**ITASCA COALITION OF LAKE ASSOCIATIONS**

 **April 16, 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

Marty Miller GPLA

Ron Guggisberg Swan Lake Assn.

Tom Nelson SWCD/MN COLA and Deer Lake Assn.

Matt Gutzmann SWCD by zoom

Matt Picklo SWCD Forester

Bill Grantges SWCD/ AIS by zoom

Beth Ann Perendy Itasca Waters

**CALL TO ORDER:** President Stephanie Kessler called the meeting to order at 11:30 am. A quorum was present with 5 lake associations being represented.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA Approved*.***

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** **Minutes of Feb. 19, 2025 were approved.**

**TREASURER’S REPORT*:*** **Checking account is $2720.95 after payment of $150 to MNCOLA. Treasurer’s report accepted.**

**Itasca Waters:** Beth Ann Perendy provided Zoom connections, so some were able to participate remotely on big screen at courthouse.

**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. Measures are being taken to contain and eradicate Starry Stonewort with curtain banner and algaecide. Research on Chinese Mystery Snail will be underway in 2026. Surveillance of Spiny Water Flea May 3.

SWCD and AIS booth at the county fair will be up on the hill in the Log Lodge.

**Write to legislators and Governor Walz opposing proposed budget that will cut AIS funds in half and a reduction in SFIA payments for forestlands under covenant.**

***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**

**SWCD: Matt Picklo** – SWCD is offering free assessment by forester of small acreage shoreland to offer suggestions and cost sharing for actions taken that will improve water quality and forest health on private property. Contact SWCD asap!

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

**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.**

**MNCOLA/MLR: Tom Nelson** – Activities this year include: wake board seminar on erosion and public safety, Get the Lead Out campaign, guidelines for shoreland alterations ie sand blankets and rock rip rap.

**Meeting schedule for 2025: 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 provided by Itasca Waters. NOTE: TWO SUMMER MEETINGS ARE IN EVENING.**

***AROUND THE HORN REPORTS ON SUCCESSES OF LAKE ASSOCIATIONS***

Siseebakwet: Bill Hagenbuck- Increasing membership by encouraging involvement at social events boat parade on July 4, Rusty Crayfish eradication, life jacket lending program, and loon habitat restoration projects. Tools at public access for cleaning off AIS. They had a CAP grant for trapping Rusty Crayfish. Board meets on the first Saturday of each month in the summer.

Pokegama Lake: Linda Skallman– Very successful purchase of islands and transfer ownership to DNR as public land.

Newsletter 5 times per year, one is mailed each summer to 1200 property owners. 350 memberships result. $20 donation plus other donations for scholarships and fireworks. Water sampling 5 times a year decreases to 3 times per year. New culvert at Smith Creek.

Facebook page and Annual meeting is third Saturday in July. rea

Swan Lake: Ron Guggisberg – Jon Korpi, town board supervisor, is spearheading project to install municipal sewer line around Swan Lake, but landowners expressing concerns and opposition. Walleye riffle is done. Treatment of curly leaf pondweed will be done in West Bay not the main channel where there is too much flow.

Johnson: Stephanie Kessler – May newsletter, year round email news of interest, July 4th Boat Parade, water sampling decreases from 5 times to 3 times per year,

Deer Lake – Tom Nelson: Home and Garden Tours in June, Shoreland Stewardship Awards, Road cleanup, Scholarships, Incentives to upgrade septic system, Five Star Initiative to hire AIS aware service providers, August Frolic, various other social events.

Ice Lake in town GR – Catherine McLynn reported that one landowner worked with SWCD/AIS to get treatment for Eurasion Milfoil along with McKinney and Hale Lakes. One loon chick survived to young adult stage.

Meeting adjourned at 1:15 pm.

Catherine McLynn, Secretary