GULL CHAIN OF LAKES ASSOCIATION

Board of Director’s Meeting

Wednesday, March 8, 2017, Grand View Lodge

Present: Steve Allex (by phone), Uldis Birznieks, Bill Brekken, Jay Chaney, Kevin Egan, Rosemary Goff,

 Linda Harrier, Chuck Herrig, Sheila Johnston, Mary Kay Larson, Marv Meyer (by phone) and Bob

 Toborg.

Absent: Robert Eliason, John Ingleman and Marc Bagicalupi.

Guests: Tim Plude, Dave and Marian Anderson, Hoot Gibson, Steve Frawley, Tom Spicola and Dave

 Hoelmer.

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

On motion by Egan, seconded by Toborg, the minutes of the February 8, 2017, meeting were approved as read.

**Treasurer’s Report:** As of February 28, 2017, there was cash on hand of $191,071.17 (including $85,041.29 in the AIS Contingency Fund). Total income from February 1 thru February 28 was $17,545 and expenses were $$11,197.39. The treasurer’s report was set aside subject to audit.

**Correspondence:** Thank you from Sheila Johnston.

 Thank you from MFFHL

 E-mails from Julie Hepburn regarding weed harvester

 Phone call from Greg Peterson on Love Lake regrading dredging

Tim Plude, DNR AIS specialist, made a presentation on starry stonewort and DNR efforts to learn about its environmental impact. He also discussed hybrid water milfoil and management of curly leaf pondweed.

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

 \* paid membership is at 680 and donations are at 67% of budget.

 \* RFP’s have been sent to two firms to do an external audit.

 \* Peter Sorenson is taking a year’s sabbatical from the MAISRC to collect data on his

 fresh water protection area proposal.

 \* AIS boat inspection information from Christmas Lake indicates they have inspectors

 at the landing from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. from ice out to late October at a cost of

 $86,000.

**Corps of Engineers:** Larson reported that the cost of the lifetime passes for seniors aged 62 and over is increasing from $10 to $80. The pass is good for all federal and national parks charging entrance or day use fees.

**Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Annual Meeting:** Brekken attended and reported there are 180 lake associations in the state, 122,000 cabin owners with an average income of $59,000 and 62% purchase fishing licenses. The big focus of the meeting was on invasive species. Lake associations were encouraged to hold local AIS meetings.

**Birch Bay RV Park:** Egan reported that an appeal has been sent to the Court of Appeals with a decision expected in approximately 60 days. Hopefully they will send it back to the county to take another look at the allowable size of the project.

**MNCola Board Meeting**: Birznieks presented a summary of the MNCola Board meeting (see attachment).

**AIS Committee:** Allex reported that two aquatic vegetation surveys will again be conducted by PLM at 24 sites throughout the Chain. He will also apply for DNR permits to treat vegetation in certain areas. Crow Win County has approved their boat inspection plan with an increase of fifty hours at the Hole-in-the Day boat launch (450 hours total) and $200 for education. GCOLA did not receive any funds from the DNR for AIS control, but Love Lake received $500.

**Communications Committee:** Dave Anderson reported that he is working on a new website. It is in review by the Committee and will be presented at the April board meeting.

**Environment Committee**: Johnston reported that 200 white pine seedlings will be ordered from the Soil and Water Conservation District. Announcement of their free distribution will be put on our website with a one day pickup to be scheduled. They will be available from the SWCD on May 10.

**Fisheries Committee:** Herrig pointed out an article in today’s Star Tribune on muskie stocking.

**2017 Gala:** Herrig reported that at the April meeting he will have dinner and trip options and the silent auction spread sheet.

**Legislative Committee:** Birznieks presented MNCola’s ten legislative priorities. (See attachment) Dave Hoelmer volunteered to be on the Legislative Committee.

**Membership Committee:** Chaney reported that the membership list will be distributed to the Board so we can identify people who are not members for recruitment purposes. Information on membership is posted on the Nisswa Chamber website.

**Safety and Recreation**: Toborg reported that he has ordered buoy weights and purchased chain and links for the spring installation. Boat safety classes are yet to be scheduled. Tom Spicola offered to help with the purchase of buoy materials.

Birznieks presented the six month calendar.

On motion by Toborg, seconded by Egan, the meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Minutes recorded by Rosemary Goff