**ITASCA COALITION OF LAKE ASSOCIATIONS**

**April 19, 2023**

Bill Hagenbuck ICOLA VP/ Sissebakwet Lake Assn

Linda Skallman ICOLA Treasurer/Greater Pokegama Lake Assn.

Ron Guggisberg Swan 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

Marty Miller Greater Pokegama Lake Assn.

Austin Steere SWCD

Wesley Sisson Shallow/Sand Lake Assn.

Steve Melin Wabana Lake Assn.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Vice President Bill Hagenbuck called the meeting to order at 5:34 pm. A quorum was present with 8 lake associations being represented.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

No additions were made to the agenda.

**MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 2023**

The dues motion in the minutes from February needed clarification. The dues are $.50 per member beginning with the 2023-2024 membership year. **Motion to approve the minutes as amended. Motion: Steve, Second: Michelle. Approved**

**TREASURER’S REPORT*:*** Checking account is $2169.90 after depositing Jesse Lake dues and paying annual dues to MnCOLA and dues and webhosting fees to MN Lakes and Rivers.

**Motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report. Motion: Steve, Second: Ron. Approved.**

**INTRODUCTIONS AND MEMBER REPORTS**

***Linda Skallman and Marty Miller – GPLA***

Board hasn’t met since last ICOLA meeting so nothing new to report.

***Bill Grantges – Itasca SWCD/AIS***

Passed out a flyer for Lab to Lake: MAISRC Regional Workshop on June 23 and 24. Bill still needs more inspector staff for the summer although he hired a number for areas of the county. Pass the word.

***Michelle and Jim Bruner – Turtle Lake***

Pursuing hiring of watercraft inspectors. They are including Bill G’s business cards in mailing to the VRBOs, resorts, and other places on the lake. Annual meeting is June 24.

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

Their annual meeting is August. Otherwise no new news since last month.

***John Davis – Deer Lake***

Still working on their 3 focus areas: Septic, AIS, and Shoreline. They’ve brought new participants into the FiveStar program and hired a firm to hand remove Curly Leaf Pondweed for a small area. Still encouraging their members to take the Shoreline Challenge.

***Wesley Sisson – Shallow/Sand***

Renewing their non-profit status which had been allowed to lapse. Planning summer events including: Cornhole Tournament, Flotilla, Second Friday meet-up in the middle of the lake. Looking at a large campground that may have serious septic issues.

***Ron Guggisberg – Swam Lake***

Not much action since last month. Described a successful effort to discourage water balloons during their flotilla.

***Steve Melin – Wabana Lake***

Board hasn’t met since October. Send their membership renewals over the winter which includes an AIS donation option. Used playing cards as a successful fundraiser but are looking for ideas for remaining stock. Picnic is in June.

***Austin Steere – SWCD***

Plant sale is wrapping up. They are helping with Swan Lake’s spawning project.

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

Sent dues notices to all on their list and getting many back. Will do a brunch in June and annual meeting in August. Trying to do a meet up in the middle of the lake. Road clean up is scheduled for a couple weeks if not too wet.

**Lawns to Legumes**

This is a grant program focusing on pollinators. It’s an extension of a program from the Twin Cities. It can be a whole community or an individual. Austin can help with questions and seed mixes.

**Three New ICOLA flyers**

The flyers were available. 1 was requested by Itasca Waters for their new owners packet, one is promotional (although the group said yes to including it with the dues renewals), the 3rd is an annual report of accomplishments. It was suggested the annual list of accomplishments be sent to the radio station and the newspaper.

***July Annual Meeting***

Wabana Hall was suggested for location with Marcell as back up. Speaker suggestions were Jeff Forester of Mn Lakes and Rivers, Dave Weitzel from Fisheries, or Andy Ahrens.

***AIS Update***

Will do an education day if there is enough interest. Itasca Waters has scholarships available for the AIS class. Practical Water Wisdom is up and running and doing well. Bill has one more slot for someone from ICOLA on is Tech Committee. AIS is considering developing an in-house SCUBA skill. Fair building is being redesigned so our booth will be moved but Bill is happy with new location. Youth Summit is May 23.

***MN COLA and MLR Update***

Tom was not available but sent an email update,

***Itasca Waters***

Is still looking for another board member.

***Continuation of Goals discussion from February***

A. Educate about PFAS – was a Practical Water Wisdom session;

B. Promote cost share programs for shoreline projects – Austin has some funds and is happy to help

C. Promote Starry Trek August 19 – Put it on the calendar

D. Promote FiveStar LSP program – John reported adding to the list of providers

E. Promote Cap Grants – money is still available

The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Next meeting Wednesday June 21 at 5:30 in the Courthouse – meeting room J135, on ground floor to the right as you enter by the Sheriff’s Office.

Linda Skallman, Acting Secretary