**ITASCA COALITION OF LAKE ASSOCIATIONS**

 **Annual meeting at VFW Park in Grand Rapids**

Patty Dziuk ICOLA President/Greater Pokegama Lake Assn.

Harold Dziuk Turtle Lake Assn.

Bill Grantges ICOLA Vice President/SWCD/AIS Coordinator/Siseebakwet Lake Assn.

Catherine McLynn ICOLA Secretary

Helen Adamson ICOLA Treasurer/Upper Prairie River Lakes Assn.

Steve and Jean Melin Wabana Chain of Lakes Assn,

Dave Lick Wabana Chain of Lakes Assn.

John and Marcia Downing Wabana Chain of Lakes Assn.

Cec Riedman and Steve Long Turtle Lake Assn.

Bill and Deb Hagenbuck Siseebakwet Lake Assn.

Linda Skallman Greater Pokegama Lake Assn.

Stephanie Kessler Johnson Lake Assn.

Tom Nelson SWCD/Deer Lake Assn.

Bob and Helen Ahlbrecht Greater King Lake Assn.

Carole Olson Sand Lake Assn

Heidi Carney Sand Lake Assn.

Carol Gordon Sand Lake Assn.

Phil Thompson Sand Lake Assn.

Marn and Marie Flicker Jessie Lake Assn.

Ron Guggisberg Swan Lake Assn.

Kevin Rustad Swan Lake Assn.

LeRoy and Mavis Johnson Suomi Area Lakes Assn.

Jan Bilden Shallow/Sand Lakes Assn.

Dick Ostroot Lower Balsam Lake

Austin Steere Itasca SWCD

Matt Gutzmann Itasca SWCD

***CALL TO ORDER and INTRODUCTIONS:*** President Patty Dziuk called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. A quorum was present with 13 lake associations being represented.

***APPROVAL OF AGENDA* MCU**

***APPROVAL OF MINUTES:*** Minutes of June 16, 2021 were approved with added names: Skallman, Guggisberg, Swan. **MCU**

***TREASURER’S REPORT:*** There is $1982.27 in checking. Eleven member lake associations have paid dues. Bill (about $100) for today’s pop/water and dessert was submitted for payment. Annual filing for 501(c)3 status has been submitted.

**Motion to accept treasurer’s report and pay bills. Skallman/LeRoy Johnson MCU**

***PRESIDENT’S COMMENTS***

Patty offered the following as she steps down after four years as President.

She enjoyed working and meeting so many around the county. She urged ICOLA to continue to encourage:

Small lakes to cluster and/or join nearby Lake Associations

Formation of small neighborhood clusters on lakes ie Get to know your neighbors

Well water testing

Radon testing in homes

Septic system inspections and upgrade for compliance to current standards

Active participation in County Comprehensive Plan and Ordinance revisions.

***AIS REPORT***

Bill reported 35 inspectors, increased traffic, control and monitoring crews, boots in the water, collecting 20,372 defoliating beetles to control dense patches of purple loosestrife, Starry Stonewort Decon units on Cutfoot Sioux Mosomo landing and West Winnie,

**WATER FEST, FRI. Aug 6 from 4 to 9 pm at KAXE tent on Mississippi River. ICOLA** welcome to have a booth with SWCD.

**Itasca County Fair Wed Aug. 18 – 22. Need volunteers for two hour shifts throughout the weekend.**

**Starry TREK Sat. Aug. 21 meet at two locations: Grand Rapids or Marcell.**

Traffic counters at Wabana, Deer and Turtle lakes are providing good data on access use so as to better schedule Ais inspectors.

AIS reports are available online including CAP grant application form, list of current infested waters and other valuable AIS prevention info. <https://www.ItascaAIS.Info> or Coordinator@ItascaAIS.Info

**IF YOU SUSPECT AIS, REPORT ASAP to RICH REZANKA 218-328-8821 or BILL GRANTGES 218-256-4243**

***SWCD***

Austin Steere explained cost share program for projects that improve or create a more natural shoreline. There is about $4000 available for native plants, willow wattles, storm water mitigation.

***OLD BUSINESS***

**Shoreland Stewardship Awards – Motion made to increase by $100 and thereby allowing expenses up to $300 per year for awards. Cec Riedman/Dave Lick MCU**

**Loon Habitat Restoration Initiative** invites ICOLA to be represented in their efforts to mitigate the negative effects of the oil spill with money available from the oil company.

**Facebook** page has been created by Stephanie Kessler. She invites everyone to like and follow. Offer info and photos to be posted.

**Election of Officers:** **Officers were elected but with varying terms per recently revised by laws. President Stephanie Kessler, Vice President Cec Riedman, Treasurer Linda Skallman, Secretary Catherine McLynn. Marn Flicker/Ron Guggisberg MCU**

***LAKE REPORTS***

**Ice Lake-** Catherine McLynn- One loon chick is being cared for by doting parents.

**Johnson Lake** – Stephanie Kessler – Property owners unanimously convinced County Board to designate north bay as NO WAKE Zone! Made front page of GR Herald Review! Annual meeting was held.

**Suomi Area Lakes Assn**.- LeRoy and Mavis Johnson – annual picnic July 3 was well attended, 2 loons with two chicks and two swans with two baby cygnets and an eagle that, hopefully, will eat something else other than the babies!

**Swan Lake** – Ron Guggisberg = Busiest landing in the county, lake level low.

**Itasca Waters**-Dave Lick-promoting Water Fest, have shoreland advisors program, and have established three natural plant gardens in cooperation with Wabana Township, YMCA and City of Grand Rapids near pedestrian bridge by KAXE.

**Sand Lake-** Carole Olson- busiest ever seen, resorts full. In addition to public access, there are over 50 private landings so inspectors can’t cover all points. They will have a catered meal by Timberwolf Inn from Marcell Sat. Aug. 21 at Sand Lake Community Center.

**Wabana Chain of Lakes** – Steve and Jean Melin – traffic counters at two landings, south is very heavily used. 100 year township anniversary and annual picnic on Sat. July 31. Increased recreation use, fewer loons.

**Matt Gutzmann** **SWCD** reported loons on Burns and Clearwater lakes.

**Austin Steere SWCD** reported seeing as many as 19 loons at one time on Kremer Lake north on Hwy 38.

**Jessie Lake** – Marn and Marie Flicker – Lake level so low. Loon nest, if any, likely on dry ground, not used. Had meeting on June 19.

**Siseebakwet-**Bill and Deb Hagenbuck- Lake level low but not due to weir. 50 attended meet the neighbors at Sugar Lake Lodge last week. Will meet again Labor Day weekend.

**King Lake-** Bob and Helen Ahlbrecht= Boat parade, and Lakeshore Place Retreat access now open again. Loon pair has two chicks.

**Shallow/Sand Lakes** – Jan Bilden- Social events include meeting in the middle of the lake on Second Friday of the month, boat parade on July 4 and cornhole tournaments at annual meeting.

**Upper Prairie River Lakes**-Jack and Helen Adamson- Flotilla on Fourth of July, lake level low, no nesting loons, increased swans, too many geese.

**Turtle- Cec Riedman and Steve Long- send something to include, please!**

**Deer-** Tom Nelson- submitted in writing- DLA Frolic will be Wed. Aug. 18 beginning at 5 pm. Tickets $12 fun and food for all! Kids 6 and under free! Decon station at south access, Shoreland Advisors and septic compliance incentives, Five Star Lake Service Provider program and active Facebook and Website phull of photos of phenology, phish and sunsets. 😊

**Featured speaker: Dr. John Downing, MN Sea Grant Program and Professor University of MN Duluth**

Dr, Downing offered interesting facts and observations as well as scientific data on the changing environment and effect on lakes.

DNR reports 897 lakes in Itasca County based on their definition of a lake. There are 2,054 miles of shoreline.

Lakes flush out/renew only every 17 years so what goes in, stays in for a long time.

62% of lake shore is owned by people who do not reside/vote here.

Increased recreational use, both number of users and even more significantly, SIZE of motors and speed of boats is changing the thermocline and fish habitat.

Drought, low snow year, earlier ice out, lake temps warmer, oxygen depletion sooner all affect fish and plant life negatively.

Increased fire danger means potential of ash deposits in lakes high in P and raise PH plus reduced vegetation and increased run off when it does eventually rain or snow melt. More brown lakes in the future.

More people, more shoreline developed, more boats at campsites with only primitive outdoor toilet pits, more coliform.

**Solutions: education of locals AND visitors, start with youth, be persistent, fund research.**

**MPCA complaint form: find online and submit if you see pollution problem. MPCA will investigate and respond**