**ITASCA COALITION OF LAKE ASSOCIATIONS**

**February 19, 2025**

Stephanie Kessler ICOLA President/Johnson Lake Assn

Bill Hagenbuck ICOLA Vice-President/Siseebakwet Lake Assn

Catherine McLynn ICOLA Secretary/Crystal Ice Lake

Linda Skallman ICOLA Treasurer/Greater Pokegama Lake Assn

Paul Ryan Suomi Area Lakes Assn.

Jan Bilden Shallow/Sand Lake Assn.

Gail Blackmer Deer Lake Assn east of Effie

Harold Goetzman Jessie Lake Assn

Ron Guggisberg Swan Lake Assn.

Tom Nelson SWCD/MN COLA and Deer Lake Assn.

Matt Gutzmann SWCD

Matt Picklow SWCD Forester

Bill Grantges SWCD/ AIS

Beth Ann Perendy Itasca Waters

Jan Sandberg Itasca Waters

***CALL TO ORDER:*** President Stephanie Kessler called the meeting to order at 11:30 am. A quorum was present with 9 lake associations being represented.

***APPROVAL OF AGENDA***

***APPROVAL OF MINUTES:*** **Minutes of October 16, 2024 were approved.**

***TREASURER’S REPORT:*** **Checking account is $2795.49. Two LA’s have paid for 2025. Treasurer’s report was accepted.**

**Itasca Waters:** Beth Ann Perendy provided Zoom connections, so some members were able to participate remotely. Worked well on big screen at courthouse. She will ask if Itasca Waters will do so again for the next few meetings in 2025.

**Youth Water Summit is planned for May 20 and additional presenters are needed.** State and federal employees may not participate due to uncertainty at the federal level.

**Water Wisdom series on March 7 will be Dr. John Downing with Minnesota Ice Out Forecast.**

**SWCD: Bill Grantges -** Three new CD3 stations will be at public accesses: Mishawaka, Sherry’s Arm and Third River in addition to the two already at Winnie. Cost of each is about $40,000. Upcoming events include conference where Itasca AIS will be a presenter. Also, booths at Home Builders Show, Children First and Youth Water Summit. Zebra mussels increased on Jessie Lake.

**Write to legislators and Governor Walz opposing proposed budget that will cut AIS funds in half!**

***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**

**SWCD:** **Matt Gutzmann – Cost share available for native planting, culvert replacement and more now that the Watershed Improvement Plan for Upper Mississippi/Grand Rapids area is completed. Little Fork/Bigfork area is next.**

**SWCD: Matt Picklo – Native plant sale pick up will be May15/16 at fairgrounds. GO ONLINE NOW to order. Itasca SWCD.**

**Future Forests Conference will be on October 25. Landowners are encouraged to attend! Climate change, invasive pests like**

**emerald ash borer will affect our forests. Actions can be taken now to limit negative impact.**

**Zoning Ordinance updates:** No action. Text amendment passed but limited to only one situation in Pengilly.

MNCOLA/MLR: Tom Nelson – Rip rap is very expensive and not a good solution to shoreline erosion.

**Meeting schedule for 2025: April 16 at 11:30 am at courthouse**

**June 18 at 6 pm at courthouse (not available mid day)**

**July 16 at 6 pm at TBD for annual meeting**

**October 15 at 11:30 at courthouse**

**ZOOM may be provided by Itasca Waters. NOTE: TWO SUMMER MEETINGS ARE IN EVENING.**

***AROUND THE HORN***

Siseebakwet: Bill Hagenbuck- Drivable ice, fish houses, March newsletter. Tools station at public access for cleaning off AIS. They had a CAP grant for trapping Rusty Crayfish.

Pokegama Lake: Linda Skallman– Annual meeting will be third Saturday in July.

Deer Lake by Effie: Gail Blackmer – Ice out contest, considering logo apparel, newsletter, bimonthly meetings.

Suomi Area Lakes: Paul Ryan- Fishing contest, good food and conversation. Top winner caught four perch.

Jessie: Harold Goetzman – No officers to lead the troops, but still neighborly relations around the lake.

Swan Lake: Ron Guggisberg – MJ’s held annual Radar Run and upcoming Golf Tournament. No LA activities right now.

Johnson: Stephanie Kessler – Pretty quiet on the lake.

Shallow Lake: Jan Bilden – Fish houses. Newsletter coming end of March.

MNCOLA: Tom Nelson – Rip rap is not a good solution to shoreland erosion. Very expensive!

Catherine McLynn, Secretary