

ICOLA Meeting Minutes
April 20, 2016

Members Present:

Steph Kessler	Johnson
Tom Nelson	Deer
Barb and Tom Ryan	Suomi
Don Simons	SWCD
Jack and Helen Adamson	Upper Prairie
Jan Bilden	Shallow/Sand
Jim Olijneto	Wabana
Helen Ahlbrecht	King
Harold Goetzman	Jesse

Additions to Agenda: none.

Secretary's Report: Jack, Helen A motion to approve minutes as written. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Absent so no report.

Membership with IWLP: Harold, Jim motion to renew IWLP membership at same level as last year. Motion passed.

Around the Horn:

- Deer: New grant for lake assessment. Upgraded their lake owners handbook (20 pg) mailed to all lake owners. This is on the Deer Lake website to download.
- Suomi: No mtg held for a while. New president Leroy Johnson seems strong on AIS. Hopeful for good AIS education. Promoting PVC pipe by docks for zebra mussels early detection. Hang 1' off bottom in shade of dock or under dock.
- SWCD: Sample seasoning wrapping up. Hiring 8 staff (interviews done) – 4 looking and control; 4 monitoring lakes. 4 are repeat employees. Bought some new equipment (2 trucks, 2 canoes, boat, etc) for control and monitoring as part of County AIS.
- Upper Prairie River: No much action. May mtg scheduled. August picnic.
- Shallow/Sand: A member is working on road salt and the impacts to water. 1 t salt = 5 gallons affected. Sand is applied on road around the lake. Will be discussed at upcoming board mtg. Talking about neonicitides and their impact of bees.
- Wabana: First board mtg middle of May. Plan for year: road cleanup, kickoff at Bluewater Camp, and more. Water testing still being decided on by board.
- King: Annual Mtg on Mem Wkend; hope for speakers. Trying to get broadband since it's coming to Balsam. SWCD monitoring results will be discussed at mtg. No AIS found so far. Final report coming out 2016 or 2017.
- Jesse: Doing roadside cleaning Friday, Board mtg on Saturday. Two mtgs per year (June and Sept). Water sampling: 18 consecutive years for monitoring, 5 times/summer. Working with SWCD staff to get old data usable for RMB. Trying the same PVC pipe early detection AIS method. Share the Lake Day this summer (Deer River Nursing Home) 25-30 people take a ride on pontoon.
- Johnson: AIS Grant for signage and literature due this May. Annual mtg in August. Most lakes have one annual meeting to invite lake owners, but some others have more (Wabana and Deer have a few activities, and a few lakes have a July 4 boat parade).

OLD BUSINESS

- **RMB Reports:** Lake Assessments are being done for several county lakes to assess chemical water quality. ICOLA website has a link to see if your lake is on their list to obtain a report. There are 30 lakes being done this year via BWSR grant. You are asked to double check for accuracy in the report and collect data that RMB is missing from MPCA or others.
- **AIS Risk Assessment CAP Grant:** RMB has received a grant to do AIS lake assessments. This started as a calcium test (Zebra Mussels likes calcium) and now has been expanded to an assessment for many AIS species. This will not cost ICOLA any funding; it's being done in-house by AIS program teaming different areas to get matches. You may be asked to get a water sample one time from your lake. ICOLA will let you know when you need to help with this water sample (probably in June).
- **ICOLA Water Subcommittee/ Water Symposium:** RMB is looking for lost data as soon as possible. Send it to RMB on a spreadsheet, but they will accept any form of data. RMB wondered if ICOLA wanted to host a spring symposium but WPIC and other orgs in the county will be doing this.
- **SWCD Funding:** SWCD has various programs with funding opportunities to enhance shoreland and install a buffer.
- **Firewise:** Free program to clean up brush and downed timber to enhance emergency crews. Crews can help elderly owners.
- **Native Plant Sale:** Order plants now for native plants via SWCD.
- **Shoreland Stewardship:** Andy, Tom and Steph will do this project again this year in time for the August County Fair.
- **SWCD AIS Report:** Control and Monitoring AIS Program with Chris Evans has been a great success and has big plans for this summer. Report of AIS lakes on SWCD website. It's a great way to see where the AIS is on your lake.
- **MN COLA AIS Spending Survey:** Report to Tom any private spending in AIS on lakes.
- **Comprehensive Report on County AISP:** Annual report to DNR and County on how AIS program has gone. Will be presented to the County Board this month. CAP grants were given to Wabana, Sand, Deer, Pokegama, Johnson, Sugar, and more for projects. Keep the applications coming in and use the funding.
- **Zoning Ordinance Hearings:** On hold for now. Maybe over the summer.

NEW BUSINESS

- **WPIC Water Plan Update:** The Plan update is going on right now. 45 days of public comment start soon. There will be a public mtg in Marcell on May 10 with results due in June. Plan will be revised and add AIS information. Focus on minor watersheds for assessments.
- **Deer/Pokegama Diagnostic Mitigation Grant:** Ideas for implementation are finally going to be done using a grant (\$64,000) into 3 sections for 24 miles of streams. Included is a geomorphology study on streams; water samples of streams for precise assessment; and funds used for remedial projects.
- **Question for discussion/interest: Should ICOLA be involved with the Sandpiper/Line 3 issue?:** Sandpiper goes around Itasca County so not a big issue for us, but it is a big issue for counties affected. There is great concern about this line. Does ICOLA want to

get involved in this issue? Line 3 goes down Highway 2 corridor and is a very old line that has been leaking for many years. Enbridge acknowledges these “anomalies” but we do not know the extent. Enbridge wants to move it to their “preferred” route with Sandpiper but leave the old line in the ground, along with the pollution. Enbridge is redoing their EIS since the first one was rejected as insufficient. Discussion followed about taking a position. Some members favored it and others opposed it. ICOLA represents a large group of people but very few members would vote on it since so few members are present to discuss this contentious issues. We would want more information before we take any action. Bring it up again in June meeting to see how members present feel about it.

- State of Waters Conference Report: In Alexandria, MN put on by Freshwater Society and UM Extension. Many agency presenters; few lake association speakers. Dayton gave keynote. Good place to share notes and meet others around MN facing same issues and learn new research, etc. AIS conference in Oct in St Cloud that will focus on AIS only.
- Extension Programs of AIS “Detector and Tracker”: New programs to come to lake associations and train citizens on how to detect plants and AIS. Then if you find something, track the progress. This is available to any lake association in the county.
- Mailing list provided to notifying agencies: Tom gets calls from County Env Services, SWCD and DNR who want the latest contact info for ICOLA’s lake association Executive Committee members (Pres of lake associations especially). Tom would like to submit lake association officers’ information to these agencies so we can be notified and updated with relevant information about water-related issues. This does *not* include the entire email list of over 100 regular members. Jack, Jan motion made to allow Tom to provide the executive officers, especially Presidents and Vice-Presidents (name, email, and phone numbers of officers) to these three agencies. Motion passed.
- Fair Booth Reservation: Information received for 2016. Sharing with IWLP and AIS County program. We are inside Commercial Bldg again this year. Barb, Jack motion made to pay *up to* \$200 for the fee for the 2016 fair booth and share amounts with booth partners. Motion passed.
- IWLP Youth Summit: On May24, 2016. If you want to volunteer, contact IWLP. We do need volunteers for this day-long event. Some members are already committed.
- Earthday Participation: Saturday boat wash and other community events going on. ICOLA will be there 10am-4pm via Bill Grantges and the decontamination unit. Jesse Lake doing road-side cleaning on Earth Day.
- Annual Mtg Planning: July 20, 2016 in Marcell Town Hall. Nomination committee needed for Treasurer and Secretary this year. Tom suggested that all present at the meeting serve on the nomination committee by thinking about someone to suggest.
- ICOLA Brochure Update: Needs AIS section, updated contact info, septic, regulations, etc. Steph asked all members to take an old brochure and make changes to it on your own and give it to a subcommittee. Specific format will be determined. Maybe a booklet should be made and keep it in both paper and electronic format. Cost will determine this factor.
- Accomplishments and Goals for 2016: Need to update this report for this past year to include all things we’ve done in 2015. 2016 goals were discussed and the executive officers will bring the new 2016 goals for adoption at the next meeting. It was suggested that Action Steps be included with the Goals.

- 2016 proposed goals:
 - Increase involvement and improve communication with more lake associations and the general public.
 - Work to prevent the introduction and limit the spread of AIS.
 - Continue collaboration with Itasca Water Legacy Partnership (IWLP).
 - Support education and implementation of improved shoreland management.
 - Participate in County Ordinance review and Water Plan update to ensure protection of water quality and shoreland.
 - Support and participate in research studies and “citizen science” projects.
 - Support and promote the expansion of the lake participation in the Lake Assessment Program funded by RMB.

NEXT MTG: JUNE 15 at Courthouse