

ITASCA COALITION OF LAKE ASSOCIATIONS

June 21, 2017

Itasca County Courthouse

Tom Nelson	ICOLA President/Deer Lake Assn.
Patty Gould St. Aubin	ICOLA Treasurer/Greater Pokegama Lake Assn.
Catherine McLynn	ICOLA Secretary/Grand Rapids city lakes
Stephen Long	Turtle Lake
Cece Reidman	Turtle Lake/IWLP
Doug Griffin	Wabana Chain of Lakes
Harold Goetzman	Jessie Lake
LeRoy Johnson	Suomi Area Lakes
Tim Scherkenbach	Shallow-Sand Lake Assn.
Helen and Jack Adamson	Upper Prairie River Lakes Assn.
Jim and Michelle Brauner	Turtle Lake Assn.
Bill Grantges	SWCD/AIS/ Sisseebakwet Lake Assn
Andy Arens	SWCD
Don Simons	SWCD

CALL TO ORDER and INTRODUCTIONS: President Tom Nelson called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm at the Courthouse. A quorum was present with 9 out of 18 paid member lake associations being represented.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: H. Goetzman/LeRoy Johnson MCU

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of April 19, 2017 were approved. Jim Brauner/Michelle Brauner MCU

TREASURER'S REPORT: Patty Gould St. Aubin reported balance of \$2,423.77 as of June 21, 2017 having paid \$200 for Fair Booth. Bill moved that the check be voided and a new one issued to SWCD to reimburse the account from which the booth rental was paid. Bill Grantges/Jack Adamson MCU.

The treasurer's report was accepted. Jack Adamson/Michelle Brauner MCU

AROUND THE HORN

Deer Lake: Tom Nelson reported that incoming president John Davis has plans to raise funds to implement the lake management plan and recommendations from diagnostic study. Annual meeting is Sat. July 8 and Frolic is Tues. Aug. 15 plus many other activities.

Turtle Lake: Jim and Michelle Brauner reported that their annual meeting is Sat. June 24 at Marcell Community Center beginning at 9 am to noon lunch. They have a 4th of July parade and dock donations to be picked up for Bigfork food shelf.

Jessie Lake: Harold Goetzman reported Big Jessie will hold boat parade on Sat. July 1 and Little Jessie on 4th of July. Share the Lake day is on July 8, picnic July 15 and annual meeting is Labor Day weekend. Harold is working with RMB and SWCD to get all the water quality data into the MPCA files. He has been doing an outstanding job on the newsletter for 20 years!

Siseebakwet: Bill Grantges reported spring annual meeting was held, new newsletter editor, and dam weir funds are being sought.

Wabana: Doug Griffin reported social event at Camp Bluewater was well attended by about 60 members. Newsletter and survey provided opportunity for feedback from members. They indicated appreciation for the work that is being done. June 21 Solstice event is at late Bill Downing's cabin tonight!

Shallow-Sand: Tim Scherkenbach reported that they had a fishing contest, 4th of July parade coming up, AIS inspections, and annual meeting will be in August. They are working hard to invite/encourage members by personal invitation. They have specific concerns including the pipeline, road salt and mosquito control.

Suomi Area Lakes Assn: LeRoy Johnson reported they held their road clean up. Picnic on Sandy Beach is Sat. July 1 and annual meeting is Labor Day Saturday. They paid for porta-potty on Little Bowstring.

Greater Pokegama Lake Assn: Patty Gould reported that a \$750 scholarship was awarded to an ICC student in Natural Resources field. They hosted a presentation by the US Army Corp of Engineers at Timberlake Lodge attended by over 200 individuals. General comments reflected disappointment with lack of effective and timely action by USACE regarding fluctuating lake levels. There are three fishing tournaments, 4th of July fireworks, issues with Harris Township expanding commercial district, and concerns about houseboats being lived in moored to private docks for pay. MN Dept of Health and Revenue have been contacted.

Upper Prairie River Lakes Assn: Helen and Jack Adamson reported annual picnic will be second weekend in August.

Crystal Lake: Catherine McLynn reported that the lake is the site of the very successful Youth Water Summit in cooperation with the city. She is working with the city public works department to stop one individual homeowner from mowing and weed whipping the public lakeshore down to and into the water.

SWCD: Andy Arens reported that they finished an extensive study of watersheds as follow up to the Deer/Pokegama diagnostic study. The report is online. Nutrient loading is the result of natural plant decomposition. There is an erosion site on Smith Creek that flows into Pokegama. The area near the causeway continues to contribute major storm water runoff.

Chlorides in the lakes come from road salt and water softeners. SWCD and WPIC are looking at how to get baseline data on lakes. It was recommended that lake association add chloride tests to water quality testing.

MNCOLA: Tom Nelson reported that major concerns on the state level are AIS starry stonewort and zebra mussels.

AIS Coordinator Bill Grantges reported that there are now 16 new AIS detectors who will be able to identify and report AIS on their own lakes: Turtle, White Swan, Grave, Siseebakwet, Sand/Shallow to name a few.

Reminder that Starry Trek is Aug. 5 when there will be a statewide search for starry stonewort in "bloom." Meet in county parking lot at 8:30 am to get instructions and head out to lakes.

There is one more level 1 inspector training program this Mon, June 26 in Breezy Point. Itasca County has 30 inspectors on duty. Zebra mussels and starry stonewort have been found BELOW Winnie Dam so they will eventually make their way to Itasca County. We need to keep working to find solutions to deter and/or eliminate AIS!

There are Community Action Project Grants available to LA's. Contact Bill if you have ideas for an AIS prevention project and need money.

OLD BUSINESS

Taking Care of our Waters brochures were distributed and encouraged to get out along with an AIS brochure that can be ordered from DNR. Bill and Tom and Patty will continue to work on developing a new ICOLA brochure with AIS info included.

NEW BUSINESS

How can ICOLA be more visible and helpful to Lake Associations?

ICOLA has currently 140 contact names and it was agreed that all should receive the minutes and any updates. LA contacts should be encouraged to send out the minutes to all members and/or condense it into relevant, concise timely information.

Currently the minutes are posted on the ICOLA website.

Updated list of contact names for each LA is extremely important!

ICOLA treasurer sends request for dues to Treasurer and President to be sure it is received and action taken.

AIS prevention requires boots on the ground via vigilant Lake Association members.

OFFICER NOMINATIONS

All ICOLA members are invited to nominate themselves or invite others to serve as President or Vice President of ICOLA.

ICOLA is a very important organization and good leadership is vital to protecting our water quality, our quality of life and economic prosperity. Elections of new officers will take place at the July meeting at which time both Tom and Stephanie will step down.

Patty Gould is willing to serve as President. If elected, someone will have to step up to fill her term as Treasurer for another year.

SHORELAND STEWARDSHIP AWARDS

Motion was made to allocate up to \$300 for Shoreland Stewardship awards. Bill G/Doug G. MCU

ANNUAL MEETING

Potluck July 19 at 5:30 pm at Marcell Town Hall. Brats and brew (pop and water) provided by ICOLA.

Tom will grill. Motion was made to authorize purchase of food up to \$100. LeRoy Johnson/Bill Grantges MCU

FAIR BOOTH WED. AUG. 16-20

Please volunteer for a 2-4-hour shift by email or on sign-up sheet at annual meeting. THANK YOU!

Meeting adjourned at 9:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Catherine McLynn, Secretary