

Waterways Association of Menominee & Shawano County (WAMSCO) Annual Meeting

Belle Plaine Town Hall, N3002 Hwy 22, Clintonville, Wisconsin

May 11, 2019

Attendees:

Please refer to the sign-up sheet for attendees

- 1) **Call to Order- Shanda** opened the meeting at 9:06 AM
- 2) **Determination of a Quorum** – Quorum present
- 3) **Introduction of WAMSCO BoD - Shanda** introduced the WAMSCO Board of Directors, and presented the agenda for the meeting. (A copy of the agenda is available)
- 4) **Wild Ones – Bob Dumke** (PowerPoint available) presented an overview of the Wild Ones organization, and recent projects they have completed. Bob became interested in wildflowers to attract native pollinators after reading "Bringing Nature Home" by Doug Tallamy.

Bob then discussed a wildflower planting project on the retired landfill for the town of Wescott. He initially went to the town with the idea of growing wildflowers to benefit pollinators, then met with members of the Wild Ones organization and is now president of the Wolf River chapter of **Wild Ones**.

Wild Ones was founded in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 1977. **Wild Ones** national headquarters is in Neenah, Wisconsin with chapters in 16 states.

Bob discussed the global problem of a loss of species around the world. The UN has predicted the loss of one million species due to a combination of loss of habitat, invasive species, and climate change. **Wild Ones** seeks to reduce this loss of species by supporting pollinators.

Wild Ones is a resource for private individuals, schools, commercial property owners, and communities. Their mission statement recognizes preservation of pollinators as their number one priority.

The Wolf River chapter of **Wild Ones** focuses their efforts in six key areas:

Education – the “why”, for saving pollinators... They present information at the Shawano Farmers Market

Mentoring - helping to connect and guide the process for those interested in helping pollinators

Plant rescue - prior to the destruction of a native site, they will pull out the native plants prior to their the impending development and destruction of those native plants.

Plant sales-Wild Ones conducts Spring and Fall plant sales to help make plants available to those who can't find them. They feel that plant availability should not be an impediment to those who wish to grow pollinators

Habitat creation - enhanced restoration and establishment ensure successful plant growth

Social activities-tours and travel promote interest in pollinators such as trips to the UW Arboretum in Appleton and the butterfly house.

Bob then addressed the importance of native plants to the local ecosystems. For example, he explained that adult birds eat seeds (and that your bird feeder helps them) but baby birds eat caterpillars and bugs (so that we must have the “right” bugs available for adults to harvest them and feed them to their babies.) The local insect population is tied to the plants, so we need native plants to get the right food for young birds.

Bob also discussed the importance of native plants to migrating animals and birds. In the absence of native plants (like milkweed) species like the monarch butterfly are under tremendous stress during their migration.

Bob also provided some suggestions for maintaining a native planting (cutting back and burning at prescribed intervals.

He also mentioned that **Wild Ones 2019 Spring Plant Sale is on May 18, 2019** at Franklin Park in Shawano.

5) **Connecting our Waters-Emily Henrigillis** (PowerPoint available) Emily described her role as Watershed Coordinator for **Connecting our Waters** (a joint venture between WAMSCO and the Fox Wolf Watershed Alliance (FWWA)). She also indicated that Anna Bartsch will be joining **Connecting our Waters** as an AIS Coordinator. Key points of Emily's presentation include the following:

- a) A discussion of **shoreline health** and the waterfront property owners survey that she recently completed - Emily contacted 25 of the 38 potential participants. She highlighted each property owners ability to choose their view of the shoreline (lawn vs. native plants)and promoted the benefits of shoreline remediation. Her presentation demonstrated that you can have a lawn and native plants at the same site.
- b) She completed a **shoreline survey** for Long Lake in 2018, and discussed survey statistics from that survey.
- c) She showed a **Google map she created which illustrates a virtual tour of Shoreline remediation** project in Shawano and Menominee County. She will also highlight agricultural land restoration projects in the future.
- d) Other activities include The **Basin Buzz** newsletter, **Aquatic Plant Management education** out reach, **Water Quality Monitoring** and **AIS Coordination** (she completed prior to Anna's arrival) incuding: Clean Boats Clean Waters **CBCW** as well as implementing AIS strategies for Menominee County in Shawano County
- e) She also highlighted the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (**WDNR**) implementation of the **Drain Campaign** and the **AIS Snapshot Day on August 17, 2019**. She is always looking for volunteers for AIS Outreach and Education.
- f) Emily noted that it is possible to grow your own native plants from seeds that you collect from native plants on your property. This is an inexpensive way to develop native plants on your own.
- g) Emily also discussed the impact of record high water levels and floods on the lake Winnebago watershed and the Wolf River watershed
- h) Emily indicated that she has office hours at the Belle Plaine Townhall on Tuesdays and Thursdays for interested local residents.

(15 minute break)

6) **Things in our Lakes and Rivers-Brenda Nordin**. (PowerPoint available) Brenda provided it an interesting overview of unusual animals and species in our waters...

Key points of Brenda's presentation include the following:

- a) Did you know that there are 40 species of clams, and 50 species of mussels in our area. She also discussed: swimmers itch, algae blooms, muck, blue-green algae, and the role of these individual species in the ecosystem of our lakes and rivers.
- b) Brenda also reviewed the concept of **holistic lake management** and reiterated that whatever happens around the lake ends up in the lake.
- c) She touched on the **impact of Sociology** on managing lake or river issues. Sometimes it is necessary to deal with individuals that have other opinions or agendas which must be respected.
- d) She also discussed **the role of trees and plants in protecting the ecosystem**, particularly at the shoreline interface. While it is not always possible to remove a seawall or other impediment at the shoreline, the environment can be improved by planting bull rush or pickleweed or arrowweed between the seawall and the water.
- e) For those wishing to complete a soil analysis, Brenda mentioned that the **AGSource lab in Bonduel can complete soil analysis** to assist residents in determining how to best grow plants.
- f) Brenda discussed the importance of aquatic plants in lakes and rivers. They belong there. They are of particular benefit to migrating waterfall and aquatic life.
- g) Lastly Brenda discussed the **availability of grants** to fund planning and the development of lake management plans. These can be **Small Scale Planning Grants, or Lake Protection Grants** with funding up to \$200,000.
- h) Brenda discussed the **Citizen Lake Monitoring Network CLMN** as a way to maintain the health of our lakes.
- i) Finally she discussed the impact of this springs record flooding, and indicated we won't know the full impact for quite a while.

7) **WAMSCO Business Meeting-Shanda Hubertus**

- a) **Election of board of directors** - Shanda proposed that we keep the same Board of Directors for 2019. Mark Emerick made a motion, Dennis Thornton seconded the motion, and the board was approved by unanimous vote
- b) Shanda mentioned the following WAMSCO projects for 2019
 - i) **Wittenberg-Birnamwood schools educational program, Brunch on the Farm (June 23), the Bonduel School District Outdoor Program, a Fishing Outreach program, (Wisconsin Angler), and Summer Field Trips**(please see our website for more details)

8) **Fish habitat**-This interactive presentation showed the impact of landscaping on fish populations. This was an excellent presentation showing the impact of shoreline development on fish species. **The more development the less diverse the fish population.** (PowerPoint available)

9) **Shoreline plantings- Nick Homan**, of Landscape Solutions, made a video presentation on natural shoreline development. (MP4 available)

10) **Adjourn** - motion by Mark Emerick, 2nd by Shanda, passed by unanimous vote. Meeting was adjourned at 11:49 AM