GULL CHAIN OF LAKES ASSOCIATION

Board of Directors’ Meeting

January 13, 2016, Grand View Lodge

Present: Steve Allex, Uldis Birznieks, Jay Chaney, Kevin Egan, Robert Eliason, Ron Faust, Rosemary Goff,

Linda Harrier, Chuck Herrig, John Ingleman, Arla Johnson, Bob Toborg, Marc Bacigalupi

Absent: Marv Meyer, Mary Kay Larson

Guests: Dave Anderson, Marian Anderson, Chad Boesen, Kris Driessen, Sen. Paul Gazelka, Hoot Gibson,

Ike Halliwill, Sheila Johnston and Doug Johnston

The meeting was called to order by Chair Uldis Birznieks at 8:30 a.m.

Sen. Paul Gazelka discussed upcoming legislative issues and the muskie stocking controversy and answered questions.

On motion by Johnson seconded by Egan, the minutes of the December 2, 2015, meeting were approved with the following addition: On page 2, under Membership Committee, on the first line, after “one new” add “business”. **PASSED**

**Treasurer’s Repor**t: As of December 31, 2015, there was cash on hand of $122,259.76 (includes

$65,000 in Contingency Fund). Total income from November 26 to December 31 was $16,006 and expenses were $17,451.53. The treasurer’s report was set aside subject to audit.

**Correspondence:** Thank you from University of MN

Thank you from Sandra Burrill

**Chair’s Report:**  - The 2015 budget ended with $24,000 positive.

- The Crow Wing County Board approved major changes suggested by lake associations

resulting in more funding going to AIS inspections rather than administrative costs.

- The GCOLA funding proposal submitted by Allex to Cass County was approved with

additional dollars for inspections.

- After many meetings with other lake associations he found we are not spending as

much on fighting AIS. He proposed budgeting $20,000 for AIS, in addition to grants we

may receive.

- Some lakes fund walleye stocking in addition to the DNR stocking program.

- Reported on muskie stocking public meetings and the meeting with DNR Commissioner

Tom Landwher and representatives of lake associations affected by the muskie

stocking proposal.

Bacigalupi reported that the whole muskie stocking process is being delayed for several months.

**CWC SWCS Tree Sale:** Faust reported that to help people replace trees lost from the past July storm, we will publicize the DNR tree seedling sale on our web site, in our winter newsletter and send out an e-mail.

**Fishing Extravaganza:** Goff reported that seven board members have volunteered to work at the January 23 fishing contest. The Crow Wing County sheriff will make a determination on January 15 as to whether the ice is safe or has to be moved to a later date. The application for a grant from the proceeds has been sent to the Extravaganza Committee.

**Birch Bay Zoning Fight:** Egan reported that several hearings have been held, the Cass County Planning Commission decided against requiring a full Environmental Impact Statement but will require specific points to be answered regarding the development. To date, a formal request for rezoning has not been filed.

**AIS COMMITTEE:** Allex reported that there will funding for more inspections in 2016, the Corps hopes to have the decontamination unit at the Gull Dam boat landing up and running in 2016, and a few invasive weeds (curly leaf and purple loosestrife) were found during the fall inspection. He recommended budgeting for control and eradication of these invasives. He is in the process of putting a plan in place in the event Eurasian milfoil is found.

**Communication Committee:** Ingleman reported that a meeting was held with Lakes Printing regarding 2016 newsletters, and that web site changes will be looked at in 2016.

**Environmental Committee:**  Eliason reported that the end of dock water testing program will continue. He proposed a secchi disk reading program and will coordinate with the MPCA program.

**Gala Committee:** Allex has volunteered to Chair the event, Herrig will chair the raffle and silent auction, Gibson publicity, Halliwill pine tree give away, Faust center pieces and Johnson tickets. It was decided to separate the Gala and annual meeting and hold the annual meeting on July 16 at the Lutheran Church of the Cross.

**Membership:** Johnson reported that the membership challenge will continue in 2016 with prizes awarded at the Gala. They are trying to follow-up with lapsed members but need more than lake phone numbers.

**Safety and Recreation:** Toborg presented an alternative bid for buoy installation and maintenance of $18,000, without inclusion of the trailer. The budget will reflect this change.

**2016 Budget:** Birznieks went over several suggested changes in the proposed 2016 budget presented at the December meeting.

**Motion** by Johnson, seconded by Egan that the 2016 budget be approved as changed.

**DNR Report:** Bacigalupi reported that currently the ice thickness on Gull is 12”, not safe enough for the fishing contest. He will work with Herrig on proposed additional walleye stocking by GCOLA.

Guest Sheila Johnstone stated she is interested in becoming involved with AIS issues.

The February meeting will be cancelled for lack of quorum.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.