

## ICOLA Meeting Minutes February 17, 2016

Lake Associations and others present:

Jim Olijnek – Wabana  
Jan Bilden – Shallow  
Helen Albrecht – King  
Patty Gould St Aubin – Pokegama (ICOLA Treas)  
Steph Kessler – Johnson (ICOLA VP)  
Tom Nelson – Deer (ICOLA Pres)  
Robert Borash – RMB Labs  
Jeff Poenix – Private Consultant  
Catherine McLynn  
Don Simons – SWCD  
Paul Durkee – Shallow  
Barb and Tom Ryan – Suomi Area

Tom called the meeting to order at 7:03pm, with an established quorum.

Additions to agenda - motion by Patty Gould-St Aubin, Helen Albrecht to accept agenda, motion passed.

Secretary report - Approval of Oct 2015 meeting minutes, motion made by Barb Ryan, Tom Ryan to accept secretary report, passed as written.

Treasurers report given by Patty Gould-St Aubin - Balance as of July 15, 2015. Income for membership dues totaled \$637.00. Expenses for annual meeting and shoreland stewardship award totaled \$426.08. The County Fair returned our \$100 deposit for 2015. Balance as of February 16, 2016. Motion to approve report by Catherine McLynn, Jim Olijnek seconded; motion passed as presented.

### NEW BUSINESS

Bob Borash - RMB Lab

Company was developed in 1995 for lake associations that needed reasonable costs for lab work and had ownership in their water quality. Serves entire state of MN, plus ND and SD. They can handle any water quality concern because they do analytical testing, consulting services, biological monitoring, field monitoring, and aquatic vegetation surveying. State certified lab in Detroit Lakes and Grand Rapids . Need to have a purpose for your monitoring so you can use the data. Surface water monitoring is their niche. Baseline monitoring is the most economic, valuable way to determine your lake's water quality. RMB is doing a lakeshed study on 35 lakes in the County. Another almost 35 lakeshed studies coming this year and hope to be done by this summer. Lakes monitoring program costs \$210 per year per site. Very cost effective and valuable. RMB has CD of sample articles that lake associations can use in their newsletter, and these articles are easily readable by

lake residents, versus scientists. Grand Rapids lab business hours are 11-3:30. Phone: 322-2304. Email: [customerservicegr@rmbel.info](mailto:customerservicegr@rmbel.info).

If lakes have data that doesn't show up on the state's database, lake associations should send their data to RMB. This request could come from ICOLA. Any form would be acceptable, but electronic format is best for RMB. List of information needed by RMB will be used with ICOLA's request.

Jeff Poenix on environmental landscaping and buffers. Provided slides of samples of work done on lake shore and other areas. He talked about buffers being right at the water's edge, but it can be in the water too because aquatic vegetation breaks the power of the waves, protecting the shoreline and reducing erosion. Buffers work well on septic mounds to disguise the mound. Buffers are a good way to communicate and educate neighbors, rather than thinking the neighbors won't like it. Use it for a positive outcome. Think of your outdoor area as rooms with different places giving different uses: gardens, viewing areas, use areas, etc.

#### OLD BUSINESS

Rainy Lake Watershed Conference report. Itasca County has a big area in this watershed. The conference is in Int'l Falls this year in March.

Water Plan Implementation Committee - Itasca County Water Plan being updated right now. Emphasis is more on protection and looking at minor watersheds (smaller areas in our County). Public meetings will be held to gather input from citizens.

ICOLA Brochure update & tax inserts. We will continue to try to get this done. This is a big project and anyone can assist. Just contact an ICOLA member.

AIS Update (Bill G) - Bill is giving a report to County Commissioners on AIS. 9,800 inspections done this year. This year the violation rate was 9% versus 29% in 2014. This shows education is working! Completed a public water access/parking space numbers survey. DNR said we had 226 boat ramps with 590 parking spaces. After this survey, we gained 240 parking spaces and 7 accesses, so we hope the aid from the state will increase because of this. Tourism study done looked at people that drove more than 50 miles, and most were from Minneapolis area. This helps us focus advertising dollars in the right areas. CAP grant award \$37,542 in matching grants. Until June 30, 2016, there is \$38,000 left for project applications. Talk to Bill or Tom Nelson if you have questions or need help.

Calcium Testing CAP Grant - ICOLA might want to consider doing a project: RMB Lab AIS risk assessment on 50 lakes. Each lake gets a report card on the lake with high, medium, low risk for AIS. Cost is about \$150 per lake. Zebra mussels are impacted by the calcium content in lakes. Calcium tests are about \$50 per lake. Water can be collected any time of the year and could be collected by volunteers. Want to get this done in the next 3-4 weeks. Total cost of the grant is \$11,250 dollars. GIS map overlays would also be a deliverable from this project to show risk assessment on public use, connectivity, and infestation risk. ICOLA can contribute sweat equity. For example, each sample could be valued at \$25. Bill needs a commitment from ICOLA to work on this project. Motion to approve a risk

assessment and calcium testing CAP application concept made by Paul, seconded by Helen Albrecht. Discussion was asking if this was the first time it was brought to ICOLA, and also how much would be needed from lake associations (which is none besides labor values as a match). Bill will get the word out to the lake associations. Motion passed unanimously.

MNCOLA is doing a survey on what level of private funding has been spent on AIS to support continued legislative funding.

Barb Ryan made a motion to approve \$200 for the 2016 Envirothon. Seconded by Catherine McLynn. Passed unanimously.

Review work plan and accomplishment document - Table to the next meeting. It needs to be updated.

Around the Horn:

Deer Lake: nothing new

Johnson Lake: fish stocking by DNR this fall

GPLA: spawning bed; writing new mission statement; articles for Herald; new bylaws; new mission statement; more inspections; water trend study; water test kids; 37 new homeowners and sending them a book called "Voices of Pokegama". Regarding upcoming ordinances, GPLA wants to have restoration order be recorded on deeds so the new buyer will know what they will need to do. Anyone who gets a zoning permit should know property lines

King Lake: Working on broadband in the area. Non-motorized access on lake and snowmobilers are using access and getting tagged.

Suomi: Fishing contest at -21 below. New board members creating gadgets to hang on the dock to gather zebra mussels and have been passed out. Needs to be one foot above lake and in shade.

Sugar: Illegal public access appeared on South Sugar this summer. Agreement with County to remove list of this access in County.

Wabana: Differences in opinion of how and where to assess water quality.

Shallow: Concerns about abandonment of Line #3 on Enbridge property.

Next meeting April 20, 2016 at courthouse.

Meeting adjourned at 9:08pm.

Submitted by Stephanie Kessler, Vice President (since there was no Secretary attending)