**ITASCA COALITION OF LAKE ASSOCIATIONS**

**ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**

**July 17, 2024, Wabana Town Hall**

Stephanie Kessler ICOLA President/Johnson Lake Assn

Bill Hagenbuck ICOLA Vice-President/Siseebakwet Lake Assn

Deb Hagenbuck Siseebakwet Lake Assn

Catherine McLynn ICOLA Secretary/Crystal Ice Lake

Linda Skallman ICOLA Treasurer/Greater Pokegama Lake Assn

Dave Lick Itasca Waters/Wabana Chain of Lakes Assn.

Bethann Perendy Itasca Waters

Jessica Loes Itasca Waters

Jane Moore Wabana Chain of Lakes Assn.

Wayne and Carol Speedling Wabana Chain of Lakes Assn.

Swanny Voneida Wabana Chain of Lakes Assn.

Steve and Jean Melin Wabana Chain of Lakes Assn.

Glenn Pearson Wabana Chain of Lakes Assn.

Paul Ryan Suomi Area Lakes Assn.

Bob and Helen Ahlbrecht Greater King Lake Assn.

Kris Amundson Gritters Greater King Lake Assn.

Don and Faye Klande Shallow/Sand Lake Assn.

Jan Bilden Shallow/Sand Lake Assn.

Dick Ostroot Lower Balsam Lake Assn.

Gail Blackmer Deer Lake Effie Assn.

Annette Greer Deer Lake Assn.

Louise Nyquist Deer Lake Assn.

Tom Nelson SWCD Board/Deer Lake Assn.

Matt Gutzmann SWCD

Cal Saari SWCD Board Chair

Bill and Linda Grantges SWCD/AIS

Andy Arens SWCD

Jeff Forester Minnesota Lakes and Rivers

***CALL TO ORDER:*** President Stephanie Kessler called the meeting to order at 5:50 pm. A quorum was present with 10 lake associations being represented.

***APPROVAL OF AGENDA***

***APPROVAL OF MINUTES:*** **Minutes of June 12, 2024 were approved.**

***TREASURER’S REPORT:*** **Checking account is $2425.94 as of July , 2024. Treasurer’s report was accepted.**

Motion was made to approve $300 for Fair Booth in cooperation with AIS. Catherine/Deb H. MCU

Membership renewals were mailed out for July 1 – June 30.

**Elections**

**Motion was made to elect Bill Hagenbuck as Vice President and Linda Skallman as Treasurer for a two year term.**

Tom Nelson/Helen Ahlbrecht. MCU

**Shoreland Stewardship Awards**

Tom Nelson invited shoreland owners to share “Take the Lake Challenge” sheets with members. Self-assess your own property and consider ways to improve shoreland. Signs are available where there are successful projects. Several names were nominated for the award. Tom and others will visit and view each site. Additional nominations are welcome!

**Featured Guest: Jeff Forester**, Minnesota Lakes and Rivers, spoke about a variety of things. MLR is 30 years old and has about 3,000 members. He gave stats that in town, people own a home for an average of 7 years but on lakes it’s 38 years. There are about 500 lake associations in MN, making it the largest civic organization in the state, but we aren’t unified across the state. He talked about the impact lake association members can have on legislation. Organize, unify and make noise regarding updating shoreland rules by DNR and consider changes to the way undeveloped land value is assessed. He noted that many lake properties are handed down from one generation to the next or sold to pay for health care costs. He mentioned atmospheric phosphorus as a possible cause of blue green algae in the BWCA. He reminded us that all water is connected so we need to join together to be effective for water. Aug 6 MPR is doing an hour-long segment on MLR.

**Short Term Rental Ordinance Update:** Deer Lake Association wrote a letter to the Itasca Board of Commissioners with their concerns about the issue. They shared a copy at the meeting.

**AIS Report** – Bill Grantges

Tall Timber Days Sat. Aug 3; volunteers needed in education tent from 12:30 to 4:00. County Fair is Aug. 14-18. Volunteers needed for shifts that last 2-1/2 hours.

Starry Trek search for Starry Stonewort is Sat. Aug.10. Please reply to Bill if you can help in any capacity.

CAP grants are available for the year 2025. Submit your application by Oct. 1 but contact Bill to talk through your ideas so he can help with application.

Bill provided statistics on the AIS program: 30 Inspectors, 3 thermal stations manned 7 days a week,10 hours a day: Mosomo on Cutfoot Sioux, Tioga on Pokegama, and Deer Lake. Wabana is staffed Fri, Sat, Sun 8am-6pm. Scuba divers hand pulled Flowering Rush from Spider and Twin lakes. DASH was used at Deer Lake (Diver Assisted Suction Harvest). McKinney was treated for Eurasion Milfoil. Hale and Ice every three to four years by using ProcellaCOR.

AIS cleaning stations will be installed in 86 locations in the county. Bill will likely need help with installation. He will reach out as needed.

Nov 12 is the Upper Midwest AIS Conference in Duluth. Bill will collaborate with Lake and Ottertail counties to host a presentation on AIS and the work those counties have achieved.

***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

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

**Itasca Waters Update:** Water Wisdom series by zoom at noon for one hour every month. Aug 1 will feature AIS successes.

***AROUND THE HORN***

Siseebakwet: Bill Hagenbuck- Over 5000 Rusty crayfish have been trapped and removed. Some were hidden inside clam shells!

Boat parade was held.

Pokegama Lake: Linda Skallman– High water has been a concern, as well as Starry Stonewort found in Sherry’s Arm channel into Little Pokegama. They had an excellent speaker on fisheries.

Deer Lake: Tom Nelson- Frolic Thurs Aug 22. Come one! Come all! Boat parade was held.

Sand Lake: 2nd Friday meet up in the middle of the lake. Aug 2/3 weekend annual meeting. Band and food!

Balsam: Dick Ostroot – no report.

Wabana Chain of Lakes: August picnic. No Pres or VP at the time.

Suomi Area Lakes: Paul Ryan- Annual meeting was July 6.

Greater King Lake: Helen thanked SWCD for beaver control, dam/weir assistance.

SWCD: Matt Gutzman – A forester has been hired: Matt Picklow. He can provide info on best practices and SFIA (Sustainable Forest Incentive Act). Cost share funds are available for shoreland projects. Austin Steere can provide free consultation.

Watershed Improvement plans are being developed and public meetings held.

Johnson Lake – Stephanie – annual meeting August 10. July 4 boat parade held with 22 boats.

**Next meeting is October 16** from 6 to 8 pm at Itasca County Courthouse.

Catherine McLynn, Secretary