Gull Chain of Lakes Association

Board of Directors’ Meeting

September 11, 2019, Grand View Lodge

**Present:** Bob Toborg, Chuck Herrig, Jane Edwards, Jay Chaney, John Ingleman, Linda Harrier, Marv Meyer, Robert Eliason, Rosemary Goff, Steve Allex, Steve Frawley, Sue Friedrichs, Uldis Birznieks

**Absent:** Sheila Johnston

**Guests:** Dave Anderson

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

On motion by Goff, seconded by Frawley the minutes of the August 14, 2019, were approved as read.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

* As of August 31, 2019, there were cash assets of $271,644.62 (including $151,454.34 in the AIS Contingency Fund). Total income from August 1 thru August 31 was $4,254.00 and expenses were $9,254.00 resulting in a net income of $(4,877.82). The treasurer’s report was set aside subject to audit.
* The Finance and Audit Committee will explore higher rate investment options for the AIS Contingency Fund and GCOLA savings account and bring a recommendation to the Board.

**Correspondence:**

* Crow Wing County delivered a Notice of Public Meeting regarding a Proposed 2020 Stand Exam Plan.

**USACE/MN DNR Update**:

* Nicole Baker sent an email on September 10, 2019: “We have been operating in the middle of the summer band the past week. With 1.44” of rain recorded in our gauge the last 24 hours, the lake level jumped to the top of our band. We began opening the dam more yesterday and will continue to open to bring the level back to middle of the bad. At this time, we are currently releasing 84 cfs.”
* Marc Bacigalupi sent an email on September 5, 2019: “Those buoys were marking a small mesh net designed to catch yellow perch as part of the DNR research on perch where Gull is included as one of the ~20 study lakes across the state. Also there is a U of MN study being led by Gretchen Hanson (where Gull is a study lake) looking at walleye and food web changes as a result of zebra mussel infestation – that field work started this summer, electrofishing being conducted in August. More info here: https://www.maisrc.umn.edu/team-hansen.”

**Event Updates:**

* **ACCL meeting (August 30)**: Herrig reported that the guest speaker, Phil Votruba, project manager with MPCA, recommended using an on-demand water softener, to not salt your driveways and drive slower as ways to minimize salt usage. The ACCL is looking for people interested in participating as a board member.
* **President meeting with WAPOA and Pelican Lake Association (September 9)**: Herrig stated that both associations have annual meetings which last about 30 minutes, and the number of board members is similar to GCOLA, but term limits vary. Both presidents are interested in learning more about GCOLA’s Lake Steward program.
* **MNCOLA Board Meeting**: Birznieks noted the immediate legislative focus will be on watercraft wakes, increasing AIS fines, Muskie stocking in native lakes only, watercraft user licenses, AIS research funding and copper nickel mining in the Boundary Waters.

**AIS Committee:**

* Allex announced that he and Dorothy Whitmer surveyed the Gull Lake Chain for Starry Stonewort with the focus on large public access with none found.
* Allex reviewed the boat inspection information provided by the City of Lake Shore.

**Communications Committee:**

* Ingleman reported that the summer newsletter has been delivered and articles are due on October 18 for the fall newsletter.
* Anderson reviewed the website analytics with the top page views including the home page, gala, news & events and the shopping cart.

**Environmental Committee:** No update.

**Finance & Audit Committee**:

* Meyer stated the audit will be completed in October and the budget will be delivered to the board members next month.

**Fisheries Committee:** No update.

**Legislative Committee**:

* Birznieks noted the committee will be meeting to establish the legislative priorities for 2020.
* Frawley announced a MN organization, named Safe Wakes, has been established to focus on legislation and studies throughout the US and world-wide related to boat wakes.

**Membership Committee:**

* Edwards reported that she is working on assessing membership trends to make a recommendation for 2020, along with revising the ‘What we do’ document.

**Recreation and Safety:**

* Toborg reviewed the buoy removal schedule beginning with the swim buoys around September 20. He will work with Cass County to devise a recommendation for buoys to be replaced with the fully lighted version in the future.

On motion by Meyer, seconded by Harrier, the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes recorded by Sue Friedrichs.