

Maliwatch (MW) Executive Committee Meeting 03/28/09

Minutes

Meeting started at 9:15 pacific time with technical problem with Skype.

Were present: Harouna, Aliou, Ibrahim, Fanta and Abdoul.

1. Meeting call to order - Harouna

Harouna has noted that all MW writing communications should be in English for compliance with 501 (c) (3) status.

Ibrahim made corrections to the minutes of February 28, 2008 by adding the amount of dollars of \$700.00 in the Bank of America to the total balance of MW account of \$11,919.00 in the Bremer Bank Account.

2. Secretary's Report and approval of February 28th, 2009 minutes - Abdoulaye

A motion was moved by Ibrahim and seconded by Fanta to approve the minutes with the amendment made by Ibrahim to the balance of MW account. Motion was approved by unanimous votes.

3. Treasurer's report – Ibrahim Hacko Yattara and approval

In 2009 there were payments for 10 members of which 7 for 2009 and 3 for 2008. Expenses were paid out in the amount of \$55.80 of which \$26.43 paid to Amadou Wane for MW web quarterly fee, \$21.00 for Bank check books, and \$8.45 for stamps. These transactions brought MW account balance to \$944.17 in the Bank of America Account. Harouna sent a check in the amount of \$5414.55 corresponding to the MW money in Bremer Bank of Crookston. Ibrahim will deposit this check into the Bank of America Account making a total of \$6358.72 in that account.

The board has decided to leave the MSAS money in Bremer Bank so that Harouna could finalize MSAS 2008 financial report and pay out expenses due. Harouna indicated that MSAS' money is: \$6505.06 in Bremer Bank.

Fanta, moved to adopt the treasurer's report; Aliou: seconded the motion. Motion was approved by unanimous votes.

Abdoulaye has brought to our attention the IRS tax form for 501c (3) status to avoid problems. Harouna has filled the form 990-N and sent it already.

4. Old business

a. **MW project application Form and Funding.** Members did not read the form; therefore, it was not discussed. Recommendation was made that everybody looks at the form and make comments via email by Saturday.

Ibrahim asked Harouna to send old meeting minutes to us before the next meeting.

b. **Partnership between MW and Dawn to Dusk Lions Club of Crookston** for the village and school of the village of Zakoire-Ansongo, Mali.

Committee thought this partnership is a good idea. Harouna has indicated that the project was approved in 2007 by the Lions to provide drinking and safe water to the school of Zakoire . The Lions Club has raised a good portion of the money and will continue to seek funding to complete this project and would not ask MW any money. However, the club would like all funds to be channeled through MW account and the project be labeled as MW- Lions Club partnership project. Fanta and Harouna have indicated that we need to make sure the project is in compliance with the conflict of interest policy signed by MW. Harouna has also indicated that a conflict of interest exists only if a member and /or family has financial gains in MW activities.

The partnership sought by the Lions club of Crookston wants the two organizations to work together on a project that meet their purposes. MW executive board has decided to continue reviewing this proposal.

c. **Future revision of MW by-Laws to broaden the executive committee**

We need to revise the bylaws to meet our goals. Revision was also requested at MW annual meeting of 2008 with the need to double the positions of treasurer and secretary. Changes are also necessary to review inconsistencies in the text. There is a committee to revise the bylaws and this issue may come up during the board meeting next Saturday.

Harouna has explained what the bylaws state that Board of directors meets every 3 months and the Executive Committee meets once a month.

5. New Business

1. Maliwatch Annual Meeting 2009 date:

Harouna has suggested changing the time (November) to the middle of the year, in June or July to avoid Thanksgiving holiday in America. He said the low attendance of MW members at the 2008 annual

meeting could be due to the holiday and the financial stress on every one. The members will think on how to move the date and the location of future meetings.

2. MSAS reports: According to Aliou, we have to wait for MSAS Executive Committee meeting before we speak about it.

Fanta: wants to make sure that we consider members' schedules to set MSAS future meetings.

Aliou: said we need to consider invitees' schedule when setting MSAS meeting dates

Other:

Harouna has indicated that Lamine Coulibaly and Bakary Sakho of MW-Mali have visited Mr. Sanogo, counselor of Lycee Kanku Moussa – who has been attacked and hurt by a group of gangs to wish him well and speedy recovery. Lamine has indicated in his email that Mr. SANOGO was very appreciative of the visit on the behalf of all MW members.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 AM pacific time