

**MEGUNTICOOK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION**  
**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE 54th ANNUAL MEETING**  
**27 JULY, 2023, Camp Bishopswood**

Mike Douglas welcomed the membership of MWA on behalf of Camp Bishopswood, leading the group in a traditional camp song, with choreography.

There being a quorum present, President Micki Colquhoun called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM, welcoming members, thanking Bishopswood for hosting the meeting, and introducing board and staff.

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of 12 July, 2022, were approved as written.

Treasurer Sarah Marriner reported that MWA finished FY 2022-23 \$3,800 in the red; the shortfall in revenue was made up with accumulated surplus from previous years. Membership income remained nearly the same as the previous year. Treasurer's Report, including Balance Sheet, P&L statement and budget comparison, were approved as written.

FY 2023-24 Budget was approved as submitted in the meeting packet.

Dody Urquia reported for the Nominating Committee. Nominated to board terms were the following:

To the class of 2026:

- New members: Aaron Bailey, Pat Behling and Chip Laite.
- Re-electing: Jennifer Chipman, Paul DeOrsay, Lesley Devoe, and Jamie Weymouth.

This slate of candidates was moved, seconded and approved by the membership.

Slate of officers placed in nomination for 2023-24:

- President – Micki Colquhoun
- Vice President and Treasurer – Sarah Marriner
- Secretary – Paul DeOrsay

This slate of officers was moved, seconded and approved by the membership.

On behalf of the Board and Membership, Ms. Urquia expressed appreciation and thanks to those board members not standing for re-election: Wayne Morong, Stephanie Smith, and Seth Taylor.

Executive Director / Lake Steward Report. President Micki Colquhoun introduced MWA's new Executive Director, Tim Trumbauer, to provide an update on recent activities and status of the watershed.

- A reminder to all that Lake Patrol is not an emergency response provider – call 911.
- A reminder that the Safety Zone (headway speed within 200' of shore or any docks or structures) should be scrupulously observed.

- Water Levels. The high water event during and after the May 1<sup>st</sup> storm should be a reminder to us all that extreme weather events are increasing in frequency, and prudence dictates that waterfront property owners take measures to minimize adverse impacts (especially securing floatable items stored near the shoreline.) The dams were operating within Town of Camden operational guidelines at the time of the storm, which dropped twice as much rain as forecast. Floating debris (boats) actually increased the water level.
- Environmental activities. 8 sites are sampled for bacteria, weekly, by a volunteer team. MWA measures physical water properties twice a year at 3 sites. Working with FB Environmental consultants, we have placed and monitor 7 data loggers (temperature, dissolved oxygen and conductivity) in the River. We participated in the annual Audubon loon count (11 adults, 4 chicks,) and are consulting with them about nest platforms. Our young Lake Stewards carry out inspections for invasive plants at the three launching ramps. We treated 15 Canada Goose nests (60 eggs) this spring. We continue to offer Lake Smart property surveys ([BetterBuffers@Megunticook.org](mailto:BetterBuffers@Megunticook.org).)
- Are the pond, lake and river healthy? In 2000, a DEP scientist summarized our situation as “pretty good, but don’t push it.” Translation of ‘pretty good:’ clarity is improving, nutrient levels steady, bacteria counts low. Attributable to good land use, good neighbors, good geography. Translation of ‘pushing it:’ We have some low oxygen levels at depth; with temperatures rising, this could get worse. Increasing rainfall brings more nutrients into the water; combined with warmer temperatures, this can promote algal growth. We need to remain vigilant.
- Upcoming Events. Poker Run August 4 (rain date Aug. 11;) Lake Concert August 14.

Tim introduced Lauren Caffee of FB Environmental, who is working with the Megunticook River Citizens Advisory Committee. Lauren outlined the MRCAC’s mission and purpose, and encouraged public engagement with the process.

The President and Executive Director then opened the floor to questions for the last 15 minutes of the meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Paul DeOrsay, Secretary