

ITASCA COALITION OF LAKE ASSOCIATIONS QUARTERLY MEETING

April 15, 2015
Itasca County Courthouse

Tom Nelson, ICOLA President/Deer Lake
Stephanie Kessler, ICOLA Vice-president/Johnson Lake Association
Jan Sandberg, ICOLA Secretary/Greater Pokegama Lake Association

Catherine McLynn, Ice Lake
Harold Goetzman, Jessie Lake Watershed
Helen Albrecht, King Lake
Bill Grantges, Itasca County AIS Coordinator/Siseebakwet Lake
Tom and Barb Ryan, Suomi Area Lakes Association
Dick Sandberg, Greater Pokegama Lake Association
Rick Bodin, Shallow Lake
Doug Griffin, Wabana Lake
Don Simons, Soil and Water Conservation District Board
Terry Schadig, Soil and Water Conservation District staff

CALL TO ORDER: President Tom Nelson called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm at the courthouse. A quorum was present with 9 member lake associations being represented.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: There were no changes to the agenda circulated via email.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of February 18, 2015 were briefly discussed. *Motion to approve as presented. Catherine McLynn/Harold Goetzman M/S/U*

TREASURER'S REPORT: Patty Gould St. Aubin's report is incorporated herein by reference. Current balance is \$3,626.75. Since the last meeting, one check was written to SWCD for the Envirothon. Discussion about need to spend funds from dues and not accumulate a high balance. There were previously approvals to spend funds (e.g. the IWLP Watershed Conference) and those agencies should submit an invoice to Patty for payment. Tom will ask Patty to provide a list of those members who have renewed after the mailing last summer. *Motion to accept treasurer report. Jan Sandberg/Bill Grantges M/S/U*

Itasca Soil and Water Conservation District New Hires

There is a new District Manager (Terry Schadig) and a new Water Planner (Kim Slanga). Kim was previously an intern at SWCD and her previous knowledge should be helpful. Terry noted that he just came for a seminar on funding from the state for Outdoor Heritage Council and similar. Tom mentioned that he will get together with Andy Ahrens about the shoreland award.

Fire Wise Program

Julie was unable to come tonight. Tom discussed a recent mailing and suggested that lake associations may want to consider the program. There will be a presentation in June.

Citizen Action Project Grants Awarded

Bill Grantges reported that five applications were funded for a little over \$11,000. The only lake association to apply was Sand Lake. Bowstring Resort received a matching grant for thermal decontamination as did T&M Marine (mobile) and Grand Rapids Marine (permanent). The fifth project was a grant to ICTV for a one-hour Just Outdoors segment with Tom Chapin on AIS watercraft inspection. There is still \$8,900 in funds for additional projects for the next few months.

Bill discussed the requirements for grant application. Ideas include sensors to measure the use of an access, funds for additional AIS inspectors on a specific lake, meet & greet, access monitoring systems, and water testing, among others. These are matching grants, 50% is expected to come from the applicant.

AIS Training Workshops for Plant Identification.

ICOLA Lake Challenge leaders will be trained by Extension Staff:

Wednesday, June 3 at 5:00 pm at Dthe iscovery Center, Marcell, MN

Wednesday June 24 at 6:00 pm at the Trailhead building, Itasca County Fairgrounds

AIS Coordinator report: Bill Grantges

In response to a question, Bill listed the seven priority (high-risk) lakes: Pokegama, Trout in Coleraine, Bowstring (noted that a new grant from DNR will fund an additional 745 hours on these three priority lakes) as well as Splithand, Swan, Wabana, and Deer.

Bill reviewed rapid response issues, treatment of lakes with known zebra mussel issues, decontamination and courtesy washes for fishing tournaments,

Bill reported that Itasca County has received \$8,000 grant similar to last year but he still needs to identify the matching portion. He is ordering a mobile thermal unit for Itasca County. He is also in the process of hiring inspectors for this summer through Personnel Dynamics. There is a Children's First event on April 25. On May 1, there will be DNR training for Level 1 inspectors. On May 5 he will make a presentation to MN Power. He will also be at the Fishing Opener BBQ and then working the fishing opener. He needs volunteers for courtesy washes for fishing tournaments (the Sheriff's Department should know about tournaments on specific lakes). He also needs volunteers to work with the AIS inspectors at accesses. Lake associations should demonstrate the importance of their lakes by finding volunteers. Contact Bill Grantges (bill@grantges.net) if interested.

Finally, Bill would like to put together a float for Tall Timber Days on Sunday, August 2.

Partnerships with IWLP

- **County Fair August 19-23** (work plan)

We should have the same booth location as last year but discussion about a more central location. We will need more volunteers than last year. Helen Ahlbrecht is interested in joining the committee.

- **Youth Summit, May 21**

The Youth Summit will serve over 350 5th grade students from around Itasca County on May 22, 2015 from 8 am to 3 pm at the Itasca County Fairgrounds. The event is seeking volunteers to help guide groups of students to learning stations. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Karen Walker, email-kwalker@isd318.org and phone 218-327-5799.

- **Adult Water Summit, July 31 at Sugar Lake Lodge.**

When registration information is available, Jan will provide information for distribution to ICOLA members.

Getting the message out:

- Tax inserts: we missed the deadline this year but should try to do something for next year.
- KAXE announcement would cost about \$500 and a committee would need to develop the text.

Motion to authorize up to \$500 for a PSA to run on KAXE with the byline Itasca Coalition of Lake Associations. Catherine, Barb

- New members for ICOLA

Barb shared an older list of 40 members of ICOLA and discussion that it is time to review and solicit updated names. Steph will start doing some calling to determine if some of those listed are still active.

County News

- Zoning ordinance: Tom reported that the county is still waiting to move from the revised comprehensive plan revised over a year ago to new ordinances. It is possible that this will start up this fall. Stay tuned.

State News:

- Buffer Blitz at the capitol: several groups are trying to get action with 50-foot buffer for lakes, rivers and streams for agricultural land and new development. There was a discussion that this requirement would be grandfathered for residential property.
- MN COLA meeting: will be discussing muskie stocking in lakes including some that have never had muskies
- MRL and legislative agenda: AIS funding repeal may have gone away; the AIS trailer sticker situation is unclear
- Water resolution: Tom said that a list of threats was compiled and forwarded from Cass County. Tom will provide more detail at the June meeting

Annual Meeting Planning (workplan)

- Officer nominations
Tom and Steph are interested in continuing. However, other candidates are welcome to run at the July meeting.
- Audit committee
Need three persons, one of which is the treasurer. We will ask the Jesse Lake treasurer to participate. ICOLA has not previously had a budget and some thought that one was not needed.
- Location booking
Steph will book Marcel town hall for the July annual meeting. Steph asked for ideas for a speaker/program at the annual meeting—we had discussed Dan Swenson given that the ordinances review is coming up.

Next meeting: June 17, courthouse

- Firewise
- Water testing at the ICC lab
- AIS progress reports/ CAP grants
- Extension training recruitment

MEMBER REPORTS

Deer Lake Association

Lost the LWBC appeal and an appeal of that decision is unlikely. In planning stages for upcoming year.

Greater Pokegama Lake Association

At its January meeting, GPLA approved a \$500 donation for the IWLP Watershed Conference. GPLA also adopted a protocol for communicating with organizers and members when high water threatens the 4th of July fireworks. The EPA complaint is still under review by the feds. As with other lake associations, GPLA is actively seeking new board members. The Klingman variance denial was in process at the time of the meeting but since then the Cohasset Council has upheld the denial of a request to approve post hoc a 7'x53' cement slab on Big Jay Gould. The slab was constructed on the lake shore without a permit. GPLA will continue to provide a \$750 scholarship for ICC for a student that studies water related issues. Since the January GPLA meeting there has been discussion about Cohasset annexing substantial property on Pokegama Lake. There will be public meetings at some point.

Ice Lake

Ice out and loons. Issues with Zim's Lane becoming a county road that requires 66' width essentially taking some property.

Jessie Lake Watershed Association

Finishing up the newsletter. First board meeting is Saturday with spring meeting June 6 (Jeff Forester from MN River and Lakes is on the agenda). Mailing a DNR AIS brochure to members and nonmembers. Put up signs at landings. Doing beaver trapping over the winter. Will again sample water (17th year). Tom asked about a past project and Harold said that the willow bundles did not do well but the culvert helped.

Johnson Lake

They are a Fire wise community. She is working on the newsletter and plans to add more info about requests for volunteers. Will post spawning area signs to discourage fishing there.

King Lake

Ice is out, preparing for annual meeting around Memorial Day. Lots of property sales this year.

Shallow and Sand Lakes Association

Ice is out, not much else to report.

Suomi Area Lakes Association

Ice out a few days ago, some signs are up with expectation of more. Had an ice fishing contest in February with a popular chili feed.

Wabana Chain of Lakes Association includes Bluewater

Ice is nearly out. No meetings since last year but planning will start soon.

Itasca Soil and Water Conservation District

Waiting for DNR signature to protect 17 tulibee lakes to help landowners on those lakes. Contacted KAXE to donate a stewardship plan and hope to get some positive feedback.

Next meeting is June 17, 2015 at the Itasca County Court House. The meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Sandberg, Secretary