

The Beaver Island Association
Supporting Environmental and
Economic Sustainability

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes 8/1/12, 2pm BIBCO conference room.

Submitted by Taffy Raphael, secretary

Present: Peter, Beth, Jim J, Bob T., Ken, Pam, Taffy, Lisa

Present by Conference Call: Craig, Bob A.

1. *Website currency discussion: In response to comment raised by Henry Hill at the annual meeting of the BIA.* Jim Jones had sent Jeff some major changes in June, but Jeff did not think they could be done. It isn't clear whether the issues are due to time or structure.
 - a. We need to set the website up so that we can update it ourselves. Jim Jones will look into how it can be done and associated costs. Jim J. will serve as our contact person.
 - b. Craig: Invasive species section. Form needs to be moved to the page, rather than the archives.
 - c. Pam: Some sites need to be linked and raised to the top for greater visibility: Great Lakes Jewel website, now largely inactive, has Beaver Island information on it; Shoreline; Great Lakes Homeowners.
 - d. Assignment to Board members: Review the BIA and Great Lakes Jewel websites and send recommendations to Jim J.
2. *Letter regarding search committee for BICS new principal.* Peter sent a letter to the president of school board and received response from Jessica Anderson laying out their process and the date for the public comments: August 13 at 5:30. Action items:
 - a. Peter will draft letter, raising questions about how the search committee can have sufficient representation to allow for a meeting of the candidates with the search committee in addition to the public meetings.
 - b. Taffy, Jim J., and Peter, and as many other BIA board members as possible, will attend the August 13th meeting to represent the BIA interests.
3. *Membership/Dues appeal letter:* Cost estimated to be under \$600.00 to send the letter. Will include a return envelope. NOTE: Actual cost was less than \$250.00.
4. *Next steps on the environmental front.*
 - a. Craig: Look at 5 goals of invasive species initiative
 - i. Educate: Article on TMC project – summary of findings published in newspapers and on website; Press release on UNFW grant in both Beaver Island's newspapers.
 - ii. Developing Inventory: TMC survey project ending with meeting this fall, NFW grant meeting this fall. Take the information from those studies and their recommendations for

categorizing eradicate, manage, etc. Use this information to determine action plans, with key performance indicators of what we want to achieve.

- iii. Response: Work on early detection and rapid response category
 - iv. Rehabilitate: Eric Ellis' grant is in process. Met with US Dept of Wildlife and Fisheries for direction on endangered species and how to approach relocation from endangered habitat to ones that can expand their presence.
 - v. Funding: Over \$400,000 in funds have been generated.
- b. Beth: We have put in a request for permission to move Michigan Monkey Flowers from Sand Bay to other creeks to try to save the population.
 - c. Beth, Pam, Jim, Bob, Craig – will put together a To Do List and summary of all the things that we have completed. Will be used as a basis for broader distribution of information of the successes this year. Beth and Pam will draft the summary. Peter will give them contacts for wide distribution of a press release.
 - d. Ken M: Weather reports: Discussed the possibility of regular or even sporadic weather reporting in the name of BIA. Bob T reports from the area 5.6 miles northeast of airport. www.cocorahs.org (contact person is Jim Keysor: james.keysor@noaa.org) is the organization that shares the website. Other possibilities were discussed and responses of those interested should go to Beth or Bob T.
5. Charlevoix Road Commission: We need to write a letter that they need to pay attention to our roads. Bob A. shares open items
- a. Road paving is uncertain, some based on the timing of the improvements to the township airport and cost of a mainland project (Boyne City to Charlevoix). The letter from Peaine Township pushed for 2013, while the the county road commission appears to be hedging toward 2014. Bob A. will draft a letter, based on the Peaine one, emphasizing the safety issue and the special county road millage.
 - b. Grader is still on target for 2014. Swapped out a Caterpillar. Volvo slated for the island is still on the routine schedule.
 - c. Road paving is uncertain, some based on the timing of the improvements to the township airport and other based on a mainland project (Boyne City to Charlevoix). The letter from Peaine Township pushed for 2013, while the steering committee appointed by the county road commission puts it at 2014. Bob A. will draft a letter, based on the Peaine one, emphasizing the safety issue.
 - d. Link to the voted millage – the money in had should be used to pave access to the public airport. Contact Pat Harmon for information about the millage.
6. Jim Latta, of the Port of St. James, was invited to join the board. He declined to join because of what he perceived to be a conflict of interest since he is on

- the Port of St. James board. Lisa W. is a member of the Port of St James so can serve as liaison.
7. *Wildlife Club* – question of whether BIA should reach out to the Wildlife Club and Bob T., who is a member, will bring the question to the group.
 8. *Agricultural Development on BI*: Jim J.
 - a. Jim described a project in Australia on high performance cattle feed farming. Nathan Ayers has ideas for the island that overlaps with several of the things that are part of the Australia project, from designing through education through developing/operating farms through performance evaluation.
 - b. Discussion of whether there is any interest on the island in developing such a project on the island to grow food and who might be brought in as advisors, focused on organic farming. Jim will share a grant he is working on for us by our next meeting.
 9. Marina Reservations: There is an ongoing issue around the reservation system implementation, and the relationship of that system to the “public face” of Beaver Island for potential visitors to the island who arrive via private boats.
 - a. Thought for Chamber of Commerce: Send a letter recommending the island hold a late spring session for learning ways to improve the public face of the island for visitors to encourage visitors and return visitors.
 10. *Response to Beth Scully who had written a letter to the Board about responding to the algae problem.* Peter will write a response indicating that we will stay abreast of current initiatives and link to any initiative that might allow us to address it on a permanent basis. Current research has not shown any ability to remove permanently with current technologies.
 11. CMU: Beth will follow up with weather reporting process Ken raised. CMU is continuing field trips next year. Station will be open again next year for visitors during museum week. People will be able to go on the research vessel.
 12. Pam announced two island planning meetings, August 2 and August 3rd. All are invited.
 13. Leadership training contribution: Pam described the program as designed to connect young people with one another to learn about the island and other resources within Charlevoix county. The BIA Board sees this initiative and our contribution as an investment, not just sponsorship. We would like to have as a part of this investment:
 - a. Criteria for selection: (note that it involves at least 10 trips off island to visit the other sites)
 - b. What anticipated outcomes (that benefit the person and the island)
 - c. How will they communicate to the constituencies on the island so that this is a benefit to the island
 - d. Peter will talk with her about the approval of the \$200.00 and will need something from Taffy that lays out expectations by August 3.

Next meeting:

- Surcharge for Great Lakes Energy – is it paid off? What terms are in place? [Paul Glendon is the contact for this information]
- What Internet options might we have beyond TDS?
- What criteria BIA has in place for supporting initiatives such as the leadership training sessions. Cost information is important because it links to visiting other sites in the county. Person who participates will have to make 10 – 11 trips to the mainland to participate in the program. Cost will be about \$1400.00 and the airlines will provide some free flights.

Meeting adjourned: 3:40 p.m.