

ICOLA Newsletter, April 2014  
(In lieu of a regular meeting)

As indicated earlier, there will not be an in-person meeting of ICOLA at the courthouse this month. Instead we are providing these items of concern to ICOLA members.

1) The ICOLA treasurer, Michelle Brauner, will be stepping down at the end of her term in July. Thus we need to find a replacement to handle the ICOLA books. This is not as difficult as it might seem, and Michelle will offer assistance to our new Treasurer. Please consider taking on this important task, beginning at our annual meeting in July. We are very grateful to Michelle for her service to ICOLA!

1a) Update: Patty Gould St Aubin has volunteered to take the treasurer position. Thank you Patty!

2) US Forest Service (USFS) is making plans for logging this summer near some of the lakes in north-central Itasca County. The locations are multiple spot parcels in the vicinity of the Wabana Chain, up to Caribou Lake and on to north of Turtle. There is a public comment period. Contact Don Ugglala for more details and maps. <uggla001@umn.edu>

3) The IWLP Youth Summit will take place on May 22nd, and volunteers might still be needed. Contact Janet Florine or Kathy Loucks <Kathy.Loucks@itascaswcd.org>

4) DNR scientist Paul Radomski's Sensitive Lakeshore studies of Turtle, Sand Chain and Bass Lakes are completed and online. Scroll to the bottom of this webpage to find the reports:  
<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/sli/index.html>

5) ICOLA has a new website and email contact host (Gmail). Details will be sent when the systems are ready.

6) Minnesota Waters/Conservation MN is hosting a conference in the Brainerd area coming up May 1-2. There is an admission charge.  
<http://www.conservationminnesota.org/state-of-water-conference/>

7) There will be an AIS state conference in Duluth next October that will be well worth attending. <http://www.umisc2014.org/>

8) The Itasca Water Plan Implementation Committee (WPIC) and the Itasca County Planning Commission are both seeking to fill vacancies in Districts 3 and 4 for WPIC, and District 1 for PC/BoA (due to the recent death of Robin Baker). If you live in these districts, or know someone who does, please consider joining these important government committees. Contact Tom Nelson for more details. <neldo885@umn.edu>

9) The Itasca Water Plan Implementation Committee met recently and heard from AIS specialist Rich Reznaka about DNR efforts this summer. This includes providing AIS inspectors for selected lake accesses during the busy holiday weekends this summer.

10) A DNR training session for lake access citizen volunteers took place last weekend, and another is planned for training hired inspectors. The Itasca Water Legacy Partnership (IWLP) is also supplying a limited number of AIS inspectors and educators for lake accesses this summer. If you are interested in being an AIS Volunteer (educator) or actual Inspector (paid positions) contact Bill Grantges. <Bill@Grantges.net>

11) AIS posters and table tents are available from Bill Grantges and we should get them out around the county again this year.

12) An AIS monitoring program is being offered from Meredith Keller from MNWaters/Conservation Minnesota. This will not be scheduled until sometime in the summer.

13) The Itasca County Zoning Ordinance hearings have still not been scheduled. ICOLA will form a committee to discuss our recommendations, especially regarding the Shoreland.

14) The Itasca County Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA) is making good progress.

15) MN COLA and Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates (MLR) are

currently active at the state legislature.

16) Final approval for Living Word Bible Camp's controversial proposal for Deer Lake has been postponed once again, until June 11.

17) Code Red reminder: The CodeRED system provides city and county officials the ability to quickly deliver messages to targeted areas or the entire city or county. Individuals should log onto the Itasca County website;

<http://www.co.itasca.mn.us/Home/Departments/Sheriff's/Pages/default.aspx>, and follow the link to the "[CodeRED Community Notification Enrollment](#)" page.

**Future meetings:**

June 18, 2014, 7pm County Courthouse ITV Conference Room

July 16, 2014, Annual Meeting Marcell

October 15, 2014, County Courthouse ITV Conference Room