**ITASCA COALITION OF LAKE ASSOCIATIONS**

**October 16, 2024**

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

Paul Ryan Suomi Area Lakes Assn.

Helen Ahlbrecht Greater King Lake Assn.

Jan Bilden Shallow/Sand Lake Assn.

Matt Gutzmann SWCD

Matt Picklow SWCD Forester

Bill Grantges SWCD/ AIS

***CALL TO ORDER:*** President Stephanie Kessler called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. A quorum was present with 6 lake associations being represented.

***APPROVAL OF AGENDA***

***APPROVAL OF MINUTES:*** **Minutes of July 17, 2024 were approved.**

***TREASURER’S REPORT:*** **Checking account is $2814.99 as of Oct.16, 2024. Nine LA’s have paid. DNR grant pass through grant of $45,000, speaker’s fees for July and Fair booth expenses were paid. Treasurer’s report was accepted.**

**Shoreland Stewardship Awards:** next June 2025 so contact Tom Nelson or SWCD of good projects underway this spring.

**Bill Grantges, SWCD-**Summer was busy and productive with Tall Timber Days and County Fair, Starry Trek, inspections, collection of beetles to control purple loosestrife, establishment of wash stations, and distribution of CAP grants.

***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**

***AROUND THE HORN***

Siseebakwet: Bill Hagenbuck- Now over 22,000 Rusty crayfish have been trapped and removed including a commercial business that will sell as a specialty. Sugar Lake Lodge will feature as an appetizer. At their Labor Day event, DNR staff Mr. Hass was a featured speaker on fish population. Walleye population has doubled, other species are way down. They had three loon pairs but only one pair with two chicks. There was an Eagle family of six including juveniles. Lake is down 9 inches.

Pokegama Lake: Linda Skallman– Annual meeting, AIS and wake boats are concerns, signs under causeway emphasizing best practices for safe boating.

Deer Lake: Tom Nelson- Pres. Jeff Johnston, new website, monitoring public ordinance on short term rentals. Itasca County held public hearings. There is a video from MNCOLA on short term rentals in Ottertail County.

Suomi Area Lakes: Paul Ryan- Annual meeting July 6 featured Susan Hawkinson on Joyce Estate.

Greater King Lake: Memorial Day meeting, July boat parade had 10 boats1

SWCD: Matt Gutzman – Watershed Improvement 10 year plans for Upper Mississippi/Grand Rapids have been developed, public meetings held and will be approved by Itasca County Board in November. Bigfork Plan is next to be developed.

SWCD: Matt Picklow – Forester, can do Woodland Stewardship plans, cost share available, plant sale next spring.

Johnson Lake – Stephanie – Water testing, loon survey report was down to one pair, annual meeting in August.

Sand/Shallow – Jan Bilden: Meeting in August featured Austin Steere with SWCD. Porta potty at landing, 2 immature eagles.

Next meeting is third Wed, Feb. 19. Steph will send out google for members to choose either new option: mid-day with lunch or usual from 6 to 8 pm at Itasca County Courthouse. Catherine will check with courthouse for availability.

Catherine McLynn, Secretary