

## **Maliwatch Board of Directors Meeting**

**Minutes of the agenda discussed on Saturday April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009, 12:00 PM EST**

**Attendees:** Ablo Doucoure, Aliou Haidara, Diola Bagayoko, Djeneba Traoré, Harouna Maiga, Ibrahim Hacko, and Lamine Coulibaly

### **1. Meeting call to order - Harouna**

Harouna has introduced all attendees and has moved to start the agenda previously sent to the group.

### **2. Approval of December 15 meeting minutes (attached) & Secretary's report presented by Abdoulaye Niang**

**Motion:**

Diola asked to approve the minutes of the previous meeting.

Seconded: by Aliou Haidara

Approved: "I" - by all attendees

Abstained: none

Opposed: none

### **3. Treasurer's report**

Ibrahim Hacko Yattara has presented Maliwatch's account status and has expressed some concerns about the fees paid to the bank when the account remains inactive.

Accounts Status:

Maliwatch account (Bank of America in Rhode Island): \$6331.72

Expenses= \$72

MSAS account (Bremer's bank in MN): \$6,495.53

Monthly fee: \$17.00 for the Maliwatch account, if no purchase is made with checkcard.

Diola recommends that Maliwatch treasurer explores any other options to avoid paying such fees. The treasurer (Ibrahim) will contact the bank to find an alternate way to avoid such fees since he does not want to use the card for such withdrawals / deposits on a monthly basis.

**Motion:**

Diola has recommended approving the treasury report.

Seconded: by Ablo Doucoure

Approved: "I" - by all attendees

Abstained: none

Opposed: none

### **3. Project Application and Funding form (modified by Janet and Djeneba)**

Harouna agrees with the content of the original document from Janet & Djeneba, but suggests the following changes:

- a. no deadline for submitting a project to avoid great projects not being presented until the next fiscal year,
- b. 501c3 will be used for MW projects only,
- c. Maliwatch should accept charitable initiatives approved by the Board.

#### **Motion:**

Diola has suggested approval of the original text with Harouna's comments.

Seconded: by Ibrahim

Approved: "I" - by all members

Abstained: none

Opposed: none

## **4. Old Business**

### **4.1. Partnership between Lions Club of Crookston (Harouna is a member) and Maliwatch**

Harouna - Dawn to Dusk Lions Club of Crookston wants a partnership with Maliwatch to help equip an automated well to provide safe drinking water to the school and village of Zakoire-Ansongo (Harouna's native village). Since 2007, the Dawn to Dusk Lions Club has been raising funds for this water project and will not ask any funds to Maliwatch. The club will request that Maliwatch receive, manage, and oversee the project and regular updates. Dawn to Dusk Lions club would like to see this partnership grows in the future and result in other endeavors of common interests.

The subject has been discussed in a previous meeting and because of concerns of conflict of interest expressed by Fanta and Aliou (and also Harouna at a certain point); Harouna has sent the 501c document regarding "conflicts of interest" for the group to review the issue. To this Diola said he is very happy with that and these are things we have to do (or should be doing); adding however, that Maliwatch may need to raise something to help if Lions' fail to finish the project - assuming a complete report of the money trail will be kept by Maliwatch.

**Motion by Diola:** Let's agree on the principle of partnership with the Lions Club of Crookston and specify that Maliwatch Mali needs to designate someone to supervise this activity. The details of the projects will be reviewed later.

Motion seconded: by Ibrahim

Approved by Harouna, Diola, Ibrahim and Ablo; Aliou has been disconnected but later expressed his agreement.

Abstained: none

Opposed: none

### **4.2. Amendment of the bylaws to add two new positions in the Executive Committee**

Harouna has proposed to review the bylaws. Diola has agreed and asked that comments may be sent back and forth by email.

**Motion by Ablo:** Let's move the motion for approving amendment of the bylaws

Motion seconded: by Ibrahim

Motion approved: by Harouna, Diola, Ibou and Ablo

Aliou was disconnected (was actually online and can hear conversation without being heard).

#### **4.3. Support for "Censeur" Sanogo**

Ablo wanted to do a fundraising for Sanogo @ LKM who was victim of gang attack in Bamako, few weeks ago. Mr. Sanogo was badly injured at the ankle and gang members stole his motorcycle.

Diola expressed that we have done it in the past and it should be a one time.

Ablo said Mr. Sanogo has been helping a lot and he is always on time to answer our questions. Ibrahim was concerned that a fundraising benefiting an individual, not a project, may not be in compliance with maliwatch 501c status. He wondered how the purchase of a motorcycle can be justified since maliwatch does not have an active project with LKM. He pointed out that he supports the initiative and suggested the fundraising not be recorded through maliwatch.

Ablo: thinks Maliwatch Mali is trying to strengthen a partnership between Maliwatch and LKM. We are just using Maliwatch status to raise money to help, not taking money from Maliwatch. So long as we can establish a connection between Maliwatch for charitable actions.

Ibrahim said Maliwatch might not be a charitable organization; Harouna said it is, but he has to check.

Diola: Can Ablo make the amendment to check with the lawyer if we put it in the language.

Ablo expressed that where we need clarification is to check if Maliwatch is allowed to conduct charitable actions.

Harouna will check and send us an update.

**Motion by Ablo:** Let's set-up a fundraising initiative through Maliwatch to help Headmaster Sanogo purchase a motorcycle for resuming work at LKM. Implementation of this fundraising is contingent with the clearance by Maliwatch lawyer – the latter needs to determine whether MW can carry out charitable activities that are consistent with its mission.

Approved by Harouna, Diola, Ibou and Ablo

Aliou is disconnected: no he was still online (talking without being heard) expressing that we may voluntarily give something to help him, but not to raise money to buy a motorcycle.

#### **4.4. Board of Director Meeting**

Harouna suggests having the EC meeting on a monthly basis and EC/Board will meet on the quarterly basis.

Ibrahim: said he was thinking that only the president was going to meet with the board of directors.

Aliou: has expressed that the meetings be separated as previously thought and that monthly meeting requests should be sent to the EC if there is a subject to discuss and cancel these meetings if the need is not there.

Suggestion approved by all attendees (this is not a motion).

## **5. New Business**

Harouna: Let's move Maliwatch annual meeting to a different date other than Thanksgiving time. Ibrahim has suggested submitting three (3) different dates to Maliwatch list and waiting for feedback.

All attendees approved the idea.

## **6. Partnership with Jim Barry**

### **Mali High Schools Summer program partnership**

Harouna has contacted Jim to comment on what he is doing. He wants to get some proposals to Maliwatch so we can work together. Jim has sent a message for his budget for our information. We need to think about it for the future.

Ablo suggested letting Soungalo Diabate (Maliwatch Mali member) set-up a Maliwatch project which will be reviewed by Maliwatch EC and the Board. He wanted to make a comment on it so are Jim's activities with Maliwatch Mali, through MSAS. Ablo has added that Jim is giving cameras to students and teachers and he is creating links to a website he is building. Ten (10) schools are concerned so far inside Bamako and remote areas. He is working with Soungalo Diabate who is teaching in high schools in Mali. Jim is asking \$1500.00 for his travels and support for Soungalo Diabaté. Since Soungalo is part of Maliwatch, Ablo wants him to maybe introduce a project to Maliwatch in partnership with Jim instead of just giving money to Jim.

Attendees favored this recommendation, but Aliou asked to check if this is the same Soungalo who has created a new business with Jim and that there might be a conflict of interest. To that Ablo answered that it is the same Soungalo - however he has helped Jim for the training days during MSAS'08.

Aliou then asked to verify if his status of such closed private company allows Maliwatch to go for such partnership.

Ibrahim: said he agreed with Ablo – however, we will have to make sure that \$1500 is part of a project approved by Maliwatch.

Harouna: said these are all valuable comments and if there is no more comment, he will call Jim to ask him to use the form for this request.

## **7. MSAS discussions status**

Aliou – Meeting with MSAS EC and others is to be held on April 5<sup>th</sup>. Any relevant information needed by Maliwatch will be forwarded to the board after the MSAS meeting.

15 minutes are allocated to discuss the financial report (the only part which is directly connected to Maliwatch since MSAS' money is in Maliwatch's Bremer bank account).

## **8. Maliwatch Mali**

Lamine is disconnected. Harouna will ask Lamine to send his update via email. All attendees agreed.

## 9. Miscellaneous

Ibrahim suggests to:

- update Maliwatch's contact list (several mailing addresses are not correct).
- set-up a database to better manage all Maliwatch financial transactions contract (Ibrahim wants to discuss this with Djeneba and Amadou Wane).

Harouna informs that several new members have recently been registered and that a "biosketch" of them is to be submitted on Maliwatch mailing list in the upcoming weeks.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:45 PM EST.

Lamine Coulibaly – Report sent after the meeting

**From:** LAMINE COULIBALY [mailto:lcoulibaly@amadermali.net]

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 07, 2009 9:56 AM

**To:** Harouna Maiga; 'ablo doucoure'; 'Janet Goldner'; 'S. James Gates'; gatess@wam.umd.edu; bagayoko@aol.com; 'Djeneba Traore'

**Cc:** 'Abdoulaye Niang'; 'Aliou Haidara'; 'Fanta Ongoiba'; 'Ibrahim Hacko Yattara'

**Subject:** Re: MW Board of Directors first Quarterly meeting 2009

Bonjour tous,

Vous allez voir en pièce jointe, l'extrait bancaire du compte de MWM, de janvier 2008 à nos jours. Vous verrez que les 5 millions du Ministère et les 3 millions du Rectorat ont été effectivement versés dans le compte de MWM. Vous verrez aussi que les retraits ont été faites pour payer la nourriture de MSAS, le forum sur l'éducation et les différents frais de restauration de FAD. Il nous reste 3 145 531 FCFA.

Quant à nos activités, j'ai déjà fait un fait le détail que j'ai envoyé à tout le monde, depuis la mise en place de MWM à nos jours. Nos projets sont la mise en place des comités MW dans certains lycée tels que Kakou Moussa, Ibrahima LY, Zéïna, Nietaaso, Massa Makan DIABATE où déjà nous sommes connus à travers les sites Web, créés par Jim. Nous allons proposer un budget lors de la prochaine réunion de MWM.

L'autre projet, consistera à voir la possibilité d'équiper en solaire, un forage dans le Gourma. Pour cela, nous attendons le retour de Alfousséni MAIGA du CNESOLER des congés, pour choisir le forage et établir les coûts.

Bien de choses à vous tous,

Lamine