

ITASCA COALITION OF LAKE ASSOCIATIONS
April 10, 2024 Courthouse Meeting Minutes

Stephanie Kessler	ICOLA President/Johnson Lake Assn
Bill Hagenbuck	ICOLA Vice-President/Siseebakwet Lake Assn
Deb Hagenbuck	Siseebakwet Lake Assn
Ron Guggisberg	Swan Lake Assn.
Tom Nelson	SWCD Board/Deer Lake Assn.
Paul Ryan	Suomi Area Lakes Assn.
Harold Goetzman	Jesse Lake Watershed Assn.
Gail Blackmer	Deer Lake (Effie) Assn.
Linda Skallman	Pokegama Lake Assn
Don Uggla	Caribou Lake Assn.
Austin Steere	SWCD
Jess Loes	Deer Lake Assn.
Bill Grantges	SWCD

CALL TO ORDER: President Stephanie Kessler called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm. A quorum was present with 9 lake associations being represented.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of February 21 2024 were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Checking account is \$7,562.94 as of Apr 10, 2024. \$5,000 is pass through grant for Kodiak Creek Restoration project. Treasurer's report was accepted.

AROUND THE HORN

Johnson Lake: Stephanie Kessler – Quiet, working on issues with public access clogged with weeds. Spring newsletter coming out soon. Annual meeting planned for August.

Siseebakwet Lake: Bill Hagenbuck – Ice out 2024 declared April 10, socials and two summer meetings scheduled. Sea Tow grant for loaner life jacket rack and jackets received. Loon Restoration team formed to work with DNR. Preparing to present SWCD boat clearer stand to board April 13.

Jesse Lake: Harold Goetzman – Solicited replacements for President, VP, Secretary. Still working on Treasurer. Struggling to keep association going with limited interested owners. Zebra mussels were identified fall 2023. There are 5 lakes in the watershed assoc.

Carabou Lake: Don Uggla – only 16 riparian owners, operating association by email.

SWCD Shoreline: Austin Steere – Plant sale wrapping up with orders due by April 19. Austin remains POC for SWCD shoreline questions.

Jess Loes – Itasca Waters – Walk for Water April 21. Blue Thumb Workshop May 2. Youth Water Summit May 21.

Deer Lake: Tom Nelson -- Dredging of marina at Little Itasca Resort completed successfully. A variance request impacting both shoreline and road was denied by the county board.

Swan Lake: Ron Guggisberg – Issues with ice heaves on shorelines. Reviewed progress and funding for planned sewer system around lake that Lone Pine Twp is working on.

Suomi Area Lakes: Paul Ryan – They have 54 members but need a president.

SWCD AIS: Bill Grantges – Looking to hire additional inspectors in southern Itasca County (Grand Rapids area). 2025 AIS budget approved by county board. Inspections will begin May 9. Wabana decon unit moved from town hall to NW access. Upper Midwest AIS Conference will be in Duluth Nov 12-14, 2024.

NEW BUSINESS:

Proposed ordinance for short term rentals: Tom Nelson and Stephanie Kessler spoke to recent county planning meeting which gathered public input. All public input was against the ordinance. County Board did not take action at the meeting but could anytime now that the hearing has been conducted. We are hoping to hear more about this before it gets adopted.

MN COLA is currently reviewing wake boats and their impacts. Annual meeting schedule for June 18. Tom recommended that ICOLA members should join MN COLA if they haven't already.

SWCD AIS CLEANING STATIONS - Bill Grantges presented 2024 Itasca County initiative to install low cost tool stations at as many accesses, VRBOs, and resorts as possible. He shared that the two greatest challenges with continuing education of the public on AIS were 1) what to do, and 2) tools to do it with. The tool station has been tested in Cass County successfully with minimal vandalism/theft. He's working with the Forest Service (grant) and Ojibway Band to address all 38 sites on Winnibigoshish and would like to add as many additional sites as possible. Expected cost per station is \$50-\$100. SWCD will handle permissions, siting and installation. ICOLA was asked to help coordinate their membership's interest and Stephanie agreed to help.

RoundTable brainstorming on AIS: Ideas captured:

- Specific YouTubes on how to use tool stations.
- Licensing all boat operators and requiring mandatory AIS during the licensing process.

NEXT MEETINGS because the third Wednesday of June is Juneteenth--now a national holiday, the courthouse will be closed. Suggested solution is to move the meeting ahead by one week from 6/19 to 6/12. Catherine to request boardroom for 6/12. We also discussed location for July annual meeting/potluck and decided on Wabana town hall. Possible guest speakers included Jeff Forrester (ML&R) and Matt from SWCD about One Watershed One Plan.

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

Next meeting is Wed, June 12 from 6 to 8 pm at courthouse.

Minutes Bill Hagenbuck, VP & Stephanie Kessler President in the absence of our Secretary