

ICOLA Meeting Minutes  
June 16, 2021

Members Present:

Patty and Harold Dzuik	Pokegama
Bill Grantges	Itasca AIS
Steve Long & Cec Reidman	Turtle
Bill and Deb Hagenback	Sugar
Linda ____	Pokegama
Ron G_____	?????
Steph Kessler	Johnson
Tom Nelson	Deer
Helen Adamson	Upper Prairie
Helen Ahlbrecht	King
Austin Steer	SWCD
Matt Gutzman	SWCD

Additions to Agenda: none.

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

Treasurer's Report: Balance as of today is \$1,391.27. Three lake associations have paid their dues already. Bill, Ron motion to approve Report. Motion passed.

- President's Comments: Patty have each lake association a packet of copies of what she gives out to the County. It had several informational pieces. The Loon Restoration Project is looking for an ICOLA rep to serve on their Board with the eight counties. It's a three-year initiative. Feel free to ask your lake assoc members if they'd like to serve. This is all about monitoring the population following the oil spill in the Gulf. For shoreland alteration permits, Austin at SWCD can help with permits. She also mentioned things are happening with shoreline stabilization and conservation easements.
- Committee Reports:
  - AIS: Bill reported that so far this year there have been 12,000+ inspections done by AIS staff at landings (since mid-May). Chris Evans is surveying lakes but not finding much so that's good news. He has about 38 inspectors working this year. The AIS program has created regions split by Hwy 2: South (Splithand area), West/NW (Winnie area), and Central/N Central (Deer, Wabana area). He has a goal to have 7 days a week coverage at Turtle and Deer lakes. There are 19 bodies of water and 42 landings being staff by AIS inspectors. We have several upcoming public education events where AIS staff will be there. There have been a few more calls for the decon unit this year so that's a good sign too.
  - MNCOLA: There have been 3 meetings in 3 weeks: Board, Membership, and Roundtable. There has been a lot of discussion about wake boats and how to deal with their water impacts. They have also been talking about shoreland stewardship.
  - Nominating Committee: Bill announced that Steph Kessler and Cec Reidman plan to run for President and Vice President, respectively, at the July Annual Meeting. We don't have anyone for Treasurer yet. Please ask you lake assoc members.
  - Facebook: Steph reported that our FB page is up and running. It's a public page but all posted must be approved by the administrators (right now that's Steph and Bill). This is intended to share educational pieces about water or stewardship, and everyone can post something worthwhile.

- Fair Booth: Bill will have a sign-up sheet for working the fair at the July meeting. If anyone has ideas for new things to do that the fair booth, Bill would like to hear them. He's open to suggestions.
- Annual Meeting: We discussed indoors and spaced out versus outdoors. Steph, Bill made a motion to have the meeting outdoors at Veteran's Park, if that's not available then at Cohasset Community Center, and that we do a dessert-only potluck and begin at 6:00pm. Motion passed. Steph will try to get a portable PA system.
- Dues structure: ICOLA hasn't changed their dues structure since 1989. It's unfair to large associations and may not match our budget needs. Invoices for this year's dues have already been sent out, so this discussion needs to take place before next spring. Everyone agreed that if you raise dues with a purpose, it's successful.
- Visits to Lake Associations: There are a few new lake associations coming to ICOLA. That is exciting! Steph reported that she met with CedarWild resort on Moose about forming a lake association.

#### Around the Horn:

- King: The DNR is still working on the grant to install the Clemson leveler for beavers. They need more funding to complete the project but expect to complete it.
- Pokegama: Wake boating is a hot issue right now, and personal watercraft.
- Swan: The one issue with FB sharing pics is that someone posts a big fish pic, and within an hour several boats show up trying to catch one too. He reminded us not to post emails on FB because of spam, etc. They are building a spawning riffle on the creek into the lake. They have zebra mussel detectors on the lake. Their association is discussing getting liability insurance.
- Sugar: They are having VRBO issues. They are concerned about these giant docks and how to limit the use of property and traffic on the lake for cabin owners vs vrbo users. It was suggested they reach out to Dan Swenson to share their support for regulations.
- Turtle: They are having an in-person this year. The AIS program is struggling since Cec stepped down. They also had a turtle with a leech on it that looked exactly like a zebra mussel. They were happy it was only a leech, but it's something to be aware of.
- Deer: They have hired contractors for their shoreland projects. They are having a VRBO issue too. They are using a traffic counter at the landing to assess night fishing counts. They are implementing a "dark sky initiative" because so many people are using big yard lights now. In July they are planning a full moon inspection, where they will inspect until midnight.
- Johnson: They are planning their July 4 boat parade, and they will have their meeting in mid-August. This year it's being promoted as a family swimming fun time to see if more people come.

Minutes written by Stephanie Kessler, in Catherine McLynn's absence.

NEXT MTG: JULY 21, 6-8pm at Veteran's Park pavilions in Grand Rapids: Dessert Potluck.