

**Citizens for Protecting our Northern Waterways  
General Meeting – October 16, 2022  
Wanless, Mb 1:00 – 4:10**

**Attendees**

Chris Smith, Richard Gibbons, Craig Asselstine, Marilyn Meyer, Diane Ballantyne, Tony Brew, Keith Scott, Lannie Bosman-Leptick

Regrets: Rob Vipond, Jim Lorden, Don MacDonald, Don Gamache

**1. Welcoming remarks – Craig Asselstine**

Craig welcomed everyone to the AGM 2023 - a moment of silence was held to acknowledge and honour the memory of ex-officio member Ron Black

**2. Approval of Agenda**

No additions or changes, accepted as presented

**3. Review of October 16, 2022 meeting minutes**

Diane Ballantyne suggested that, in future minutes, action items be summarized separately at the end of the minutes and emailed to members with a list of who has agreed to do what.

Motion: To accept the minutes of October 16/22 as presented.

Moved: Richard Gibbons Second: Tony Brew.

Accepted as passed. 8-0

**4. Business Report and Overview of CPONW Activities**

A) Outreach:

Chris provided a summary of CPONW activities April -August, 2023

- Trade Shows - Flin Flon, The Pas, Thompson
- Cranberry Portage Artisan Market - May, July, Aug
- The Pas - Opasquia Agricultural Society - August
- Little Athapapuskow Cottagers and Clearwater Lake Cottagers meetings
- Spring Newsletter
- Flin Flon Trout Festival (“Know Before You Go” information on website)
- Cranberry Portage Trout Challenge (“Know Before You Go” information on website and angler package sent to registrants)
- Website and Facebook Page maintenance

A summary of the outreach events resulted in some initial observations: Comparing 2022 vs 2023, there was an overall increase in the level of interest and concern in 2023; there was improvement in level of AIS knowledge in 2023 and a slight increase in prevention knowledge in 2023. The results are encouraging but an increase in AIS knowledge and, in particular, an increase in prevention knowledge is needed. **Note:** The primary concern voiced by individuals who were interviewed was the hours of operation of the decontamination/inspection station at Clearwater Lake.

**B) Monitoring:**

Approximately 30 lakes were monitored in northern MB in 2023. Preliminary results received to date indicate no new detections outside those that were previously recorded in 2022 (or are connected downstream of these locations). In the NE, the full length of the Nelson River has been invaded by zebra mussels; Echimamish River downstream of Hairy Lake detected veligers and Walker Lake had spiny water flea. In the NW, all waters remained free of AIS except: Footprint Lake (spiny water flea), Cedar Lake Crossing Bay (spiny water flea & ZMs); Cedar Lake proper (spiny water flea). More results will be shared as they become available.

Last year CPONW volunteers placed 5 substrate samplers @ Wekusko, Kississing Lake, Baker's Narrows, First Cranberry Lake and Rocky Lake. In 2023, the sites increased from 5 to 12 with substrate samplers also placed at Neso Lake, Clearwater Lake, Reed Lake, Snow Lake, Setting Lake, Paint Lake, and the Burntwood River. Analysis of our substrate samplers is set to take place at the end of October.

Richard queried whether spiny water flea are able to swim upstream, against the current?

**Action:** Chris will consult with AIS Unit and let members know.

**C) Signage:**

12' X 8' Hwy sign has been purchased and an application for placement has been submitted. Approval has not been received due to the proximity of the proposed sign to the right of way as well as the different levels of government required to approve it. Delay means the sign won't be installed until 2024.

**D) Government Liaison:** CPONW continues to have a positive relationship with the AIS Unit and staff, working cooperatively on several projects. Of particular note, CPONW has received strong support from Laureen Janusz in regards to the lake monitoring efforts.

The final draft of the Terms of Reference for the AIS Advisory Committee has been completed and signed by the Minister as of June 2023. The Aquatic Invasive Species Advisory Forum (AISAF) is comprised of 22 members and held an initial meeting on June 22, 2023. The formal recommendations that were submitted on behalf of CPONW are:

- public awareness and outreach
- inspection stations - hours of operation
- enhanced protection of AIS free waters
- increased funding for AIS program

**E) Funding:**

Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Fund (\$20, 915), RM of Kelsey (\$1, 500), Kelsey Watershed (\$1, 000). The FWEF grant was extended to 2023 with final report due at the end of March 2024.

**5. Financial Report**

Details of finances including income and expenditures were presented by Treasurer Richard Gibbons.

Motion: That the Treasurer's report as presented be filed for audit.

Moved: Craig Asselstine Second: Tony Brew

No objections, motion carried 8-0

Motion: That the CPONW members be reimbursed for travel expenditures incurred for CPONW activities

Moved: Marilyn Meyers Second: Chris Smith

No objections, motion carried 8-0

## 6. Appointment/Election of Directors and Regional Reps

The positions of President and Secretary are due for election.

Craig Asselstine nominated Chris Smith for President, who agreed to let his name stand. As no other identified candidates, motion by Richard Gibbons, seconded by Lannie Bosman-Leptick, to accept Chris Smith by acclamation. Motion carried 8-0

Lannie Bosman-Leptick is resigning from her position as Secretary. Chris Smith nominated Marilyn Meyer for Secretary, who agreed to let her name stand – seconded by Tony Brew. Motion carried 8-0

The ex-officio position is currently vacant due to the unfortunate passing of Ron Black. There was a discussion re: which individuals would be an asset, possibly interested in the position.

Motion: That the CPONW Executive will explore options to replace the ex-officio position and bring names forward for discussion. . Wade Roberts name came forward which all agreed was a good choice.

**Action:** Chris will contact Wade to see if he is interested.

Moved: Richard Gibbons      Second: Tony Brew

No objections, motion carried 8-0

### Regional Representatives

- Thompson - Don Macdonald
- Snow Lake/Wekusko - Tony Brew
- Sherridon - Sheryl Matheson?
- Rocky Lake – Don Gamache
- Clearwater Lake - Jim Lorden
- The Pas – Marilyn Meyer
- OCN - Diane Ballantyne
- Chemawawin - Sheldon Bourassa

**Action:** With Marilyn accepting the Secretary position, a new Regional Rep will be needed for The Pas – Marilyn will ask Randy Koshel if he is interested. Diane will reach out to Sheldon Bourassa (Regional Rep for Chemawawin) to see if he is still willing to be a regional representative. Diane is familiar with an individual from Grand Rapids who would be an asset – she will email him and cc Chris to explore whether he might be interested.

## 7. New Business

Discussion around future activities and potential opportunities.

Chris noted that he has submitted an application, on behalf of CPONW, to the Federal AIS Prevention Fund. Eligibility is prioritized based on the following criteria: improving relationships with provinces, Indigenous Peoples and key stakeholders; involving multiple partners; providing Canadians with tools to take action on aquatic invasive species; monitoring and prevention of aquatic invasive species. The CPONW application was submitted Aug 31, 2023 and approval is pending Nov 30, 2023. The CPONW submission includes the following project components: public/community awareness (trade shows/webinars, improved website/social media, support materials/handouts, signs); Indigenous

engagement (indigenous led - facilitated workshop, focus on best approaches to engage communities in AIS awareness and protection; lake monitoring; partner networking

**Funding Request**

- \$109,170 over 3 years

**New Business cont'd**

Discussion around potential purchases for ongoing activities:

- Craig suggested purchasing a laptop for Trade Shows/public engagement events
- Chris suggested purchasing a monitor for Trade Shows/public engagement events
- Craig suggested we inventory our swag/give aways and purchase more if necessary
- Richard suggested the group explore having youth friendly information on AIS prevention for Trade Shows/public engagement events

If there are any suggestions on how to use unspent funds, please forward to one of the Executive members

It was noted that several of the substrate samplers that CPONW placed this year went missing

**Action:** Chris will contact Lauren to have these replaced and will also request a few extra to have on hand in case any go missing in the future.

Grant opportunities – Building Sustainable Communities, Snow Lake Resource Management Committee, Northern Neighbours Flin Flon, Community Enrichment Program-Flin Flon Credit Union, Re Uz It. Information on additional Provincial level granting opportunities is available via the MB Government web site: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/grants/grant-name.html>

AGM attendees watched video on AIS spiny water flea “Silent Invaders”

**Meeting Adjourned**

Motion: meeting to adjourn at 4:10.

Moved: Tony Brew Second: Marilyn Meyer

Submitted by: Lannie Bosman-Leptick

Action items: Carried over from AGM 2022

- Diane recommended partnering with First Nation Land Based education programs to provide presentations on awareness, prevention and monitoring of AIS. **Action:** Sheldon (Diane?) will explore this with Land Based Education programs in Chemawawin.
- **Action:** Diane suggested that CPONW reach out and partner with the Guardians Program in Grand Rapids and Chemawawin as well as Oscar Lathlin Collegiate's Land Based Education in regards to education, awareness, prevention and monitoring specific to zebra mussels and AIS.
- **Action:** Chris to continue to advocate for improvements to inspection/decontamination hours of operation and function through meetings with AIS Unit, AIS Advisory Committee.
- Diane suggested reaching out and potential partnering with MKO and Garrison Settee (Grand Chief of MKO), explore possibility of attending the upcoming annual AGM of Tribal Councils of Manitoba **Action:** Chris and Diane to discuss further and pursue this opportunity.
- **Action:** Diane noted that OCN has a working relationship with Manitoba Hydro and suggested the committee develop contact/partnership with Manitoba Hydro personnel who are doing similar work around prevention and monitoring.

Action items AGM 2023:

- **Action:** Chris will consult with AIS Unit re: can spiny water flea swim upstream and let members know.
- **Action:** With Marilyn accepting the Secretary position, a new Regional Rep will be needed for The Pas – Marilyn will ask Randy Koshel if he is interested.
- **Action:** Diana will reach out to Sheldon Bourassa (Regional Rep for Chemawawin) to see if he is still willing to be a regional representative. Diana is familiar with an individual from Grand Rapids who would be an asset – she will email him and cc Chris to explore whether he might be interested.
- **Action:** Chris will contact Laureen to have missing substrate samplers replaced and will also request a few extra to have on hand in case any go missing in the future.
- **Action:** Chris will reach out to Wade Roberts to see if he would be interested in filling the Ex-officio position.