**ITASCA COALITION OF LAKE ASSOCIATIONS**

**October 19, 2022 Courthouse**

Stephanie Kessler ICOLA President/Johnson Lake Assn.

Catherine McLynn ICOLA Secretary/Crystal Ice Lake

Linda Skallman ICOLA Treasurer/Greater Pokegama Lake Assn.

Ron Guggisberg Swan Lake Assn.

Helen Ahlbrecht Greater King Lake Assn.

Jim and Michelle Brauner Turtle Lake Assn.

Tom Nelson SWCD Board/MN COLA/Deer Lake Assn

Bill and Deb Hagenbuck Siseebakwet Lake Assn.

Bill Grantges SWCD/AIS Coordinator

John Davis Deer Lake Assn.

Steve Melin Wabana Chain of Lakes Assn.

***CALL TO ORDER:*** President Stephanie Kessler called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. A quorum was present with 8 lake associations being represented.

***APPROVAL OF AGENDA***

***APPROVAL OF MINUTES:*** **Minutes of July 20, 2022 had been reviewed, revised, emailed and posted online. Approved.**

***TREASURER’S REPORT:*** **Checking account is $2109.40. There are 15 paid members compared to 19 last year. Linda or Stephanie will follow up with a phone call to the four not yet paid members.**

***INTRODUCTIONS WITH REPORTS***

Nancy Hassett from Lawrence Lake sent an email with regard loss of property and runoff into the lake due to proposed widening of Scenic 7. Stephanie will call her back to get more info and recommend contacting DNR and SWCD.

Johnson Lake: Stephanie Kessler reported that their annual meeting was in August. During the summer they invited lake visitors to swim or paddle around the lake.

Swan Lake: Ron Guggisberg reported that the DNR installed a water riffle, Culverts will be replaced up stream for an ATV trail. Members of Lake Assn plan to meet with ATV club about the proposed project.

Greater King Lake: Helen Ahlbrecht reported an electric wire just above the water seems to be keeping the beavers from building a dam at the weir. The lake level is currently low.

Deer Lake/Effie: Gail Blackmer reported fundraising for a surface drive motor that chops weeds to enable boat passage into Deer Creek to remove beaver dams and other obstructions. They have new officers. Both Arvig and Paul Bunyan have installed fiber optics for broadband access.

Siseebakwet: Bill Hagenbuck reported that they collected some unusual specimens to be identified as algae, but not AIS. Boat landing needs work and county will repair. An archive committee is going to scan and store old documents for posterity.

Last meeting for the year will be this next Saturday.

Wabana Chain of Lakes: Steve Melin reported annual picnic was well attended. Free hot dogs! Loon count was down.

Boat wash decon unit was open weekends at Town hall. Fund raising for additional AIS inspectors. Decks of cards are being printed with photos to be sold $15 each and make money.

Deer Lake: John Davis has also done the decks of cards. 525 sets sold at $15. Photos from homes. Inspections at landing busiest except Mosomo. Traffic counter data, maximize inspections, decons, used by others too. AIS communication campaign. Septic multi year inspection initiative. Tom and Mary shoreland challenge, marketing campaign,and then homeowners asked for assistance from experts.

Greater Pokegama Lake Assn: Linda Skallman report they still have boxes of Voices of Pokegama book for sale. Realtors buy and give to new homeowners. Next Mon is last meeting of the year. New officers are needed.

SWCD/AIS: Bill Grantges thanked volunteers at Tall Timber Days and County Fair. AIS Technical Advisory Committee approved CAP grants for 2023: City of GR for Eurasian Milfoil control Hale, Ice, McKinney; Greenway Tsp for EM and Flowering Rush; Porta potty for Pokegama Lake; supplemental inspections. Deadline for grant apps was Sept. 30.

Traffic down 10% at landings. Back to pre-COVID but twice as many decontaminations.

New AIS finds: King Lake curly leaf pondweed and Zebra Mussels in Canisteo, Discovery put a hold on drainage plans.

Progress on AIS prevention is being made with resort owners thanks to Dave Gulsvig.

Need more inspectors such as college students and others for D2s. Tioga, Mosomo, Deer, Wabana, Plughat,

Members on AIS Tech committee are Steph Kessler and John Davis representing ICOLA, Jean Melin representing AIS inspectors plus reps from SWCD, County, Forest Service, DNR, Itasca Waters.

Turtle Lake: Jim and Michelle reported 29 loons and 6 chicks. Catch and release program with prizes is fun for kids. Volunteers are needed for collecting traffic counter data and other activities. Last board meeting will be in December. They are considering a Decon station. There are pressure washers at two resorts.

Deer Lake: Tom Nelson offered Lake Challenge info sheets, shoreland books and metal signs to be installed at restoration sites.

He recommended MNCOLA questions to ask candidates and/or elected officials. Especially important is the wake board issue of protecting lake shore from erosion. Interesting note is that Deer Lake level has fluctuated this past year by a few feet not just a few inches. Why? Will be talking to the county about clearing the Overview site on Co 63 so the view can be enjoyed. Buoys are being taken out and concerns raised about the sheriff’s boats going from lake to lake without proper cleaning.

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

***NEW BUSINESS***

**Motion was made for ICOLA to serve as fiscal agent for a $5000 grant to complete a Kodiak Creek culvert improvement project after first asking SWCD if they would do so. Hagenbuck/Michelle Brauner MCU**

Steph will recommend they call SWCD 326-5573. Better to have government entity familiar with responsibilities of being fiscal agent.

A promotional flyer summarizing benefits of joining ICOLA was reviewed and revised. It can be shared with members, potential members, posted on website and sent out with dues notice.

Shoreland Stewardship award went to Wagathaka Jay and Mark Miner. Art print from MacRostie gallery cost $150.

Motion to approve this expenditure. Steve Melin /Deb Hagenbuck MCU

Water Wisdom series is available on Itasca Waters YouTube page.

Septic system grant update: Itasca Waters has grant available for encouraging septic inspections but not many are taking advantage. Extend and promote for another year? Steve Melin recommended volunteering for an inspection. It was very good learning experience and cost savings. They used Mike Casey and Janet of Bunes. On Deer Lake 150 systems SHOULD be inspected. Of those 85 WERE inspected. Of those half failed. More efforts needed to convince landowners of their responsibility to maintain system.

Plane or drone fly over can see hot spots where leaking septic is causing algae growth. Also Ecoli readings can indicate problem.

Meeting schedule for 2023: Third Wednesday of Feb, April, June, Oct. 2023 at courthouse at 5:30 pm. The July meeting will be a different location.

Meeting adjourned 7:30 pm.

Catherine McLynn, Secretary