**ITASCA COALITION OF LAKE ASSOCIATIONS**

**July 16, 2025 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 Lake

Linda Skallman ICOLA Treasurer/Greater Pokegama Lake Assn

Marty Miller Greater Pokegama Lake Assn

Bill Grantges SWCD/ AIS coordinator/ Itasca Waters

Jan Bilden Shallow Lake Assn

Don and Faye Klande Shallow Lake Assn

Helen Ahlbrecht Greater King Lake Assn

Rick Lambert Greater King Lake Assn

Paul Ryan Suomi Area Lakes Assn

Dave Lick WCOLA

Steve and Jean Melin WCOLA

Sam Nelson WCOLA

Wayne and Carol Speedling WCOLA

Rich Libbey GPLA/Izaak Walton League

Gail Blackmer Deer Lake/Effie

Doug and Elise Widen Deer Lake Assn

Jess Loes Deer Lake Assn

Tom Nelson SWCD/Deer Lake Assn

Matt Gutzmann SWCD

Cal Saari SWCD

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** **Minutes of June 18, 2025 were approved with one revision re: Comm. Johnson statement about comprehensive land use plan. Steve Melin/Linda Skallman MCU**

**TREASURER’S REPORT*:*** **Checking account is $2686.99. Treasurer’s report accepted. Doug Widen/Jan Bilden MCU**

**ELECTIONS**

**Motion was made to re-elect President Steph Kessler and Secretary Catherine McLynn for another two year term.**

**Jan Bilden/Steve Melin MCU**

**Featured speaker: Katie Benes, Itasca County Environmental Services Director**

Prior to ICOLA meeting Katie and SWCD Whalon and Matt addressed many questions and concerns from about 50 attendees.

Enforcement of ordinances and regulations is difficult. Records are maintained, and staff persons do respond to complaints. Improvements are needed and slow progress is being made.

**SWCD: Bill Grantges –**

**Starry Trek Aug 9 8:30 to noon.**

**Itasca County Fair Wed. Aug 13 to 17. AIS/ICOLA booth will be up on the hill in Fine Arts log building along with other DNR, SWCD and USFS displays. VOLUNTEERS needed to offer the public information on keeping our lakes clean!**

**Contact Bill to sign up!**

Moose Lake is the most recently discovered lake infested with zebra mussels.

Starry Stonewort was found in Winnie and now in Pokegama near Sherry’s Arm.

Deer and Swan Lake have been treated with herbicide to reduce curly leaf pondweed. Good results.

AIS displays will be prominent in Tall Timber Days parade Sunday August 3.

AIS is fully funded through 2026 and cut in half starting July 2027.

***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 encouraged participation in upcoming meetings for developing Watershed Plans. Bigfork on July 22.**

**Forestry seminar on Sat. Oct 4 at North College in Grand Rapids.**

***AROUND THE HORN REPORTS Include any concerning developments and progress to address them.***

Siseebakwet: Bill Hagenbuck-Flotilla on the Fourth of July, crayfish trapping, new building for Air BB.

Greater Pokegama Lake: Linda Skallman– Board vacancies, but new members stepping up. Jeff Forester speaker at July 19 meeting

Johnson: Stephanie Kessler – July 4th Boat Parade, Annual meeting in August, two new buildings have been built. One was compliant, the other done without any permits. Also, a structure was built and trees cut down on a public beach area on National Forest land. USFS has been contacted.

Deer Lake – Tom Nelson: August 12 DLA Frolic. Violations are being addressed including non-compliant structure on a bluff.

Jess Loes reported on successful Firewise projects with a state grant.

Itasca Waters: Water Wisdom series continues with topics: Effects of wildfires on water and next month: algae blooms.

Paul Ryan – Suomi Area Lakes –

Helen Ahlbrecht – Greater King Lake Assn – new president Rick Lambert was introduced.

WCOLA – Sam Nelson – Water quality testing and Secchi disk readings

Shallow Lake – Jan Bilden reported on a new campground with 11 trailers and property that changed hands in 2021 but still no septic upgrade.

Gail Blackmer – Deer Lake Watershed east of Effie -Flotilla on Fourth, new signs for good stewardship properties.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Catherine McLynn, Secretary