

**ITASCA COALITION OF LAKE ASSOCIATIONS  
ITASCA WATER LEGACY PARTNERSHIP JOINT MEETING**

**Wednesday, October 15, 2014  
7:00 p.m. -- Itasca County Board Room**

**Attendance:**

Tom Nelson, ICOLA President/Deer Lake Association  
Stephanie Kessler, ICOLA Vice-President/Johnson Lake Association  
Jan Sandberg, ICOLA Secretary/ Greater Pokegama Lake Association  
Patty Gould St. Aubin, ICOLA Treasurer/Greater Pokegama Lake Association

Others in attendance, although some left after the AIS presentation:

Dick Sandberg, Greater Pokegama Lake Association	Helen and Jack Adamson, Upper Prairie Lake Association
Andy Martin, Island Lake Area Association	Catherine McLynn
Harold Goetzman, Jessie Lake Association	Don Simons, Itasca Soil and Water Conservation District Board
Helen Ahlbrecht, King Lake Association	Pat Leistikow, IWLP and Johnson Lake
Bill Grantges, Siseebakwet Lake Association, Itasca Water Legacy Partnership	Shirley Loegring, Itasca Water Legacy Partnership, Izaak Walton League
Cher & Russ Wedl, Splithand Lake Association	Rich Rezanka, Department of Natural Resources
Barb & Tom Ryan, Suomi Area Lakes Association	Eric Raitenen, United States Forest Service
Dorothy Abrahamson, Swan Lake Association	Mary Blickenderfer, University of Minnesota

**CALL TO ORDER:** Tom Nelson called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm at the Courthouse. This is a joint meeting with the first item a special presentation preliminary to town hall meetings addressing the county's AIS plan.

**1. AGENDA**

Tom reviewed the draft ICOLA agenda that was distributed at the beginning of the meeting.

*Motion to approve the agenda as submitted. Harold Goetzman, Jack Adamson . M/S/U*

The group then discussed the AIS plan following presentations by Tom Nelson, Bill Grantges and Mary Blickenderfer. The ICOLA portion of the meeting continued after that discussion.

**2. APPROVAL OF ICOLA MINUTES:**

*Motion to approve the minutes of July 16, 2014 as submitted. Stephanie Kessler, Bill Grantges. M/S/U*

**3. TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Patty reported that there is \$3,852.29 in the ICOLA account with a check for \$10 received at tonight's meeting.

*Motion to approve the treasurer's report as submitted. Catherine McLynn, Stephanie Kessler. M/S/U*

**4. OLD BUSINESS**

***A. Shoreland Stewardship Award***

Tom reported that the committee selected three recipients. Each received a framed wildlife print with a total cost for all three of around \$350.00 Two recipients were on Wabana Lake (Tom & Carol Myrick and Peter and Chris Friedlieb) and one recipient is on Dunbar Lake (Ken and Millie Flies). There was a nice article in the Herald Review.

## 5. NEW BUSINESS

### **A. Zoning Ordinance Committee Formation**

Tom is hoping that work will start in February. However, forming a committee now will facilitate a meeting this fall to start reviewing the comprehensive plan. Tom will draft a notice that lake associations can use to inform their members for a November-early December meeting. Tom offered to chair the committee. Others interested include Dick Sandberg, Patty Gould St. Aubin, Stephanie Kessler, and Bill Grantges.

### **B. Organizing a Lake Association**

Tom reviewed some available Minnesota Waters materials that can be useful to those interested in forming a new lake association. He is hopeful that an association for Helen Lake may form. A Grand Rapids association would be welcome. The materials will be posted on the ICOLA website.

### **C. Executive Committee Discussions**

The Executive Committee will discuss insurance for officers and directors, ICOLA work plan including checklists for the County Fair booth and annual meeting, statement of goals and accomplishments and bylaw review.

There was some discussion about insurance. One member noted that a board member for his association would not participate in variance reviews due to concerns about liability. This may be a good topic for a future ICOLA meeting.

## 8. Around the Horn—Association reports

**Greater Pokegama Lake Association:** The Association has filed a complaint with the federal Environmental Protection Agency concerning the backflow of water pushed into the lake from the Mississippi River by actions of the Army Corps of Engineers. The focus of the complaint is on the debris and contaminants from the river, including AIS, and impact of shoreline erosion on water quality. Note: Jan added later that there were permit issues in the last few months including a restoration order (after considerable Association input) and several requests for paths to the lake, at least one of which could be a boat launch opportunity.

**Suomi Lakes Association:** Signs are up at accesses on Little Bowstring and Grave lakes. Although a local official first thought that the sign language was unfriendly, it was approved. Their Board will meet October 21. Beaver activity and lake level is still an issue.

**Swan Lake Association:** Nothing is happening yet as the disintegration of the board. They are trying to identify potential leaders. Tom Nelson forwarded information about reforming the lake association to them. Bill noted that Swan is a high priority lake. They had a issue with no wake zones.

**Upper Prairie Lake Association:** Not much happening since August as many residents are gone. There is a new board. The only issues are high water and geese.

**Splithand Lake Association:** They have a cattail issue with impact on spawning beds and are working with the DNR. The importance of having a lake association to address issues was addressed.

**King Lake Association:** They had an interesting problem with a cabin owner bringing a horse onto the property (no barn) which may be a zoning issue.

**Sisebakwet Lake Association:** They just elected a new president and vice-president. They are facing some issues with insurance.

**Jessie Lake Association:** Harold is no longer president (they have a new president, vice-president, secretary and two board members, one representing a resort). Activities include roadside cleaning

and a picnic. They had an issue with no wake zones. A resort had done extensive lakeshore work building a natural buffer but the high water and boat activity created severe damage. They tried to get signage for a no wake zone but were denied the temporary signs. The beaver are back and they will form a committee to address the issue.

**Johnson Lake Association:** Not much happening. They tried the geocache game with limited results.

**Deer Lake Association:** The Living Word Bible Camp issue is still not resolved although some silt fences have appeared. The one outstanding lawsuit pending focuses on the appropriateness of the land for a resort rather than the allowed youth camp.

**Soil and Water Conservation District:** Noel Griese has resigned and they hope to hire a new person before the end of the year. The job description now includes ¼ time for an AIS specialist.

## 9. Adjourn

Adjourned at 9:10 pm

### **Future meetings:**

February 18, 2015

April 15, 2015

June 17, 2015

July 15, 2015 (annual meeting likely in Marcell)

October 21, 2015

Respectfully submitted,  
Jan Sandberg, Secretary