**ITASCA COALITION OF LAKE ASSOCIATIONS**

 **By ZOOM February 16, 2022**

Stephanie Kessler ICOLA President/Johnson Lake Assn.

Catherine McLynn ICOLA Secretary

Jan Bilden Shallow/Sand Lakes Assn.

Jean Melin Wabana Chain of Lakes Assn.

Helen Ahlbrecht Greater King Lake Assn.

Jim and Michelle Brauner Turtle Lake Assn.

Scott Braiedy Turtle Lake Assn.

Tim Goserud Turtle Lake Assn.

Tom Nelson SWCD/Deer Lake Assn.

Bill Grantges SWCD/AIS Coordinator/Siseebakwet Lake Assn.

Austin Steere Itasca SWCD

Matt Gutzmann Itasca SWCD

***CALL TO ORDER:*** President Stephanie Kessler called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm. A quorum was present with 8 lake associations being represented.

***APPROVAL OF AGENDA***

***APPROVAL OF MINUTES:*** **Minutes of October 21, 2021 had been emailed and posted online.**

***TREASURER’S REPORT:*** Checking account balance is $2004.10 as reported in the Audit Report dated Jan. 25, 2022. Stephanie reported that Catherine, Linda and she reviewed the books and found no discrepancies. All expenditures were transacted as authorized.

***INTRODUCTIONS AND ASSOCATION REPORTS***

Stephanie Kessler- Johnson Lake: Will send newsletter to all 65 property owners in May to encourage membership and awareness.

Michelle Brauner- Turtle Lake: Sent January newsletter, AIS appeal letter, annual meeting in June, updating map with depths and property owners and will add Hatch Lake as they are members of TLA,

Tim Goserud: 15-20 new property owners this year on Turtle Lake, He and Michelle will visit each in person to invite, share Welcome packets including info on land use, shoreline, septic and map

Tom Nelson- Deer Lake: Five Year Clean Water Initiative actions will include Lake Challenge by Mary Blickenderfer, encouraging good shoreland stewardship projects and septic inspections.

Jean Melin- Wabana Chain of Lakes: Township adopted local ordinance that provides increased protection and control of development in Shoreland Zone, memberships are coming in 130 (usually have 160), monthly meetings begin in May, roadside clean up, Decontamination unit at Town Hall. Speaker at May meeting will be from Loon Watch - Spencer Rettler.

Jan Bilden- Shallow/Sand: concerns about septic at Campground, will contact county Environmental Services Dan Swenson.

Catherine McLynn- Ice Lake is all nice ice for ice fishing and snowmobiling.

Helen Ahlbrecht- Greater King Lake Assn: Eager for SWCD weir to be installed this summer to control lake level by foiling the beavers. Next meeting Memorial Weekend May 28, Retreat Center allows limited boat access for property owners.

Jan Sandberg- Itasca Waters written report submitted: New Advisory Board members Steph Kessler and Chad Sieverts. Kathy Kone VP, Clean Water Initiative contacts being made by Laura Connelly and Ed Zabinski, Youth Water Summit Tues May 24

Austin Steere- SWCD: Shoreland projects, cost share and expertise available to help property owners make improvements.

Matt Gutzmann- SWCD: Water quality, encouraged Secchi disk reading and water testing for baseline info on your lake.

NATIVE PLANT SALE orders in March, pick up second week in May.

***OLD BUSINESS***

Upcoming Water Summit will be virtual on first Thursdays of each month on a different topic (Apr-Nov). One hour mid-day lunch time will be recorded and posted online. Stephanie is working with Johnny Fulton and others from Itasca Waters.

***NEW BUSINESS***

AIS Report: Bill Grantges- SWCD AIS coordinator: Gave a report with lots of good stats about AIS in the County (too many to list here but the report is on the SWCD website). Submitted 2021 report and proposed budget for 2023 to County Board of Commissioners, CAP grants available now for 2022 but grants for 2023 must be submitted by Sept 2022. Many contacts made with Lake Service Providers, Resorts, Air BnB’s to prevent spread of AIS. Chris Evans and crew survey on foot and by boat hundreds of miles of shoreline each year checking for AIS. SWCD mail address is PO BOX 990. They are located on Hwy 2 West.

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**

Loon Liaison Project: Is seeking volunteers to provide more info on loons throughout the season, not just a one day count. Contact Spencer.rettler@state.mn.us . He will be the speaker at WCOLA May meeting.

New Lakeshore Owners: Discussed how to reach new owners about water quality. Tim from Turtle reported on their welcome packet they use. Stephanie stressed that just having a lake association on your lake is important so that people have a place to turn for help/information.

Septic System Checks: Briefly discussed how to get septics inspected since its costs money to inspect but also could cost thousands to replace if the inspection fails.

Vice Presidency: Cec Riedman is stepping down from Vice President position, so a new volunteer is needed.

Wake Boat study: Webinar was going on during our meeting, so hopefully, we can get a report at our next meeting. It was recorded to watch later.

***Other Topics***

Redistricting maps show that Itasca County will be represented by FOUR Senators and FIVE Representatives at the state level. This summer will be busy campaign season, so good time to let candidates know our priorities.

Meeting adjourned at 9 pm.

Next meeting Wed. April 20, 2022

Catherine McLynn, Secretary