

ICOLA February 17, 2021 Membership Meeting
“Around the Horn”

Turtle Lake Association- <https://turtlelakeassociation.org/>

In 2020, Turtle Lake (TLA) limited some in-person activities due to Covid-19, but several members of the board remained surprisingly busy on behalf of the association.

- TLA’s annual meeting was held via Zoom with a limited agenda.
- Water level associated with beaver dam and related human activity occupied the board in the early summer.
- AIS work continued despite social-distancing limitations with a well-received citizen monitoring program, Eyes on the Lake.

In 2021, the TLA Board plans to resume near-normal activities and engagement:

- The board is working on a full agenda for TLA’s annual meeting, maintaining flexibility with whether the meeting will be held in-person or via Zoom.
- The annual July 4th boat parade will resume in 2021.
- The board is actively planning AIS prevention, monitoring, and engagement activities.

Siseebakwet Lake Association- <https://www.siseebakwet.com/>

- 2020 was a slower year for board activities due to COVID-19.
- We did meet according to our regular schedule, third Saturday morning from April through October by Zoom.
- Accomplishments highlight completing deployment of the pressure washer and defining processes for its use at Sugar Lake Resort.
- No AIS issues were documented on the lake, our resident AIS Detector (Bill Hagenbuck) did respond to two queries from lake residents, but involving finds in other lakes, both false alarms.
- Elections for board members were held remotely and the existing board will continue for 2021, along with the officers.
- Siseebakwet Lake Association latest newsletter:
<https://preview.mailerlite.com/t6a8z4/1399245307513933689/h1a8/>

Deer Lake Watershed Association- <http://www.deerlakewatershed.org>

See the DLWA current newsletter! https://drive.google.com/file/d/1x_deQCtL1wP3XoHa0yBUDf74mjZzbKCw/view

DLWA board meetings were held on March 3, May 4, July 7, October 21, and December 14. Except for March, all meetings were held via teleconferencing or virtually through Facebook due to Covid-19.

Bill Cromell, Mark Smith and Chris Fischer met with Bill Grantges, Itasca County AIS Director in January 2020 to discuss AIS prevention within our watershed. Included was information on the inspector job and CAP grants that may be used to match funding for projects such as signage at the public access.

Prepared, published and distributed the DLWA Winter 2020 Newsletter via email/snail mail in February 2020. DLWA forms and marketing materials were revised and updated, and approved by board.

The possibility of holding a capital funds campaign for purchase of a surface drive motor (owned by the DLWA and utilized by boat run volunteers for all creek runs) continues to be researched and discussed.

At the March 3rd board meeting, DLWA sustainability was discussed including records retention, i.e. backup of policies, minutes, forms, etc. so that future board members can continue to build on the gains made to date. Longterm goals including continuous outflow, water quality testing and prevention of AIS were reviewed.

Duties and procedures were written for the Treasurer/Bookkeeper position; and for the maintenance of the DLWA Membership List and Email Contact List; approved by the board.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, some DLWA events were canceled including the 4th of July Flotilla & Ice Cream Social, and the 19th Annual Meeting & Potluck. The DLWA board and volunteers continued to do what they could safely do without putting their health or others at risk. DLWA renewed its agreement with MN DOT to continue roadside clean up on State Hwy 1 for another two years. Clean up was conducted twice in May 2020 by volunteers who wore masks and socially distanced themselves.

Water quality samples were taken monthly on Pickerel Lake from May – September 2020, and delivered to RMB Environmental Lab in Hibbing for testing. Secchi Disk readings for water clarity were taken multiple times in Deer, Pickerel and Five Island Lakes each month as well.

Volunteer boat runs down Deer Creek were conducted from May – October 2020 to check for beaver activity and obstructions, and to keep channel vegetation down.

Beaver dams were busted out on Buck, Deer, Popple and Lorraine creeks. Branches from beaver activity were pulled from the Rock Dam three times on Deer Creek; and 46 beaver were removed during the year.

Sheila Vorland resigned from the board effective May 3, 2020, and was thanked by the board for her years of service.

Val Cromell volunteered to temporarily assume treasurer duties. It was determined that the vacant board position could be filled by appointment, and the treasurer would be elected by board members following the annual meeting.

The lease between the Deer Lake CCC Camp Historic Preservation Project and the MN DNR was received in May 2020. Donations from individuals were solicited and covered the upfront ten-year lease fee of \$500. An addition to the DLWA bylaws clarifies that the CCC Camp Preservation Project is funded solely through donations and is separate from the DLWA.

A bylaw was added to enable nomination and election of new board members by email and/or postal mail voting which was utilized this year due to Covid-19. New board member elected was Bruce Steege; and alternates were Vaughn Duitsman and Travis Mangan. Val Cromell was appointed to fill the board term vacated by Sheila.

All Carpenter Township building permits and septic-related permits are copied to the Carpenter Township Board from Itasca County; and all local or Deer Lake Watershed Variances and Shoreland Alteration Permits are copied to the Deer Lake Watershed Board, who may now send in comments on permits or attend an inspection by the county.

DLWA submitted a grant request to Carpenter Township to help cover the cost of water quality testing in watershed lakes. The request was approved and a check for \$250.00 was received.

Some DLWA members requested more surveillance in the watershed area from our local Conservation Officer. After the DLWA contacted the DNR, the CO has been at the public access and on the lake checking fishing boats and recreational watercraft for proper use and licensing. As stated in our board meeting minutes, "This is an example of fostering good relationships between DLWA and DNR."

Continued maintenance and updating of DLWA website; membership and email contact lists; financial books and spreadsheets; board meeting minutes; emails to members, renewal reminders, etc. is ongoing.

Wabana Chain of Lakes Association (WCOLA)- <https://wcola.org/> <https://www.facebook.com/wcola.org/>

The Wabana chain of lakes was very busy last summer due to Covid. Boat traffic was up with the launches inspecting a record number of boats. Campsites were also full most of the summer with large groups.

- WCOLA has partnered with Wabana Township to purchase an AIS Watercraft Decontamination station that will be housed at the Township Hall. This location is between the two boat launches on Wabana Lake and located on the County Road that leads to the other lakes & launches in the Township.
- Wabana Township has developed and adopted a Comprehensive Plan (see attachment). Citizen inputs ranked maintaining water quality as the number one priority. A land-use ordinance update is being worked on now with emphasis on the Shoreland Overlay zone.
- Wabana Township is having a 100-year anniversary this summer. WCOLA is helping sponsor this event both financially and planning of the celebration.
- Attached is the before mentioned Comprehensive Plan and our Feb. 2021 newsletter (ICOLA editor's note: see Wabana Township website <https://wabanatownship.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Wabana-Comp-Plan-final.pdf>
- WCOLA February 2021 Newsletter: <https://wcola.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Feb-CL-2021-1.pdf>

Steve Melin, WCOLA

King Lake Association- Helen Ahlbrecht President

1. We are waiting for confirmation of when SWCD will put in our clemson system tube to regulate the water level of King Lake.
2. One of our owners requested a shoreline alteration application. We were not sure how to respond with the COVID-19 issues. We notified his immediate neighbors and sent them the information of who to contact. We will discuss this at our annual meeting.
3. We did not have an annual meeting in 2020 and we did not charge dues.
4. In 2020 we have had turnover of property to new owners due to relocation and death.
5. Lakeplace Retreat Center has provided access for the owners on King Lake to put their boats in and out of the lake for years. In order to prevent AIS we had several meetings and they locked their gate and everyone had to have their boats checked before they could have access. In May the owner let me know the resort would be closed because of COVID-19. He had given me the key earlier and asked if I would help the owners. It was a huge responsibility to screen everyone and make sure the key was returned to me but I felt it was very important and everyone was co-operative. We have a walk-in access with no motorized vehicles allowed.
6. We are hopeful that we will be able to have our annual meeting on May 29, 2021 if possible.

Greater Pokegama Lake Association (GPLA)- <https://www.pokegama.org/>

Here is a summary of what the GPLA is doing this winter — —

- The board continues to meet virtually.
- We recently agreed to help sponsor this year's annual AIS Summit.
- We also agreed to develop a lake stewardship award in honor of our longtime board member, the late Randy McCarty.
- We are monitoring a proposed marina project in Cohasset as well as some zoning work being proposed in Cohasset that could affect our members.
- We are planning to participate in work being done by Itasca Waters on a shoreline program.
- We are hoping to be able to hold some sort of in person annual meeting this summer but will have to see if that is safe to do as conditions change.