**ITASCA COALITION OF LAKE ASSOCIATIONS**

**By ZOOM October 20, 2021**

Stephanie Kessler ICOLA President/Johnson Lake Assn.

Cec Riedman ICOLA Vice President/Turtle Lake Assn

Catherine McLynn ICOLA Secretary

Linda Skallman ICOLA Treasurer/Greater Pokegama Lake Assn.

Monte Stonewall Sand Lake Property Owners Assn

Janine Hill Shallow/Sand Lakes Assn.

Jean Melin Wabana Chain of Lakes Assn,

Steve Long Turtle Lake Assn.

John Davis Deer Lake

Tom Nelson SWCD/Deer Lake Assn.

Bill Grantges SWCD/AIS Coordinator/Siseebakwet Lake Assn.

Austin Steere Itasca SWCD

Matt Gutzmann Itasca SWCD

Cal Saari Itasca SWCD Chair

***CALL TO ORDER:*** President Stephanie Kessler called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. A quorum was present with 8 lake associations being represented.

***APPROVAL OF AGENDA* MCU**

***APPROVAL OF MINUTES:*** **Minutes of July 21, 2021 were approved. Skallman/Nelson MCU**

***TREASURER’S REPORT:*** Checking account balance as of Oct. 18 is $2074.10. Five more memberships have been paid bringing the total to 16 paid Lake Associations.

**Motion to accept treasurer’s report. McLynn/Nelson MCU**

***PRESIDENT’S COMMENTS***

Stephanie emphasized that her emphasis for ICOLA is to share information and work together with Itasca Waters and SWCD. She invited introductions and Lake Assn reports as the first agenda item.

***INTRODUCTIONS AND REPORTS***

Stephanie Kessler- Johnson Lake: 4th of July Boat parade, removal of signs at the spawning sites, Firewise, No wake zone to be enforced, slight increase in membership dues from $10 to $15, Friday socials on an island, Firewise.

Cec Riedman and Steve Long- Turtle Lake Assn: Board fully committed to AIS prevention, many new property owners, summary report from traffic counters at PWA May through October, checked 25 lakes for starry stonewort, none found.

John Davis- Deer Lake: Five Year Clean Water Initiative will focus on AIS, Shoreland, Septic systems and Tributaries. Actions include installation of traffic counters and Decon unit at PWA, incentives for septic inspections and replacement, development of Rapid Response plan, determining P loading from 16 streams that flow into Deer Lake.

Jean Melin- Wabana Chain of Lakes: increased recreational boat traffic, shoreland study, traffic counters at PWA, Township 100 year celebration, Decon unit replaced

Monte Stonewall- Sand Lake Property Owners: Ditch clean up and social after, newly involved member

Linda Skallman- Greater Pokegama Lake: June and July meetings featured Bill Grantges and Dave Weitzel, cleaned up trash on islands, monitoring development/Cohasset, member survey prioritized concerns about boat traffic, AIS zebra mussels.

Janine Hill- Shallow/Sand: new property owners, socials mid-lake, increased boat size, encouraging septic inspections

Catherine McLynn- chemical treatment of milfoil on Ice and Hale Lake

Jan Sandberg- Itasca Waters written report submitted: Water Fest, shoreland visits, Get the Lead out collection, Fishing line recycling

Tom Nelson- SWCD: MNCOLA wakeboat study, MLRA/DNR/BWSR shoreland study/projects

Austin Steere- SWCD: Shoreland visits

Matt Gutzmann- Lake testing for MPCA

Cal Saari- SWCD chair: interested in reports and how SWCD can help

Bill Grantges- SWCD AIS coordinator: working with AIS Technical Advisory Committee on budget for next year, summary report for past year underway, CAP grants available for traffic counters and other projects with partner Lake Associations.

***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](mailto:Coordinator@ItascaAIS.Info)

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

***NEW BUSINESS***

Upcoming Water Summit survey: All are encouraged to provide feedback/preferences for planning purposes.

Five Star Initiative for Lake Service Providers: Success depends on property owners hiring those willing to be informed and take actions to prevent spread of AIS, inviting others to do so, mention in newsletter. And do your own SELF INSPECTION of docks, etc.

Community Action Project (CAP) grants are available to lake ass2022ociations. Application forms online. See above AIS reports.

Future improvements for ICOLA: change dues structure?

Data base of members is not made public, except for officers. These should be updated annually and sent to county offices in order to receive notifications.

Audit of finances will be done by executive committee.

Itasca Waters is looking for board members. Clean Water Initiative underway, Officers may be contacted by Laura Connelly and Ed Zabinski who are working with Itasca Waters.

Next meeting Wed. Feb. 16, 2022