election of Directors, it was decided to develop terms of reference for the Director position, and to strike a nominating committee to oversee candidate nomination and election. The President then introduced Dave Duncan as the Chair of this year's Nominating Committee.

9. Dave Duncan introduced Anne Gourlay-Langlois and Richard Teahen as the Committee members. He explained that that six Director positions are open for election at this AGM, as a result of five currently serving Directors who will complete their terms in 2019, and one vacant position. He then presented the Committee's report, as per slide #8 of the AGM presentation, nominating three serving Directors for re-election and introducing two new candidates, to fill five of the available positions.

10. Dave Duncan inquired whether there were any nominations from the floor. As no further nominations were received from the Members present, the nomination process was closed.

11. A **Motion** to elect the slate of nominees to the Board of Directors, as per slide #10, was made by Ed Carew and seconded by Carolyn Bredin. The Motion was carried.

12. The Board of Directors for the period 2019-2020 is as follows:

Rob Bell  
Andre Langlois  
Anne Gourlay-Langlois  
Doreen Donald  
Dave Duncan  
Richard Teahen  
Henk de Jong  
Ross Button

## Financial Report

13. Anne Gourlay-Langlois presented the financial report for the fiscal year ending on 30 Apr 19. Actual revenue fell short of the forecast by only \$464. Actual expenses were \$3,364 lower than forecast, due mainly to inability to progress certain projects and activities. The end result was a net surplus of \$1,050 instead of a forecast deficit of \$1,850. The net assets of the MLA, as at 30 Apr 19, stand at \$11,887.

14. Ten water quality testing kits were added to the list of fixed assets. The book value of all fixed assets is currently \$0 (all depreciation having been applied). However, a fair market value of these asset has been assigned for insurance purposes.

15. The Statements and report for the fiscal year ending 30 Apr 19 were followed by a statement of Engagement Review from the Financial Reviewer, Mr. Bob Clark, indicating that all was in order. Mr. Clark has indicated his willingness to perform an Engagement Review for fiscal year 2019/2020.

16. A **Motion** to: (a) accept the MLA financial report and the Reviewer's Statement; and (b) to appoint Mr. Bob Clark as Financial Reviewer for fiscal year 2019/2020 was made by Dave Duncan and seconded by Henk de Jong. The Motion was carried.

17. The proposed budget for the period 1 May 19 - 30 Apr 20 was presented, estimating a \$4,250 deficit mainly due to the acquisition of a drone, but which will be offset by \$1,655 in deferred revenue from the balance of the Lanark County grant received in the previous fiscal year. The remaining deficit (\$2,595) will be offset by a reduction in the Operating Fund. It assumed a membership fee of \$10, and allowed a 10% maximum variance in the programmed activities. It further provided for a maximum \$2,000 contingency expenditure in support of the buoy program.

18. The following expenses for FY 20/21, which will occur prior to the next AGM, were also presented for approval: (a) \$500 for AGM 2020; and (b) \$2,000 for insurance.

19. A **Motion** to approve the 2019/2020 budget and 2020/2021 expenses, as per slides #18,19 of the AGM presentation, was made by Dave Duncan and seconded by Melissa Dakers. The Motion was carried.

## Progress Reports

20. Boating and Recreation Committee - Dave Duncan provided an overview of activities being progressed by this committee:

- a. **Marker buoy program** - the buoys are not yet deployed due to high water levels, but will be out as soon as levels drop sufficiently. As a result of the bottom contour survey, better positioning data is now available and 49 buoys will be deployed this year;
- b. **Lake Map and Sign** - the bottom contour survey was completed in late 2018 and work is progressing to update the marker buoy map. Once completed, this new map will form the centrepiece of a large (4ft by 8ft) sign that will be installed at the Lake Avenue boat launch in Carleton Place. Timelines for these two projects had to be extended but good progress is being made; and
- c. **Recreation** - the committee is seeking to increase engagement with the community to develop more accurate information regarding various activities that can be undertaken on the lake.

21. Environment Committee - Doreen Donald gave an excellent overview of the many and varied activities being undertaken by this busy committee, as described on slides #22-37 of the AGM presentation. Major activities were specifically covered, as follows:

- a. **State of the Lake** - overall, the water quality has remained fairly stable over the past few decades. This year's water sampling, particularly in tributaries, has been delayed due to the flooding effects. Ten Water Ranger test kits were purchased with funding from a Lanark County Community Grant, to permit increased sampling ability and to engage students to become involved in this important monitoring effort;
- b. **Loon survey** - The survey is conducted annually in August in conjunction with Mississippi Valley Field naturalists (MVFN). Last year's survey revealed an unusually high un-matched adult count, but overall the population remains healthy and increasing slightly, including chick numbers;
- c. **Invasive aquatic plants** - A survey was conducted Aug-Sep 2018, with similar results as previous years, but two species are becoming increasingly problematic. This year, in place of the survey, a European Frogbit pull is being planned, as is a Task Force to address Eurasian Water Milfoil;
- d. **Ecological modelling project** - this joint effort from MVCA and Queen's University has resulted in a good 3D computer simulation for predicting possible states of lake water quality. Follow on work will involve creating new scenarios to test localized impacts of nutrient inputs;

- e. **Fish habitats** - A second deployment of 11 bundles of brush took place in Oct 2018. These bundles provide a good shelter and feeding area for fish and other aquatic animals, and have proven to be very effective in supporting and increasing fish populations; and
- f. **Drone purchase** - This new initiative also made possible by the Lanark County Grant will provide MLA with greater ability to monitor and record various aspects of the lake, including marker buoy placement, algae bloom detection, invasive species proliferation, etc. Pilot training and other preparations are in progress and acquisition and deployment is planned for later this Summer.

22. **Roads Committee** - Richard Teahen provided an overview of the committee's accomplishments during its first year, and its plans for the coming year:

- a. in the past year, the committee undertook a review of pertinent regulations and liability issues affecting private roads. A new section of the website has been created to capture the committee's work and to provide valuable information to members. The committee is progressing other issues identified by respondents in Apr 2018, and will provide an update at a Town Hall planned for 19 Jun 2019 in Brunton Hall, Beckwith; and
- b. the Town Hall will also provide an opportunity to gather feedback regarding the recent flooding experiences, and to update the list of priority issues to address. The aim is to determine how MLA can best represent the needs and concerns of the lake community. One important issue that merits effort is municipal support for private road maintenance. A Private Roads Equalization Program (PREP) was initiated in Beckwith but similar programs are not yet available in the other municipalities. The Town Hall will help focus effort to engage the other municipalities.

## BREAK

Refreshments (coffee, cookies) was provided courtesy of Details Realty

## Guest Presentation - MVCA

23. Sally McIntyre, the General Manager of the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA) gave an excellent presentation regarding the roles and responsibilities of the MVCA. She also provided a detailed description of the characteristics of the watershed and the MVCA's capabilities and limitations for controlling water levels. In light of the recent flooding, this was a particularly relevant and informative session to help understand the very many factors involved and their various impacts.

24. Sally then proceeded to explain how the MVCA is organized to assist property owners to recover from flood damage, and to develop solutions for minimizing the impact of future flooding. Two Open Houses will be held on 3 and 4 Jun to provide the public with this information, and to arrange for individual consultations to assist in preparing submissions where permits are required.

25. Throughout her presentation, Sally welcomed and answered many pertinent questions on a wide range of related issues. Her presentation was well received by the AGM attendees, and due to the evident high level of interest in the topic, extended well past the scheduled completion time. The President thanked Sally for providing a highly informative and interesting talk to the AGM.

## Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2140 hrs.