

**Citizens for Protecting our Northern Waterways  
General Meeting – October 16, 2022  
Wanless, Mb 2:00 – 4:15**

**Attendees**

Chris Smith, Richard Gibbons, Craig Asselstine, Marilyn Meyer, Diane Ballantyne, Zane Nicholson, Tim Teneycke, Daryl Kines, Sheldon Bourassa, Tony Brew, Connie Smith, Mark Rice, Jim Berscheid, Lannie Bosman-Leptick

Regrets: Rob Vipond, Cal Boscow, Jim Lorden, Ron Black, Don MacDonald

**1. Welcoming remarks - Chris Smith**

Introduction of Executive Committee and Regional Representatives (RR) as follows: Chris Smith (President), Craig Asselstine (V-President), Lannie Bosman-Leptick (Secretary), Richard Gibbons (Treasurer), Marilyn Meyer (RR-The Pas), Don Macdonald (RR Thompson – absent), Jim Lorden (RR Clearwater) Ron Black (Ex-Officio- absent), Diane Ballantyne (RR OCN Lands and Natural Resources Branch), Sheldon Bourassa (RR Chemawawin), Sheryl Matheson (RR Sherridon), Tony Brew (RR Snow Lake), Rob Vipond (RR Rocky Lake-absent).

**2. Approval of Agenda**

No additions or changes, accepted as presented

**3. Review of October 16, 2021, meeting minutes**

Revision: Diane Ballantyne noted she represents OCN Lands and Natural Resources Branch, not OCN Resource Management Board as noted in October 16/21 minutes.

Motion: To accept the minutes of October 16/21 as presented, with above noted revision.

Moved: Richard Gibbons Second: Marilyn Meyer.

Accepted as passed. 14-0

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

**A) Outreach:**

- activities included community presentations to increase awareness and build capacity. These presentations included Snow Lake and Sherridon Community Councils, Schist Lake/Big Island Cottage Association, Little Athapap Cottage Association, Clearwater Lake Cottage Association.
- Booths were hosted at both the Flin Flon and The Pas Trade Show as well as at the Artisan Markets in Cranberry Portage and Culture Day events in The Pas.
- Area boat launch awareness events took place at numerous lakes throughout the region, including 1<sup>st</sup> Cranberry, Wekusko, Baker's Narrows, Clearwater and Iskwasum
- A summary of the outreach events resulted in 500+ (as well as 83 with youth) contacts with individuals who demonstrated a high level of interest in the topic but poor or limited prevention knowledge. Individuals at boat launch events seemed to have a higher level of interest and the highest level of prevention knowledge. **Note:** The primary concern voiced by individuals who were interviewed was the hours of operation of the decontamination/inspection station at Clearwater Lake. Also, most people seemed to relate to the decontamination/inspection

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stations vs the “Clean, Drain, Dry” messaging and do not seem to be taking personal ownership of prevention.

- Resource distribution and promotion: Flin Flon Trout Festival (web site), Cranberry Portage Trout Challenge (zebra mussel prevention information provided for their Facebook page and included in fisherman package), expanded CPONW information via Facebook, maintenance of CPONW Website, letter to lodges, Summer 2022 newsletter

B) Monitoring: CPONW members received a demonstration and training with Laureen Janusz, from the AIS Unit, on placing substrate samplers and veliger sampling. CPONW volunteers placed substrate samplers @ Wekusko, Kississing Lake, Baker’s Narrows, First Cranberry Lake and Rocky Lake., with preliminary analysis expected in the upcoming week. There was some veliger sampling in July and September in the area with early results indicating zero detection in the Saskatchewan River, Paint Lake and Setting Lake.

C) Signage: Metal 18” X 24” signs were installed @ Wekusko Campground, Tramping Lake and Bartlett’s Landing; 12’ X 8’ Hwy sign was put up on Hwy 10, north of The Pas. Of note, the Provincial government has approval to put up ~90 provincial AIS signs. The timeline/status of the installation is unknown but CPONW have noted some signs have been observed along highways in Southern and Interlake regions of Manitoba

D) Government Liaison: CPONW continues to have a positive relationship with the AIS Unit and staff, working cooperatively on several projects. Items of concerns have been reported directly to AIS staff i.e.: Canadian Ranger boats being observed in The Pas with their plugs in during transit, inadequate decontamination procedures being conducted at the Clearwater decon/inspection station. These items of concern seem to have been addressed, by AIS staff, directly with the parties it concerned. The final draft of the Terms of Reference for the AIS Advisory Committee has been completed and is waiting approval. Chris attended a breakfast meeting with Minister Nesbitt on August 12/22 for a brief discussion on areas of concern; a meeting with minister Nesbitt, Ais staff and CPONW members is scheduled for October 25/22.

**Action:** Diane Ballantyne 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.

E) Funding: Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Fund (\$20, 915), RM of Kelsey (\$1, 500), The Pas Rotary Club (\$1, 000), Kelsey Watershed (\$1, 000)

## 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: Chris Smith Second: Tony Brew

No objections, motion carried 14-0

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

Moved: Marilyn Meyers Second: Richard Gibbons

No objections, motion carried 14-0

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

The positions of vice president and treasurer are due for election.

Zane Nicholson nominated Craig Asselstine for Vice President, who agreed to let his name stand. As no other identified candidates, motion by Richard, seconded by Chris, to accept Craig Asselstine by acclamation.

Marilyn Meyer nominated Richard Gibbons for Treasurer, who agreed to let his name stand. As no other identified candidates, motion by Zane, seconded by Lannie, to accept Richard Gibbons by acclamation.

## 7. New Business

Discussion around future activities and potential opportunities.

- Craig suggested producing a video and using YouTube (and other venues) to provide a visual demonstration of local boat owners practising good prevention and protection activities when leaving a waterbody and/or transporting to another waterbody. Discussion around using local individuals who are passionate about our region and experienced in audiovisual to produce this.
- Zane proposed using QR codes to link individuals to videos, website and AIS specific messaging. Marilyn noted that a QR code is already currently being used on awareness resources that CPONW is distributing.
- Diane recommended partnering with First Nation Land Based education programs to provide presentations on awareness, prevention and monitoring of AIS. **Action:** Sheldon will explore this with Land Based Education programs in Chemawawin.
- Jim Bersheid encouraged CPONW to host a booth (possibly present?) at the AMM annual conference in November, 2022. Agreement and consensus amongst all present to explore this further as a potential opportunity but to be strategic in approach. **Action:** Craig to investigate details of the trade show including costs; Chris to discuss at Oct 25/22 meeting with Minister Nesbitt and AIS Unit.
- Chris queried how to expand and increase presence, support regional rep in Thompson and area as the NE region is deemed high risk. 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.
- Tim Teneyke asked whether AIS awareness/prevention information was included in the 2022 Manitoba Hunter's guide. Following today's meeting, Marilyn confirmed that the information is included.
- Craig proposed that the second 12' X 8' Hwy sign be purchased as sufficient funds are available and the purchase had previously been approved. Consensus amongst those present to proceed with this purchase, for installation in Spring 2023 with location to be determined. Possible sites discussed include the original one on HWY 6 north of Grand Rapids or HWY 39 west of Ponton.
- Tony suggested consideration be made at some point to place an inspection/decontamination station at the junction of HWY 39 and HWY 392 that would target boats heading north to Snow Lake, boats coming west from the Nelson River/HWY 6 and east from HWY 10.

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- Chris discussed and asked if group wanted to expand our involvement in substrate sampling/monitoring to include more training in veliger sampling/monitoring? Agreement amongst those present that the veliger sampling/monitoring was beyond the scope of the CPONW committee but that the group was still interested in continuing to volunteer to help place samplers in lakes identified by the committee and local communities as was done last year. **Action:** Tony volunteered to place samplers at Reed Lake.
- 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.
- Daryl spoke about finding ways to emphasize the importance of increasing capacity of both inspection and decontamination. **Action:** Chris to continue to advocate for improvements to inspection/decontamination hours of operation and function through meetings with AIS Unit, Minister Nesbitt, AIS Advisory Committee.
- Richard asked about benefits of a presentation on AIS/CPONW to the Cranberry Portage Tourism Strategy Committee. Lannie confirmed that there have been several conversations at the CP Tourism meetings about ensuring that our lakes are protected against possible transmission of AIS as part of the strategy to increase tourism. Note: Following the meeting, Chris confirmed that the protection of northern lakes was identified as one of the top priorities listed during a facilitated strategy session with the CP Tourism Strategy committee.
- Grant opportunities – Building Sustainable Communities, Snow Lake Resource Management Committee, Northern Neighbours Flin Flon, Community Enrichment Program-Flin Flon Credit Union. . Information on additional Provincial level granting opportunities is available via the MB Government web site: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/grants/grant-name.html>
- FWEF letter of interest for 2023 grant opportunity due by end of October/22. Chris requested input on whether CPONW should apply and was cautious of doing so given we still have financial resources from our current FWEF grant. Chris has contacted FWEF to ask if we can extend our current grant by 1 year and has been told that we could. Discussion around same.

Motion: To extend the current grant received by FWEF by 1 year.

Moved: Craig Asselstine Second: Marilyn Meyers

No objections, motion carried 11-0

**Meeting Adjourned**

Motion: meeting to adjourn at 4:00.

Moved: Tony Brew Second: Craig Asselstine

Submitted by: Lannie Bosman-Leptick