GULL CHAIN OF LAKES ASSOCIATION

October 10, 2018 Board Meeting

Grand View Lodge Headwaters Room

Present: Steve Allex, Uldis Birznieks, Robert Eliason, Sue Friedrichs, Chuck Herrig, John Ingleman, Sheila Johnston, and Marv Meyer

Absent: Bill Brekken, Jay Chaney, Steve Frawley, Rosemary Goff, Linda Harrier, and Bob Toborg

Guests: Dave Anderson, Marc Bacigalupi, and Mary Kay Larson

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

On motion by Birznieks, seconded by Allex, the minutes of the September 12, 2018, meeting minutes were approved as read.

**Treasurer’s Report:** As of September 30, 2018, there were cash assets of $239,018.50 (including $130,726.97 in the AIS Contingency Fund). Total income from September 1 thru September 30 was $5,877.00 and expenses were $5,889.27. Net income was $86.21 after interest income of $98.48. The treasurer’s report was set aside subject to audit.

**Correspondence:** Brainerd Public School Foundation requesting sponsorship for GameOn Fundraiser

Crow Wing Child Protection Team requesting donation to Radiothon to End Child Abuse

No action was taken on the donation requests.

**Corps of Engineers:** Larson reported the Wounded Warrior event was a success and her retirement date will be November 30, 2018.

**Motion** by Birznieks, seconded by Eliason, a $100 Grand View gift card will be given to Mary Kay Larson in recognition of her retirement from the US Army Corps of Engineers. **Passed**

**MN DNR:** Bacigalupi stated the walleye fry were recorded at less than 30 per hour in the Gull chain. This resulted in the DNR stocking walleye fingerlings in October. The DNR will stock walleye fry next spring and muskie this fall.

**AIS Response Plan:** Allex will send out the AIS Response Plan to board members for approval at the November meeting.

**MAIRSC Showcase** – Johnson presented a recap of the 2018 MAIRSC Showcase. (See attachment below)

**MAIRSC Donation**: On motion and amendment byEliason, seconded by Ingleman, a $5,000 donation will be made to MAIRSC for starry stonewort and Eurasian watermilfoil research.

Action Item: Allex will prepare the letter to accompany the check.

**MNCOLA and ACCL Recap:** Herrig delivered a summary of the MNCOLA and ACCL meetings. Herrig is now a board member of ACCL. Some best practices include establishing shore captains for specific areas to monitor AIS and educate residents and installing a sign at all lake access that holds handouts providing a map to the nearest decontamination station. (See attachment below)

Action Item: Herrig and Friedrichs will attend the Community of Minnesota Resorts Fall Conference on October 29 at Cragun’s. They will assist ACCL in promoting the Resort Ambassador Program which grants $7 per boat inspection.

**AIS Committee Report:** Allex visited with Madden’s and Cragun’s and they are open to having staff trained on how to examine boats and handout education material to boat owners. Other resorts and owners of private boat sites may be interested as well.

Action Item:

* Explore options for staffing resorts on high turnover dates and include in budget, if needed.
* Determine how resort staff will be trained.
* Prepare educational handout for boat owners.
* Prepare map to decontamination station if AIS discovered.

**Communication Committee Report**: Ingleman reminded board members that newsletter articles are due October 19.

Action Item:

* GCOLA today vs. 30 years ago article – Anderson
* Loons with avian pox article – TBD
* Lawn fertilizer runoff increases algae growth article - TBD
* The value of a lake association talking points for board members - TBD
* Loon caution handouts for resorts – TBD

**Environmental Committee Report:** Johnston shared that WAPOA is using educational mixers to promote shoreline restoration instead of a contest. More locations for ‘Caution Look Chick Ahead Go Slow’ signs will be identified.

**Finance Committee Report:** Meyer indicated the audit will be held on October 24 and budgets are due November 14. Goff will deliver information to committee chairs the week of October 15.

**Legislative Committee Report:** Birznieks invited board members to the Candidates Forum on October 24 at 7 p.m. at the Northland Arboretum.

Action Item:

* Identify and prioritize the top three areas on the Gull chain that need a no wake zone established.
* Meet with the sheriff to learn the process to establish the No Wake zone.

**GCOLA 6-Month Lookahead Calendar:** Herrig suggested board members review the calendar.

**Tim Walz Event:** Herrig reported GCOLA will not be participating in the fundraiser. However if any board member would like to attend as an individual, it is an opportunity to communicate the importance of lake associations participating in decision-making lake water quality organizations.

On motion by Meyer, seconded by Eliason, the meeting adjourned.

Minutes recorded by Sue Friedrichs.

**2018 MAISRC Showcase Update
by Sheila Johnston**

**Benefits of Removing Carp:**

˖ Vegetation, water clarity, and nutrients rebound

˖ Carp aggregate in winter and can be seined, but not all fish can be seined and
 it is expensive

˖ There are new methods that require less manpower without non target effects

1. Toxic bait and switch: Carp love corn. They can be trained to aggregate and feed. After they are eating corn, a toxin is added to the corn. Antimycin can be safely contained in pellet that does not leak. Specificity test showed only carp ate the corn.

2. Whooshh Carp Cannon: Migrating carp swim into the tube and are sucked out of the water. An electric guiding system directs carp to a floating fish ladder, and the floating fish ladder directs them into the cannon .There is an underwater screening system to protect native fish. It is modeled after the Salmon Cannon used in the Pacific Northwest to transport migrating salmon over huge dams. Minnesota is the first state to try to use the system to stop the spread of invasive carp species.

**Microbial Association with Aquatic Organisms**

˖ Bacteria have been discovered that induce mortality in Zebra Mussels.

˖ First identify microbes, then target and enhance materials to make sure they

 are only on target.

˖ Naturally occurring microbes may produce toxins that could be used for control.

˖ Many AIS have microbiomes that are always present

Project Phases:

1. DNA is sequenced to find what microorganisms are present.

2. Development of potential microbial agents for control of AlS...develop
 toxins that can be used to fight Zebra Mussels and not natives.

3. Developing a disease model

**Controlling Common Carp with Pathogens or Viruses**

˖ Look for a pathogen present in the lake

˖ Species specific

˖ Easily transmitted and highly virulent

˖ Slow mutation rate

. Approach:

1. Sample healthy fish and fish kill

2. Identification of virus (Koi Herpes Virus and Koi Sleeping Disease)

3. Trial (high specificity for carp but not for natives)

˖ Research plans:

1. Virus isolation

2. Whole genome sequencing

3. Continued surveys

4. Infection trials

5. Risk assessment

**How AIS Disrupts Sport Fisheries, Gretchen Hansen**

˖ Age 0 YoY most affected by reduced zooplankton

˖ Larger fish eat a wider variety of prey, especially walleye, during first year.

˖ Can escape predators better

˖ Have more reserves for winter

Walleye: lf ZM are in lake, they start at smaller size and grow slower lf SWF
 are in lake, they start at smaller size and grow the same

Yellow Perch: lf ZM are present, bigger starting size and slower growth
 lf SWF are Present, no difference

There is a lot of natural variability going on in growth even in non-invaded lakes.

I spoke with Gretchen after her session and she said that lawn fertilizers running into lake will definitely increase both aquatic weed growth and algae, and that zebra mussel pseudo feces are also contributing to problem.

**MnCola Meeting Notes**

**By Chuck Herrig**

Paul Radomski, ecologist from the DNR, presented a new business support tool called

Zonation for evaluating the cost to benefit ratio on where to allocate water restoration funds from the Clean Water Legacy Act of 2008.

$110 million per year are granted of which 80% go to impaired waters.

His proposal: what if we invested in protecting the highest quality lakes? Highest quality lakes are determined by a complicated formula which includes property values and proximity to a large metro area.

His belief is we should prioritize by investing highest benefit to cost ratio vs. simply investing in impaired lakes.

His belief is AIS is a short term strategy but clean water is the long gain strategy, He also said it’s hard to evaluate negative property value impact due to due to AIS.

A representative from AMC 'The Association of Mn Counties’ spoke about the group’s work in helping counties manage priorities and budget. An important question raised was how do we align counties POV on watershed plans? Representatives agreed we are not there yet.

Wright County Boat Inspection test update:

Lake associations consider it a success. Can handle 8 boats at a time. Takes 3 to 4 minutes per boat. Goal is to add 8 more lakes to the test pending DNR approval. There is a decontamination unit on site. A grant of $371K is being used to fund the cost.

One lake association shared an idea of using shore captains which are assigned to different sections of the lake. Duties include monitoring AIS and connecting with new residents on what they can do to maintain clean water.

ACCL:

I am now on the board

Learned Ten Mile Lake is using a motion detector box which plays a C.D.D. message along with taking a picture of the boat launching. Application for Gull Lake Resorts?

Woman Lake has added a large wood sign at Girl and Woman Lake accesses that holds laminated cards with locations of decon units in Cass County.

Steve A: Please forward a copy of the AIS Response Plan to me. ACCL Board would like to see. I don’t think other lake associations are as far along.

ACCL has a Resort Ambassador Program. Goal is to partner on AIS prevention. The program grants resorts $7 per boat inspection, paid through the Initiative Foundation. Currently, only 6 small resorts participate, none from Gull Lake. ACCL is hosting a vendor table at Cragun’s for the Community of Minnesota Resorts Fall Conference on 10/29. The ACCL President, Linda Blake, will be there. I can volunteer from 11 to 1:30. Would like another volunteer from 1 to 4pm if possible.