**ITASCA COALITION OF LAKE ASSOCIATIONS**

**July 19, 2023 Wabana Town Hall**

Bill Hagenbuck ICOLA Vice-President/Siseebakwet Lake Assn

Deb Hagenbuck Siseebakwet Lake Assn

Catherine McLynn ICOLA Secretary/Crystal Ice Lake

Linda Skallman ICOLA Secretary/Greater Pokegama Lake Assn.

Dave and Sue Lick Itasca Waters/Wabana Chain of Lakes Assn. (WCOLA)

Ron Guggisberg Swan Lake Assn.

Jim and Michelle Brauner Turtle Lake Assn.

Bill Grantges SWCD/AIS Coordinator

Lynda Grantges

Andy Arens SWCD

Cal Saari SWCD Board

Paul Rustad SWCD Board

Tom Nelson SWCD Board/Deer Lake Assn.

Matt Gutzmann SWCD

Austin Steere SWCD

Ed Derowitsch SWCD/AIS inspector

Lynn Moratzka WCOLA/Trout Lake

Dara LaForce-Skelton WCOLA/Trout Lake

Carol Speedling WCOLA

John and Michelle Fischer WCOLA

Jeanne Koewler WCOLA

Steve and Jean Melin WCOLA

Chris Friedlieb WCOLA

Ellen Christmas WCOLA

Steve Bjerke WCOLA

Mark Conover WCOLA

***CALL TO ORDER:*** Vice-President Bill Hagenbuck called the meeting to order at 5:25 pm. There was a torrential downpour while folks were coming in with potluck food. Brats grilled by Bill and Chicken from SWCD. A quorum was present with 6 lake associations being represented.

***APPROVAL OF AGENDA***

***APPROVAL OF MINUTES:*** **Minutes of June 21, 2023 were read and approved.**

***TREASURER’S REPORT:*** **Checking account is $7607.40 as of July 19, 2023 includes dues paid from 6 lake assns. $5000 is pass through grant for Kodiak Creek Restoration project. Treasurer’s report was accepted.**

GUEST SPEAKER: Paul Hanson explained the SPRUCE Research Project to determine the potential effects of warming climate on spruce and peatland in Marcell Experimental Forest. The project is a collaboration between US Department of Energy and US Forest Service. It will continue through 2025. Several chambers were constructed, and temperatures were controlled within them both above and below ground. Initial results that even a few degrees warmer affects especially the sphagnum moss growth which is critical vegetation in peatlands.

AIS Coordinator Bill Grantges introduced Take A Pledge action. Signed stickers will be entered into a drawing. AIS Education Tent will be at Tall Timber Days Aug 5/6. The spraying AIS decon unit will be the usual crowd pleaser in the Sunday Parade.

**Sign up to work at FAIR Wed Aug. 16-20 Starry Trek is Sat. Aug. 19. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for all these August events!**

CAP grant applications are DUE SEPTEMBER 30. Contact Bill.

.***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](mailto:Coordinator@ItascaAIS.Info)

**If you suspect AIS, REPORT ASAP to RICH REZANKA 218-328-8821 or BILL GRANTGES 218-256-4243**

Tom Nelson reported that Lake Stewardship projects are eligible for recognition and awards. Snap before and after photos and send to Tom. Lake Challenge forms are available for homeowners to assess their own properties. They can, then, make improvements to protect water quality and improve the beauty of the shoreline.

***ELECTION OF OFFICERS***

Stephanie Kessler was re-elected chair and Catherine McLynn, secretary for another two year term.

***AROUND THE HORN***

Lake association representatives shared news of events and activities.

Siseebakwet: Bill Hagenbuck- Annual meeting will be Labor Day. Fundraising for future emergency needs.

Greater Pokegama Lake: Linda Skallman – Annual meeting Sat. July 29. Water sampling indicates increased chloride levels near Causeway due to road salt applications.

Turtle Lake: Michelle Brauner – Loon count 23 pairs, 11 chicks on one day. Hwy clean up, Annual meeting June 24 guest speaker Austin Steere at Pine Cone Restaurant in Marcell. 60 attendees.

Swan Lake: Ron Guggisberg – Annual meeting July 21, Recreation Deputy Mike Partlow will be speaker. One drowning recently.

80 participants in 4th of July boat parade. No water balloons!

Wabana Chain of Lakes: Mark Conover = Annual picnic Sat Aug 5, decon unit available at Town Hall, traffic counters at accesses, Boat parade.

Deer Lake: Tom Nelson- Invited all to Deer Lake FRolic Thursday Aug 16, Loon nest platforms have been purchased. Purchased land adjacent to Wabu Woods preservation area and given to DNR for management and protection.

SWCD: Andy Arens = Projects are being planned to improve shoreland in Upper Mississippi Watershed which includes Pokegama and Deer Lake.

Meeting was adjourned at 7 pm.

Catherine McLynn, Secretary