GULL CHAIN OF LAKES ASSOCIATION

Board of Directors’ Meeting

February 8, 2017, Grand View Lodge

Present: Uldis Birznieks, Bill Brekken, Jay Chaney, Robert Eliason, Rosemary Goff, Chuck Herrig (by

phone), Sheila Johnston, Marv Meyer (by phone), Bob Toborg, Marc Bacigalupi and Mary Kay

Larson.

Absent: Steve Allex, Kevin Egan, Linda Harrier and John Ingleman

Guests: Kris Ackley, Dave Anderson, Chad Boesen, Hoot Gibson, Tim Plude, Vicki Smith, Tom Spicola

and Carrie Tripp.

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

On motion by Eliason, seconded by Toborg the minutes of the January 11, 2017 meeting were approved as read.

**Treasurer’s Report:** As of January 31, 2017, there was cash on hand of $186,214.29 (including $85,000 in the AIS Contingency Fund). Total income from December 1 to December 31 was $35,190 and expenses were $11,271.20. The treasurer’s report was set aside subject to audit.

**Correspondence:** E-mails from Julie Hepburn regarding purchase of weed harvester

Nisswa PTO regarding 12th Bloom Fundraiser

MN Lakes and Rivers advocates annual meeting on February 11 and dues renewal

Crossing Arts Alliance Sponsorship request

**Endowment Fund:** Kristi Ackley, Community Philanthropy Specialist with the Initiative Foundation, was present to give an update on the GCOA Endowment Fund. With her was Carrie Tripp, VP for External Relations. The fund is currently at $211,550. Under the Initiative Foundation guidelines, $8,000 could be withdrawn from the fund in 2017. (See attached charts.)

**News and Notes:** Birznieks reported that:

\* The Fishing Extravaganza drew around 11,000 participants. Jay Chaney was thanked for

donating a fish house for the day for our GCOLA volunteers.

\* The Lutheran Church of the Cross event center has been reserved for the 2017 GCOLA annual

business meeting on July 15 at 10:00 a.m.

\* Membership renewals are at 566.

**Corps of Engineers:** Larson reported that the winter lake draw down is at its intended level.

**DNR:** Bacigalupi reported that at the recent JC’s Ice Fishing Extravaganza 50 walleye were caught with 25 mortalities and 500 yellow perch were caught with 229 mortalities. The mortalities given to the Pikes for Vets organization.

Tim Plude the new AIS specialist covering Crow Wing and Aitkin counties was introduced. He discussed

curlyleaf pondweed management and the complexity of hybrid milfoil. He was invited to provide more indepth information at a future GCOLA meeting.

**AIS Committee:** Birznieks reported that Allex had submitted a grant request, including funding for treating Love and Margaret Lakes, before submission of requests was closed.

Johnston reported that people interested in participating in the U of M Extension Services AIS Detector’s training program have to sign up and pay on their website. GCOLA will reimburse people who sign up. An e-mail will be sent out to members regarding this program.

**Environment Committee:** Eliason and Johnston will make a decision on the future of the white pine seedling program.

**Fisheries Committee:** Birznieks reported that the Governor is suggesting a $3.00 increase in fishing licenses to address the Fisheries Division pending deficit. Information meetings will be held for public input.

**GALA Committee:** Herrig reported that Dos Guys has been suggested to provide entertainment at the event at a cost of $300. The dinner ticket price will remain at $45 and raffle tickets at 100 max sold at $100/each.

**Legislative Committee:** Birznieks reported that the AIS Research Center has asked for support with regard to seeking long term funding from the Legislature. GCOLA legislative priorities were sent to Jeff Forester, Executive Director of Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates.

**Membership Committee:** Bill Brekken has been appointed as a new member to this committee. Discussion was held on past efforts to increase memberships and new ideas. Vicki Smith suggested that sub-associations on the Chain be contacted to promote membership.

**Audit Committee:** Requests for proposals to conduct an external audit of GCOLA’s books will be sent to local CPA firms.

**Wakefest:** Goff reported that the Cass County sheriff has required the 2017 Wakefest organizers to obtain our approval for the event.

**Motion** by Toborg, seconded by Eliason that GCOLA give approval for the 2017 Wakefest event to

be held at Craguns Resort in July or August. **Passed**

**Cass County AIS Task Force:** Birznieks reported on the meeting and provided information on their 2017 budget which includes $10,000 for Lake Shore police boat inspections. They will no longer provide grants for plant surveys. The DNR will work with PLM to improve plant samplings. A list of Cass County lakes with AIS was presented. Of the 15 lakes with AIS, seven are connected to Gull Lake.

**Minnesotans for Family Fishing and Healthy Lakes:** Johnston took up the tabled motion to provide $2500 in funding for MFFHL which is statewide and now has 1,000 members including over 300 from the Gull Chain. Their goal is to pass legislation to stop the DNR from stocking more muskies in lakes non-native to muskies. Birznieks introduced letters from GCOLA members in support of the funding request.

Discussion followed with supporters providing input and Bacigalupi urging that funding not be provided. Non board members were asked to leave while the Board gave consideration to the request.

**Motion** by Toborg, seconded by Chaney that the tabled motion from the January 11 meeting be

taken off the table for further consideration. **Passed**

**Motion** by Toborg, seconded by Chaney that GCOLA donate $2500 to Minnesotans for Family

Fishing and Healthy Lakes. **Passed** 8-1 with Eliason voting no.

On motion by Chaney, seconded by Toborg the meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Minutes recorded by Rosemary Goff