Gull Chain of Lakes Association

Board of Director’s Meeting

May 9, 2019, Grand View Lodge

Present: Uldis Birznieks, Jay Chaney, Robert Eliason, Steve Frawley, Sue Friedrichs, Rosemary Goff, Linda

Harrier, Chuck Herrig, John Ingleman, Sheila Johnston, Marv Meyer, and Bob Toborg

Absent: Steve Allex

Guests: Dave Anderson, Marc Bagicalupi, Levy Bergstrom, Jane Edwards, Hoot Gibson, Rick

Quackenbush, Andrew Spicola and Brent Wiczek

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

Brent Wiczek, owner of Nisswa Marine, was present to discuss wake boat issues. He believes educating boat operators is the way to go. He presented pictures of potential wake responsibly banners that would be placed on bridges in the Chain. County permission would be required. Chaney distributed a study conducted by the Water Sports Industry Association that measured the energy produced by towboat wakes and waves. (See attached)

On motion by Toborg, seconded by Frawley, the minutes of the April 10, 2019, minutes were approved as read.

**Treasurer’s Report:** As of April 30, 2019, there were cash assets of $266,617.92 (including $151,176.24 in the AIS Contingency Fund). Total income from April 1 to April 30 was $5,100 and expenses were $2,622.99. The Treasurer’s report was set aside subject to audit.

**Correspondence:** E-mail from Rory Schultz regarding buoy placement.

Nisswa Chamber of Commerce regarding annual dinner

MN Lakes & Rivers Assn regarding Anniversary Celebration

**DNR:** Marc Bacigalupi reported that there were fingerlings stocked in Gull Lake last year. The DNR will measure success again in two years. Gull gets a high priority in fingerling stocking.

**Corps of Engineers**: Levy Bergstrom, the new Cass County AIS Specialist, introduced himself. He reported that starting May 11, Level 2 inspectors will be at Government Point and operating the decon unit from Thursday thru Sunday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**2019 Gala**: Ingleman reported that dinner and raffle tickets and event flyers were available. The   
Gala agenda is set at: 5 p.m. reception and silent auction; 6:30 p.m. dinner; 7:15p.m. entertainment; 7:30 p.m. silent auction ends; 8:30 p.m. wrap-up.

**2019 Annual Meeting:** Herrig reported that the annual business meeting will be held July 21 at 4:30 p.m. at the Grand View Event Center. The Bylaws Committee will include Robert Eliason, Uldis Birznieks, Rosemary Goff and Bob Toborg. Rather than individual committee reports, the Chair will select several key topics on which to focus.

**MNCOLA Meeting:** Herrig reported that the annual MnCola meeting will be held June 17 and 18 at the Northern Lights Casino in Walker. GCOLA will be hosting an information table, talking about wake boat issues and presenting information on out Loon Program. The cost to attend is $30.

**AIS Committee:** Allex submitted a written report which included:

* The agreement with the Lake Shore Police Department to provide boat inspections at the County 77 access has been signed.
* Cass County will reimburse us up to at least $12,000 for the Lake Shore Police Inspection costs.
* He has added Levy Bergstrom in place of Rima Smith-Keprios to the AIS response plan.
* He has asked the DNR to conduct another survey at the Maddens canal and shoreline to look for any presence of Eurasian Milfoil. (A floating piece was found last fall.)

**Communications Committee:** Ingleman reported that the newsletter is at the printers. Friedrichs urged board members to “like” articles on the new Facebook page and Anderson reported that the GCOLA website has had 10,000 views this past year.

Discussion on whether to post a Pioneer Press article regarding wake boats problems on the GCOLA web site. It was determined to link the study rather than posting the article. The emphasis when discussing wake boat issues should be on etiquette and education. Bacigalupi stated that transporting of adult zebra mussels on docks and lifts is a bigger problem that transporting veligers by boats.

**Environment Committee:** Johnston asked all board members to sign up for a loon safe boating shift at the Corps boat launch site. She is working on finalizing the sign design for the Lake Steward Program and establishing qualifications for being awarded a sign. A mini “score your shore survey” is available on the GCOLA web site. She has purchased seven additional loon caution signs.

**Legislative Relations Committee:** Birznieks reported he has met with County Commissioners Brekken and Gaalswyck regarding implementation of regulations at the city and county levels and providing consistency in those regulations.

At the state level, increased fines for AIS will be addressed in 2020, stocking of muskies legislation is dead for this year, funding for the U of M Research Center is still a possibility as is increasing the AIS surcharge.

**Membership Committee:** Chaney reported that currently paid membership is at 803 households, including 41 new members. He believes we need to think about establishing a different fee level for businesses.

**Safety and Recreational Committee:** Toborg reported that all buoys are installed in the Chain.

On motion by Goff, seconded by Eliason, the meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Minutes recorded by Rosemary Goff