

ITASCA COALITION OF LAKE ASSOCIATIONS QUARTERLY MEETING

October 21, 2015
Itasca County Courthouse

Tom Nelson, ICOLA President/Deer Lake
Stephanie Kessler, ICOLA Vice-president/Johnson Lake Association
Patty Gould St. Aubin, Treasurer/Greater Pokegama Lake Association
Jan Sandberg, ICOLA Secretary/Greater Pokegama Lake Association

Catherine McLynn, Crystal Lake
Dick Sandberg, Greater Pokegama Lake Association
Harold Goetzman, Jessie Lake Watershed
Helen Ahlbrecht, King Lake
Tom and Barb Ryan, Suomi Area Lakes
Helen and Jack Adamson, Upper Prairie Lake Association
Doug Griffin, Wabana Lake
Bill Grantges, Itasca County AIS Coordinator/Siseebakwet Lake

CALL TO ORDER: President Tom Nelson called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm at the courthouse. A quorum was present with six of 13 members being represented. (A quorum is 20 percent of the members).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was distributed at the meeting and approved by consensus. *Stephanie Kessler/Jack Adamson M/S/U*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of July 15, 2015 were briefly discussed. They had been posted on the website for several months. A copy was available at the meeting. *Motion to approve as presented. Patty Gould St. Aubin/Jack Adamson M/S/U*

Tom reviewed some bad emails and attendees from the July meeting. The membership lists are being updated and there have been a number of changes.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Membership: Patty reviewed the member list—several long-time members are in process. Current members include: Deer, GPLA, Eagle, Horseshoe/Mike, Jessie, Johnson, King, Snaptail, Sisibakwet, Three Island, Turtle, Wabana, and White Swan. Suomi Area and Upper Prairie are in process.

Suggested pursuing the Grand Rapids folks to join. Bill suggested focusing on the larger (1000 acres+) for membership.

Financials: Patty reported that the balance on July 13 was \$2,685.25. She wrote three checks (annual meeting expenses and framing for the shoreland award) totaling \$414.08. No bill yet for Scenic Range News. There were deposits of \$444.50. The new balance as of a few days before the meeting is \$2,715.67.

Motion to accept treasurer's report. Stephanie Kessler, Harold Goetzman. M/S/U

OLD BUSINESS

AIS Coordinator Report: Bill Grantges

Bill distributed three attachments: #1 Quarterly Report; #2 CAP Budget Report; and #3 Watercraft Inspection Program Hours. DNR is doing treatment programs on Dora and Christmas lakes—only for lakes where AIS is detected very early. Heavily infested lakes are not candidates. Success requires a citizen-based early detection program. Similar programs in other counties rely heavily on lake associations. Question: Is there something that ICOLA can do to increase membership in the next few months for education focused on AIS. One idea is to build zebra mussel traps but these must be properly placed. Tom noted that there are the lake detection books that Julie and Mary developed but using them requires training. Harold described his activity after training—informed lake association members that he would help identify as needed. *Bill will work with Exec Committee to increase membership and participation.*

Bill reviewed Attachment #1. **Prevention:** The program will exceed 8,000 inspections this year, over 6,400 hours. There have been three zebra mussel finds, all on the Sherry Arm landing at Pokegama--the last two were trailers.

Question: if state will not continue to fund AIS education, could there be a charge for those parking at landings and launching boats—discussion followed.

Early detection: discussed use of AIS dollars for Extension. Should funding go to an Extension position or to contract for hours as needed (after determining how many people need to be trained).

Control & Monitoring: SWCD expanded purple loosestrife program to other AIS. There is a summary report available from SWCD (NOTE: by the next meeting there may be a link from the SWCD website to the report.)

CAP grants: Bill provided information and encouragement to participate in a Citizen Action Project that ICOLA works with. There is plenty of money there. Donations for additional inspection hours go to IWLP and are then matched with funds from the county for CAP grants. Those CAP grants need to come in early. But there are many other opportunities including signage, construct and monitor zebra mussel traps; AIS materials for new neighbors, build and monitor compost bins for bait at landings, funds to treat existing infestations such as purple loosestrife, sensors to count traffic. Bill has many other ideas. See Attachment #2 for financials.

Communications & awareness: some confusion concerning overlap with Extension's work that should not be a problem from now on.

Database and Website: little done to date.

Questioner noted that their landing needs signage to illustrate the consequences of AIS. Bill will discuss with him. Tom noted that there has been purple loosestrife on Deer for years and glad that it is being addressed. Concern about stary stonewort on Lake Coronis. The funding for AIS is still very political, this year some in Legislature tried to cut funding and give it to DNR. Concern that supplemental hours can be counterproductive and too protective of a few areas. Tom suggests is that the supplemental hours should be required in part to be used for other lakes. Noted that there are some concerns about some of the county's spending.

Shoreland Stewardship Award 2015

Terry Schaedig is no longer with SWCD. Attachment #4 (put together after this meeting) summarizes this year's winners. Tom distributed a handout (Attachment #5) on the types of projects that can be done.

Other

RMB Labs is close to final certification and Tom circulated some info about them.

SWCD Board is up for election, several present discussed running next year. Districts 1, 2 and 3 are up.

Update on Itasca County Comprehensive Land Use Plan and Zoning Ordinance revision scheduling

Comp Plan update is needed again, scheduled for early December. Ordinances might start in early March. This is an opportunity for ICOLA members to be involved.

County Fair Booth assessment

Tom thinks that SWCD might want to be with us in a third spot. Location was great but lacked volunteers.

Discussion about multiple booths and ability to staff. What is the definition of a booth—just handouts, or engaging people in conversation. *This will be an item for discussion in February.*

NEW BUSINESS

Rainy Lake Watershed conference report

Conference about working across border, covers most of the northern part of the county, more focus on water clarity, less on AIS for now.

ICOLA Brochure

Tom circulated some of the materials from the Rainy Lake conference that might be useful in revising the existing brochure. Need to gather info from other lake associations and develop a list of places to leave brochures. Contact Tom if interested in working on this—the committee so far is Steph, Patty, and Bill.

Updates and Re-ups with partner organizations: IWLP, MLRA, MN COLA

MLRA and MN-COLA were authorized for payment in June 2015.

Review of our work-plan and accomplishment document:

<http://www.itascacola.org/content/goals-and-accomplishments>

Postpone to February 2016—see Attachment #6.

MEMBER REPORTS

Deer Lake Association

Things are slow.

Greater Pokegama Lake Association

Meeting coming up. Walleye spawning project set for Smith Creek.

Jessie Lake Watershed Association

Annual meeting Labor Day weekend, small crowd, election of same officers plus one new Board member.

Johnson Lake

CAP grant, otherwise slow

King Lake

Meeting with a local business about use of their access. Bill suggested working on a CAP grant to address this issue.

Siseebakwet

Elected new officers, same as old, big doings is design for a terraced weir replacement using huge buried boulders. May not get done this winter.

Wabana Chain of Lakes Association includes Bluewater

Have little over 200 properties with 100 members and working to increase membership. Have done water quality testing for years, but no analysis. This may be a focus for now.

Suomi Lakes

New president and a few new members.

Upper Prairie

Pretty quiet.

Next meeting is February 17, 2016 at the Courthouse.

Jan agreed to get rooms for the non-annual meeting locations. Meetings for 2016 are: February 17, April 20, June 15, July 20 (annual meeting). October 19. Those meetings are confirmed for the Courthouse Boardroom.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Sandberg, Secretary

ATTACHMENT #1

Itasca County Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator Quarterly Report

To the Itasca Collation of Lake Associations

October 21, 2015

Itasca County AIS Plan Accomplishments 7/16/15 – 10/19/15

Prevention:

- Over 7,840 watercraft inspections completed as of 10/10/15. Trends still pointing to a 20% +- violation rate. This rate is high, but has improved by 9 percentage points from the 2014 season (1,600 inspections in 22 weeks). 6,357 hours of inspection and decontamination time have been logged this season as of 10/10.
- Zebra mussels found on bunk trailers on August 7 and August 8th at Sherry's Arm landing, Pokegama Lake. I am working with Pokegama Lake Association on methods to improve AIS detection and prevention for that lake.
- Two Level 1 and two Level 2 inspectors on payroll. Inspection season extended through all October on Friday-Sunday in response to heavier than expected traffic.
- Mobile Thermal AIS Decontamination Unit in service since June 24. Unit has been very well received by the public. The last 4 weekends, the decon unit has seen near constant use while stationed on Sand lake.
- "Let's Go Fishing", Duluth Bass Group and "GRAHA Walleye Shootout" fishing tournaments received complete inspection coverage including 5 days of pre-fishing inspections in July. A strong partnership has been formed with GRAHA Walleye Shootout organizers and event participants.

Early Detection:

- Julie Miedtke and Mary Blickenderfer both retired suddenly leaving this Priority area without any staff.
- AIS Facebook page responsibility take over by AIS Coordinator.
- AIS Technical Committee has made a recommendation to the Itasca County Commissioners to not fund a full time Extension position. *"It is the recommendation of the AIS Technical Committee that Itasca County not spend State of Minnesota AIS funds on a full-time University of Minnesota Extension AIS position. Since April 2014, the combination of Itasca Soil and Water Conservation District, Itasca Water Legacy Partnership, Itasca County and the Itasca Coalition of Lake Associations used State of Minnesota AIS funds to implement a successful AIS program. Any training needs would be contracted through one of several agencies, including the University of Minnesota Extension."*

Control & Monitoring:

- AIS Crew of 4 lead by Chris Evans has completed their work for 2015.
- 47 Lake Surveys completed where AIS were found.
- 49 Lake Surveys completed where no AIS were found.
- Zebra mussel traps placed in 21 locations County wide.
- Purple Loosestrife control program had a successful year with 45,159 beetles collected and released. 28 Hwy sites also treated.
- Chris Evans took on Early Detection and Rapid Response duties. Chris did an excellent job, earning praise from DNR Specialist Rich Rezanka.

Community Action Projects (CAP:

- 6 grants completed with a total of \$13,793 awarded in matching funds since July 15.
- 3 grants in process.

Communications & Awareness:

- AIS Watercraft inspectors and SWCD AIS Field Crew participated in the Tall Timber Days parade with 2 trucks. The AIS Decon Unit made a big “splash” and was extremely popular. SWCD participated with their AIS truck towing an SWCD boat with a canoe on top of the truck. This was a very good showing and great PR for the Itasca AIS Program and we should plan to participate every year.
- The Itasca County Fair was a great success. Despite the Fair closing early on 3 of the 5 days due to bad weather, 1,514 people listened to conversations about AIS and how to prevent its spread.
- Presentations on AIS given to Grand Rapids Morning and Lunch Rotary Groups, Johnson Lake Association and the Trout Lake Association.
- The fieldwork for the ISD 318 Zebra mussel density study on Sand Lake was completed on September 10th. I have partnered with Grand Rapids High School IB Biology program. I am bringing all the Zebra mussel traps from the density study on Sand Lake, with Zebra mussels intact, to the High School Biology lab where the advance biology students, for each of the 40 plates, will count and log the Zebra mussels found. Shelly Lindstrom and I are working together to develop addition AIS fieldwork opportunities for the high school.

Database & Website:

- Work on adding AIS information to County website progressing very slowly.

Respectfully submitted: Bill Grantges, Itasca County AIS Coordinator, Itasca Water Legacy Partnership.

ATTACHMENT #2

Itasca County AIS Program
Community Action Projects (CAP)
Budget Report by AIS Coordinator
October 21, 2015

	July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015	July 1, 2015 to October-15	Estimate November-15	Estimate December-15	July 1, 2014 to December 31, 2015 Total
<u>Revenues</u>					
Itasca County	20,000.00	28,179.00			48,179.00
<u>Total</u>	20,000.00	28,179.00	-	-	48,179.00
<u>Expenses</u>					
					-
Dixon Lake Association	5,000.00				5,000.00
Sand Lake Association	755.00	1,500.00			2,255.00
Grand Rapids Marine	2,838.00				2,838.00
Pokegama Lake Association		1,000.00			1,000.00
Wabana Chain of Lakes		1,500.00			1,500.00
Siseebakwet Lake Association		1,200.00			1,200.00
<u>Total Completed & Paid</u>	8,593.00	5,200.00	-	-	13,793.00
T&M Marine	5,000.00				5,000.00
Bowstring Shores Resort	1,749.50				1,749.50
Johnson Lake		1,000.00			1,000.00
<u>Total Not Completed</u>	6,749.50	1,000.00	-	-	7,749.50
Other CAP Grants			2,000.00	2,000.00	4,000.00
<u>Total Expenses</u>	15,342.50	6,200.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	25,542.50
Cash Balance at Month End	4,657.50	26,636.50	24,636.50	22,636.50	22,636.50

ATTACHMENT #3

Itasca County AIS Watercraft Inspection Program Prevention Priority Area Baseline and Actual Hours Spent 2015 Season to October 10

Total Actual Hours - May 1 to 10/10/15

<u>Priority</u>	Bowstring	91.5
	Deer	719.8
	Kings	295.5
	LaPlant	8.0
	Mishawaka	367.5
	Sherry	550.0
	Tioga	1,119.8
	Pokegama	2,340.8
	Splithand	181.5
	Swan	278.3
	Trout (Coleraine)	785.0
	Wabana SE	679.0
	Wabana NW	621.0
	Wabana	1,300.0
<u>Total</u>		<u>5,696.8</u>

<u>Other</u>	Bass	6.0
	Black Water	20.5
	Northstar	9.0
	Sand	228.5
	Siseebakwet	119.3
	Turtle	18.0
	1k Lakes	51.0
	Training	123.8
	County Fair	45.0
	Parade	21.0
	Office	69.0
<u>Total</u>		<u>711.0</u>

Total hours (Priority + Other) 6,407.8

Baseline and Adjusted Hours

Priority Lakes	# of Landings	Baseline Hours	DNR Hours	CAP Hours	Adjusted Hours	Actual Hours	Hours Above Adjusted
Bowstring	3.0	1,020.3	250.0		770.3	91.5	-
Deer	1.0	340.1			340.1	719.8	379.7
Pokegama	7.0	2,380.7	250.0	100.0	2,230.7	2,340.8	110.1
Splithand	1.0	340.1			340.1	181.5	-
Swan	1.0	340.1			340.1	278.3	-
Trout	3.0	1,020.3	250.0		770.3	785.0	14.7
Wabana	2.0	680.2		275.0	955.2	1,300.0	344.8
Other	2.7	918.3			918.3	711.0	-
	20.7	7,040.0	750.0		5,746.7	5,696.8	849.2

CAP Grant Lakes (Other, not Priority Lakes)

Sand		150.0	150.0	228.5	78.5
Siseebakwet		120.0	120.0	119.3	0.0

Total Actual Hours	6,407.8
Total hours budgeted	7,040.0
Baseline hours per landing	340.1
Percentage of budgeted hours allotted for "Other"	15.0

Other = Non Priority lake hours.

Baseline hours per landing = (Total hours budgeted) divided by (Total number of landings)

Baseline hours per lake = (Baseline per landing) multiplied by (the number of landings on that lake)

DNR Hours are those provided by an IWLP grant "Watercraft Inspections by DNR Staff". This grant awarded 750 hours of DNR Staff Watercraft Inspection time split between Bowstring, Pokegama and Trout lakes. IWLP will be billed by the DNR at a rate of \$8/hour for a total of \$6,000

CAP Hours are Itasca County AIS Watercraft Inspection hours that resulted from a CAP grant award. Lake Associations applied for matching fund dollars to fund supplemental inspection hours from Itasca county AIS inspectors at their lakes public water access.

Actual hours worked differs from adjusted hours because of access traffic. Inspectors typically are not sent to lakes with no traffic if traffic exists on other lakes. Some supplemental inspection hours were applied to lakes before CAP grant approval in anticipation of that grant being approved.

2015 Shoreland Stewardship Awards

Andy Arens from Itasca SWCD provided some description of the three award winning properties.

Mary Jo Gibbons, Bass Lake (Cohasset):

I visited Mary Jo's site spring 2014. She was looking for recommendations to better protect her shoreline against wave erosion. I recommended bio shore stab (such as willow waddles), and shrub planting on the bank for added deeper woody roots. I thought the project would rank well for cost share assistance, so I made her aware of this, which she wanted to proceed with. The board approved her cost share application in June 2014, Mary received a quote from and committed to contractor Prairie Restorations-Boreal Natives in June, and construction was planned for spring 2015. Prairie restorations installed the project in April 2015. Total project cost was \$3,450.00, and was cost shared at a rate of 35%; landowner cost was \$2,242.00. 135ft of shoreline was protected.



Gibbons post-construction



Gibbons August 2015

ATTACHMENT #4

Steve Zorich, Amen Lake:

Earlier this spring the only project I had in mind for the award was Mary Jo Gibbons. Jeff Poenix has been a good resource for some of the smaller shoreland projects I've been working on, because sometimes he's the only contractor interested. I knew he had been doing some projects that I hadn't seen, designed, cost shared, etc, so I made him aware of the award program and asked if he had any that might be a good fit. He showed me three projects, two of which will be better suited next year once they develop a bit more, and therefore will showcase better. Steve Zorich was the third property he showed

me. Most notable projects include a native wildflower and grass seeding on the septic mound, pollinator seeding adjacent back of house, longer length maintained clover lawn, and no-mow shore buffer w/ screening of structures maintained (both natural and a seeded areas of shore buffer). Two additional noteworthy projects include native wildflower landscaping near the structures, and desirable native tree species release and pruning.



ATTACHMENT #4



Peter and Terri Houdek, Moose Lake (N of Deer Lake):

I visited the site in mid April this spring. Had a bad ice push this past winter. They wanted to flatten the berm and protect the shoreline. We discussed well designed rock rip-rap for ice protection, but I encouraged a bio barrier (such as willow waddles) and buffer to protect the shore from the more consistent wave erosion. By the end of April they had received a free permit from the county, flattened the berm by pulling the soil landward, self installed 40ft of willow waddles, seeded the bank to wildflowers, and seeded the lawn area adjacent to native

fescues (including planting/stabilization blanket over the fescue seeding); all without cost share assistance. I unfortunately don't yet have a before picture, which Terri is going to e-mail me, but attached is a picture I took Monday of this week.

Award Ceremony

The Shoreland Awards were discussed and awarded at a County Board meeting in September.



Funding Available for Shoreland Conservation Practices

Through the Itasca County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD)

Eligible Project Examples:

- **Native shoreline stabilization planting, which can include a Biological bank barrier.**

Red osier dogwood live stake plantings, in corn husk filled burlap blocks staked into lake bottom ("bio D-blocks").



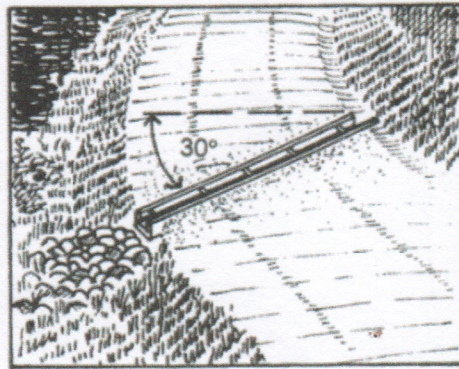
- **Native riparian buffer establishment**
(maintained un-mowed).

Near lake/river/stream storm-water management practices:

- **Vegetated channels w/ rock check dams** (slows water & allows soil sediment to settle)



- **Road-way water diversions.**



- **Catches such as rain-gardens**
 - Other exs: gutter down-spout & drip-line catches/plantings.



- Other practices that prevent erosion and soil sediment transport into natural waters may be eligible.

For more information:

Andy Arens-Forestry/Shoreland Specialist, Itasca County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)
1889 E Hwy 2-Grand Rapids, Mn 55744 /218-326-0017 /andy.arens@itascaswcd.org /www.itascaswcd.org

ITASCA COALITION OF LAKE ASSOCIATIONS

2014 Accomplishments & 2015 Goals

2014 Goals (in bold) with Accomplishments listed below:

1. Increase involvement and improve communication with more lake associations.

1. Distributed 2012-13 goals and accomplishments to all lake associations to share with members.
2. Shared area lake association newsletters submitted to ICOLA to other member associations, including posting on ICOLA website.
3. At every ICOLA meeting, lake association members exchanged reports on activities and accomplishments. Some examples are: prevention of Aquatic Invasive Species, increased inspections and enforcement at accesses, identification and eradication of AIS, Firewise, loon counts, boat parades, potlucks, partnering with Let's Go Fishing with Seniors, Share the Lake day, shoreland restoration to reduce sediment erosion, reviewing and providing input to DNR on slot limits, coordination with townships and fire department to install water storage tanks for increased fire protection, efforts to resolve flooding and shoreland erosion problems due to high water.

2. Support ongoing diagnostic studies and expansion of those studies to additional lakes.

1. ICOLA solicited volunteers for the Deer-Pokegama Study in 2012, supported the report rollout in 2013 and provided information about the project at meetings.
2. Participated in a meeting for the Watershed Restoration And Protection (WRAP) study by the Minnesota PCA and partners including SWCD to study the health of the Mississippi River Headwaters watershed.

3. Support education and implementation of improved shoreland management.

1. Assessed nominees and presented Shoreland Stewardship Awards to selected property owners who were examples of outstanding shoreland management practices.
2. Continued support for Extension Educator Mary Blickenderfer shoreland education and improvement projects.
3. Provided funds for the SWCD Envirothon, an educational event for youth to learn about environmental stewardship.
4. Annual meeting featured DNR research scientist Paul Radomski who presented the results of the County-DNR project to identify sensitive shoreline on three large lakes: Turtle, Bass (by Cohasset) and Sand.
5. Supported Jessie Lake Association project on Tilly's Creek.

4. Promote education about Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) and activities to prevent the spread of AIS.

1. Worked with the statewide COLA Collaborative to successfully get legislation enacted and funding appropriated to prevent the spread of AIS.

ATTACHMENT #6

2. Sponsored a joint meeting of IWLP and ICOLA and County Commissioners and staff in response to legislation granting funds to Itasca County to prevent the introduction and limit the spread of AIS.
 3. Participated in numerous meetings to draft an immediate plan of action including offering input on County policy and cooperative agreements to allocate funds immediately to increase summer AIS inspections at public accesses.
 4. Continued in the fall to draft a Strategic Plan for 2015 to use the funds in priority areas: Prevention, Early Detection, Rapid Response, Control, Monitoring and Research, Community Action Projects, Communication and Awareness, and County database and website.
 5. Continued AIS table tent and posters distribution urging awareness of AIS and the law to “pull the plug!”
 6. Working with IWLP, staffed the 2013 and 2014 county fair booth in a highly visible central location, attracted fairgoers with Wheel of Invasives in 2014, and distributed AIS ID/awareness materials.
- 5. Continue collaboration with Itasca Water Legacy Partnership (IWLP)**
1. Successfully collaborated with IWLP to host Youth Water Summit, May 2014.
 2. ICOLA Board Members continue to serve on the IWLP Board.
 3. Partnered with IWLP to host meetings with County and participated in public information sessions on AIS funds available and the need for urgent action.
 4. Continued support of water testing and laboratory at Itasca Community College.
- 6. Participate in County Comprehensive Plan and Water Plan revisions and any zoning changes.**
1. Encouraged members to be involved in ordinance review when it begins in 2015.

2015 Goals:

1. Work to prevent the introduction and limit the spread of AIS.
2. Continue collaboration with Itasca Water Legacy Partnership (IWLP).
3. Increase involvement and improve communication with more lake associations.
4. Support education and implementation of improved shoreland management.
5. Participate in County ordinance review to ensure protection of water quality and shoreland.
6. Support and participate in research studies and “citizen science” projects.

ATTACHMENT #6