**ITASCA COALITION OF LAKE ASSOCIATIONS**

 **April 20, 2022**

Stephanie Kessler ICOLA President/Johnson Lake Assn.

Catherine McLynn ICOLA Secretary/Crystal Ice Lake

Linda Skallman ICOLA Treasurer/Greater Pokegama Lake Assn.

Jan Bilden Shallow/Sand Lakes Assn.

Dick Ostroot Lower Balsam Lake

Steve Melin Wabana Chain of Lakes Assn.

Ron Guggisberg Swan Lake Assn.

Shirley Loegering Itasca Waters

Helen Ahlbrecht Greater King Lake Assn.

Harold Goetzman Jessie Lake Assn

Tom Nelson SWCD/Deer Lake Assn.

John Davis Deer Lake Assn.

Bill and Deb Hagenbuck Siseebakwet Lake Assn.

Bill Grantges SWCD/AIS Coordinator

***CALL TO ORDER:*** President Stephanie Kessler called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. A quorum was present with 9 lake associations being represented.

***APPROVAL OF AGENDA***

***APPROVAL OF MINUTES:*** **Minutes of February 16, 2022 had been emailed and posted online. Approved.**

***TREASURER’S REPORT:*** **Checking account is still $2004.10. Accepted.**

***INTRODUCTIONS AND MEMBER REPORTS***

Stephanie Kessler- Johnson Lake: Will send newsletter to all 65 property owners in May. Sheriff will put out buoys marking rocks.

She encouraged participation in MN Loon Liaison project funded by BP Oil spill to monitor loons.

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 and AIS prevention activities.

Linda Skallman-Greater Pokegama Lake Assn- Member meetings in June and July. Volunteers will work with DNR to construct spawning beds. Family Day is proposed at Camp Mishawaka.

Steve Melin- Wabana Chain of Lakes: Memberships at 145 out of 160 property owners. Monthly meetings begin in May, roadside clean up, Decontamination unit at Town Hall. Speaker at May meeting will be Loon Watch Spencer Rettler. Picnic in June.

Jan Bilden- Shallow/Sand: Will hold first board meeting, promoting Lead Free tackle. Have two loon platforms to sell.

Catherine McLynn- Ice Lake is still all ice, but not good for skiing, snowmobiling, or fishing.

Helen Ahlbrecht: Greater King Lake Assn: Annual meeting Memorial Weekend Sat May 28 at 10 am. Location?

Ron Guggisberg-Swan Lake. Septic system is being proposed to include all properties around the lake. Property owners are being surveyed as a first step to demonstrate need/value. Three townships involved: Lone Pine, Greenway and Goodland.

A spawning riffle is being constructed at Hay Creek instead of O Brien. Lake Assn wanted to post a map at public access showing dangerous rocky areas, but DNR would not allow due to liability issues.

Bill and Linda Hagenbuck-Siseebakwet- Will work on increasing membership. Only 1/3 property owners currently members. Will meet April-October, including potluck picnic, Sunday brunch. Porta potty at public access. Trail cameras are not allowed.

Harold Goetzman-Jessie Lake- newsletter sent to members inviting to meeting Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends, Sat 9 am. Full season of activities.

Shirley Loegering- Itasca Waters-Jan Sandberg- Itasca Waters written report submitted: New board members being sought. New coordinator Beth Ann Perendy info@itascawaters.org. Support Clean Water Initiative: septic system upgrades, shoreland improvement and AIS prevention. Grants obtained from Blandin Foundation and GR Area Community Foundation pay for online training for AIS Detectors. Anyone can sign up, no obligation.

Clean Water Initiative contacts being made by Laura Connelly and Ed Zabinski, Youth Water Summit Tues May 24. Volunteers!

John Davis-Deer Lake- presented detailed power point on Clean Water Initiative highlighting the steps to getting landowners to volunteer for inspection and, if not compliant/failed, then apply for interest-free loan to build new one. He emphasized systems have life span of only about 25-30 years and then a new one must be built in a different location on the property.

Bill Grantges- SWCD AIS coordinator: Native Plant sale orders due Fri April 22. Come to Open House! NOW HIRING watercraft inspectors $15/$16 per hour. Need about 30 for summer. Reminded LA’s to submit CAP grant applications by Sept for next year 2023. Many contacts made with Lake Service Providers, Resorts, Air B and B’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**

***NEW BUSINESS***

Upcoming Water Wisdom series are virtual at noon on first Thursdays of each month on a different topic. One hour mid-day lunch time will be recorded and posted online. May 5 AIS, June 2 Septic, July 7 Bluegreen Algae, Aug. 4 Climate Change, Sept 1 Forever chemicals PFAs., Oct 6 Land Use/Forestry, Nov. 3 Effects of Chloride (Salt).

Clean Water Initiative virtual meetings on Wed, May 4 from 7-8 pm or Tues. May 10 from 10 to 11 am. By ZOOM. Same info at each meeting. Presenting the three elements: Shoreland improvement, Septic system monitor/upgrade and AIS prevention.

**Motion made to endorse Clean Water Initiative and accept a grant from Blandin Foundation to pay for limited number of voluntary septic inspections with John Davis as septic fund coordinator. Nelson/Melin MCU**

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.

LSP’s need water source (garden hose) so they can wash off equipment after working on your property.

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

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.

Tom Nelson, member Itasca County Park and Recreation Commission, recommended everyone participate in the survey to help establish county spending priorities in the future. More info is attached.

**Moton to accept resignation of Cece Riedman and elect Bill Hagenbuck as the new Vice President. Melin/Skallman MCU**

Annual meeting will be July 20. Proposed locations: Town Halls at Lone Pine, Sand Lake, Marcell, or Trout Lake, and new Cohasset Community Center. Proposed speakers: John Latimer, Fish/Wildlife John Hart?, Climate Change, Marcell SPRUCE Experiment, Dr. Sebestyn?

Next meeting Wed. June 15, 2022 at courthouse

Catherine McLynn, Secretary