**ITASCA COALITION OF LAKE ASSOCIATIONS**

**Meeting Minutes**

**June 15, 2022**

Bill Hagenbuck ICOLA VP/ Sissebakwet Lake Assn

Linda Skallman ICOLA Treasurer/Greater Pokegama Lake Assn.

Ron Guggisberg Swan Lake Assn.

Tom Nelson SWCD/Deer Lake Assn.

John Davis Deer Lake Assn.

Deb Hagenbuck Sissebakwet Lake Assn.

Michelle and Jim Bruner Turtle Lake Assn

Gail Blackmer Deer Lake Watershed Assn

Bill Grantges SWCD/AIS Coordinator

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

No additions were made to the agenda.

**MINUTES FROM APRIL**

**Motion to approve the minutes with the amendment in the earlier email to clarify the Septic grant is through Itasca Waters not the Blandin Foundation. Motion: Tom Nelson, Second, Michelle Bruner. Approved**

**TREASURER’S REPORT*:*** **Checking account is $1,794.10 after a payment to Mn Lakes and Rivers for dues and webhosting.**

A brief discussion was held about a motion to approve continuous payments to MnCOLA and Mn Lakes and Rivers.

**Motion: To approve continuous payments to MnCOLA and Mn Lakes and Rivers, including webhosting. Motion: Tom Nelson, Second, Ron Guggisberg. Approved.**

**MEMBER REPORTS**

***Linda Skallman – GPLA***

June all member meeting is next week. The annual business meeting and board elections are in July. Current issues have been water depth and related concern about boats, especially wakeboats. Will award the Randy McCarty Stewardship award to Renae Paul, whose wildlife photos generate lots of interest on the GPLA Facebook page.

***Bill Grantges – Itasca SWCD/AIS***

The Paddle and Pint event is this Saturday from the Pokegama Dam to the Forest History Center with stop along the way that include volunteers re-enactors. Bill needs volunteers for the County Fair. Starry Trek is coming up. Handed out a new AIS business card that has a QR Code on the back leading to location of decontamination stations. Traffic is down at decon stations a little from last year probably due to gas prices and high water.

***Michelle Bruner – Turtle Lake***

Annual meeting and elections are in two weeks. At their meeting they take donations for the Big Fork food shelf. Their youth catch and release fishing contest has started. It runs until September**.** Their spring newsletter goes to all property owners. They did their annual Highway 38 cleanup on Memorial Day weekend. They purchased some buffer seed mix to give to property owners and thus far not much response.

***Tom Nelson, John Davis – Deer Lake***

Lake is 1 foot higher than last year at same time. Tom brought a lake challenge sheet they’ve used with their members. Other Lakes Associations are welcome to use them. Continuing to work on their 3 part lake quality initiative.

***Ron Guggisberg – Swam Lake***

Water is high, he knows of docks that are missing sections (hazard for boaters). Fewer boats have been observed.

***Gail Blackmer – Deer Lake Watershed***

They are working on getting a map of the entire flowage. Water is high there too with trouble with floating bogs breaking loose. Beavers have also been a problem. Concerns about decreasing size of fish. Tried but couldn’t get a change in the regulations so are working with resorts to try to get word out that keeping fewer fish now will result in larger sizes later. Annual meeting in August. Did a roadside cleanup.

***Bill and Deb Hagenbuck - Sissebakwet Lake***

Had good turnout for spring social, a potluck. Spring newsletter is out. Deb completed AIS Detector training and Bill did the refresher. Late ice out has affected docks. Did a road cleanup. Lake is up about 6 inches. Working on increasing memberships but not sure how when so many owners are seasonal. Have two FB groups, one focused on wild animals.

**AIS Program Request**

Bill Grantges and AIS program are requesting $250 to support the AIA Booth at the Itasca County Fair. Will be similar to years past. Bill noted that with reduced staffing in his unit he can’t ask any AIS staff to spend time in the booth so will need more volunteers to help out.

**Motion for ICOLA to fund the AIS Booth at the Fair at the $250 level. Motion: Bill Hagenbuck, Second Ron Guggisberg, Approved**

**Water Wisdom Series Update**

Bill Grantges reported that the Water Wisdom Series is continuing on the 1st Thursday of the month at noon. July will cover Blue Green Algae and August will cover Understanding Minnesota’s Changing Climate.

**Clean Water Initiative**

John Davis reported that the final session introducing the Initiative will be Monday 6/27 at 9:30 a.m. on-line. This consists of 3 modules: AIS, Shoreline, and Septic.

**Septic Inspection Grant Update**

John handed out an updated version of the information related to the Septic portion of the initiative. This handout is designed for Lake Association leaders to use with their members. Some lakes have up to 50% of their pre-1996 septic systems fail an inspection.

**CAP Grants**

Bill Grantges stressed that any CAP Grant requests for 2023 must be in by the end of September 2022. There is $15,000 available.

**Annual Meeting**

It was suggested that if possible the July 20 annual meeting be held at the Marcell Town Hall and that we try for Dr. Sebestyn as a speaker. Potluck supper starting at 5:00 and meeting at 6:30.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Next meeting Wed. July 20, 2022

Linda Skallman, Acting Secretary