**ITASCA COALITION OF LAKE ASSOCIATIONS**

**Annual meeting minutes in Marcell, July 20, 2022**

Stephanie Kessler ICOLA President/Johnson Lake Assn.

Catherine McLynn ICOLA Secretary/Crystal Ice Lake

Linda Skallman ICOLA Treasurer/Greater Pokegama Lake Assn.

Dave Lick Itasca Waters/Wabana Chain of Lakes Assn.

Ron Guggisberg Swan Lake Assn.

Bob and Helen Ahlbrecht Greater King Lake Assn.

Harold and Diane Goetzman Jessie Lake Assn

Jim and Michelle Brauner Turtle Lake Assn.

Cee Riedman Turtle Lake Assn.

Steve Long Turtle Lake Assn.

Tom Nelson SWCD Board/MN COLA/Deer Lake Assn

Bill and Deb Hagenbuck Siseebakwet Lake Assn.

Bill Grantges SWCD/AIS Coordinator

Sally Sedgwick SWCD Board

Calvin Saari SWCD Board chair

Andy Arens SWCD

Matt Gutzmann SWCD

Dennis Barsness SWCD Board

Ed Derowitsch SWCD AIS Inspector

Dave Gulsvig SWCD AIS Inspector

John Hart USDA Wildlife/Prairie Lake Assn.

***CALL TO ORDER:*** President Stephanie Kessler called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. A quorum was present with 8 lake associations being represented.

***APPROVAL OF AGENDA***

***APPROVAL OF MINUTES:*** **Minutes of June 15, 2022 had been reviewed, revised, emailed and posted online. Approved.**

***TREASURER’S REPORT:*** **Checking account is $2052.51. Twelve (12) member lake associations have paid. MNCOLA dues of $150 have been paid. Reimbursement for picnic supplies and envelopes and stamps was authorized in a motion**. **Report accepted.**

***INTRODUCTIONS without individual reports***

Itasca County Fair is Aug. 17-21. Wed through Sunday. Please sign up for two hour shift on sheets provided by Bill. AIS will be featured but any additional display ideas from ICOLA are welcome. A hit at the Youth Water Summit, Flush a Kid down the Toilet could be constructed. It is a simple hands on/in model of how a septic system works and actively involves kids. Reply to Bill or Steph if you might be willing to make it for the fair.

Shoreland Stewardship Award nominations are open. Several projects were mentioned: Wa-ga-tha-Ka on Wabana, Jim Hoolihan on Pokegama, Steve Lavalier, YMCA and City of Grand Rapids for projects along Mississippi River. Dave Lick and Tom Nelson encouraged more shoreland projects and offered the Lake Challenge to be shared with members in each lake association possibly by a friendly site visit to neighbors.

Water Wisdom series continue on the first Thursday of each month at noon for one hour. Next session is Aug. 4.

Everyone was encouraged to consider making a sign for their public landing with information about where boaters can go to get a decon for AIS. There is a sample with a QR code available, or lake associations could make their own format, but having something at a landing to tell boaters were to go for decon, could be very helpful.

CAP grants are due by Sept. 30 this year for summer 2023. So there will be two special meetings to help applicants learn about and fill out the forms for a project: Wed. Aug. 24 at Cedar Creek Grille on Hwy 38 and Mon Sept. 12 at Cohasset City Hall. Both are at 6 pm. Anyone is welcome to attend to get help or brainstorm ideas for projects.

An earlier meeting time was suggested especially in fall and winter months. Motion was made to meet at 5:30 from now on but stay at the courthouse for all meetings but the Annual Meeting. Passed.

**Next meeting Wed. Oct 19 at 5:30 pm at courthouse. NEW TIME!**

Speaker John Hart from USDA Fish and Wildlife presented a very interesting slide show on his work. He explained how his agency mitigates conflict between wild animals and humans. When there are complaints of serious depredation or damage by wolves, beavers and cormorant, for example, his agency intervenes to minimize the problem. They utilize a variety of methods to trap, shoot, remove a limited number of animals. He was recently involved in removal of 54 deer from SW Grand Rapids in an effort to determine the extent of Chronic Wasting Disease in that area after one deer tested positive. One more deer was found positive as a result. Meat from uninfected deer was processed and made available for human consumption.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm

Catherine McLynn, Secretary

***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**