

**“Team Up for Clean Waters”
Itasca Water Legacy Partnership
Annual Meeting**

Thursday, January 14, 2016 1:00 pm

Itasca County Courthouse ITV Room #135 (Near Sheriff’s Office)

Attendance: Shirley Loegering, Dennis Anderson, Moriya Rufer, Kathy Cone, Andy Arens, Eric Raitanen, Dan Swenson, Patty Gould St. Aubin, Davin Tinquist, Dave Lick, Jan Sandberg, Bill Grantges, Pat Leistikow, John Downing

New Board Members: Grant Prokop, Katie Aho and Bill Marshall were approved as members at the beginning of the meeting.

Absent: John Zimmerman, Dan Steward

Guest: Bob Borash

Dave Lick led a round of introductions of those present.

1. Administrative Items

Dave described IWLP’s history and loss of recent board members including the secretary and treasurer. For now, Jan Sandberg and Shirley Loegering will share the Secretary’s duties and Pat Leistikow has agreed to act as Treasurer.

a. New Board Members

Dave Lick read brief bios for each of the new Board members; bios for all Board members will be posted on the IWLP website: The new members are Grant Prokop, Bill Marshall and Katy Aho.

Motion to accept the nomination of Grant Prokop, Bill Marshall and Katy Aho as IWLP Board members. (Patty Gould St. Aubin, Pat Leistikow) M/S/U

b. Approve Agenda

Jan Sandberg asked to add four items: approve past actions of Executive Committee, create a new Technology standing committee with Shirley Loegering as chair, approve the composition of the Executive Committee and appoint officers.

c. Approve past actions of the Executive Committee

The bylaws require that the Board ratify the actions of the Executive Committee at each quarterly Board meeting. Note that each month the full minutes of the Executive Committee are distributed to all Board members. Jan read the list of actions from the November, December and January Executive Committee meetings. See Attachment #1.

Motion to approve the actions of the Executive Committee as read. (Davin Tinquist, Shirley Loegering) M/S/U

Dave Lick described Board composition of voting and nonvoting members (Technical Advisory Board) at Board meetings. The Executive Committee meets monthly.

d. Create new Technology standing committee

Motion to create a Technology standing committee with Shirley Loegering as chair. (Jan Sandberg, Bill Marshall) M/S/U

e. Composition of the Executive Committee

Motion to approve composition of Exec Committee as the officers and standing committee chairs. (Kathy Cone, Pat Leistikow) M/S/U

f. Officers

Dave briefly described the current situation.

Motion to nominate as officers: President: Dave Lick; Vice President: John Zimmerman; Treasurer: Pat Leistikow; Secretary: Jan Sandberg and Shirley Loegering. (Jan Sandberg, John Downing) M/S/U

[NOTE: after the meeting, Jan found that the bylaws state: “The officers of IWLP shall be a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Finance Chair. The offices shall be elected to three-year terms and shall hold office until their successors are elected and qualified. Officers will be elected in December with terms beginning at the Annual Meeting in January.” I think we are OK as Pat simply continues as Finance Chair.]

Dave introduced John Downing, who arrived a bit late, and John described his new position with the Minnesota Sea Grant College Program.

g. Approve Minutes from Quarterly Board meeting October 19, 2015 (sent via email)

Motion to approve the minutes from the October 19, 2015, Quarterly Board meeting. (Shirley Loegering, Patty Leistikow) M/S/U

h. Approve Treasurer’s Report

Pat Leistikow reviewed her report (Attachment #2) with highlights of the calendar year. IWLP received \$216,000 in revenue, including \$188,000 from the County. Expenditures include the AIS program, the Watershed Conference (partly funded with Blandin grant dollars) and the Youth Summit. The year ended with \$143,000, including \$50,000 in the AIS account, partly for communications, ads, education but mostly for prevention. The ending operating balance is \$57,000 and \$34,000 in the Blandin Grant. Also attached is Pat’s report of expenditures for the AIS program (Attachment #3)

Motion to accept the financial report. (John Downing, Kathy Cone) M/S/U

i. Call for Annual Reports and bios, with photo, from all Board members

Jan described the annual report needs and that all Board members will receive an email calling for contributions, new ideas and photos.

Shirley asked new members if they thought we should continue to distribute notebooks to new Board members. All thought that the notebooks were useful.

j. Sign Conflict of Interest and Whistleblower Polices for 2016

Members were asked to submit signed forms, either mailed or faxed or scanned and emailed are fine.

k. Recognize members leaving the Board

Dave recognized those leaving the Board: Sarah Verke, Brian Rusch and Byron Snowden. Much has been completed with their help. It can be difficult to find folks as the organization is almost all volunteer.

Shirley will send out a call to the membership describing the Secretary position.

2. President's Report – Dave Lick

Dave summarized things that happened during 2015 including several anecdotes about various issues, such as discussions about science with legislators. 2015 successes include: RMBEL lab, Children's First, Youth Water Summit, the AIS program, and the Healthy Watershed conference.

Coming for this year: Children First, Youth Water Summit, March planning meetings and more.

Dave announced that the Governor's Clean Water Summit is set for February 27 in St. Paul. To register or for more information see <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/governors-water-summit-registration-20738300816> for information about how to register and the survey.

Erika Herr has taken a new job with DNR and can no longer serve. We will continue to look for a DNR representative.

3. Committee/Project Reports

a. RMBEL Lab – Dave Lick

Dave reported that a letter about the lab opening has been sent to a number of groups including well drillers.

Bob Borash described RMBEL's role in taking over the lab, including its history with chemical analysis and other services on lakes and streams. They already had some clients in the area so this fits well. Question about including students—he said that this is a work in progress. However, they employ students at the Detroit Lakes lab, many of whom return annually. While ICC does not have a water quality curriculum they do have chemistry and environmental services. Students would be involved in sample collection and analysis.

b. AIS – Bill Grantges

He has finished up inspections for the year and is writing reports for DNR and the County. Bill described the six priority areas for the program: prevention, early detection/training (becoming training), control monitoring/research (early detection/rapid response /control & monitoring), CAP grants, communications/awareness, and database/website reserve. Funding is completely through state aid and the last check for FY2016 has been received by the County. The AIS partnership received Outstanding Partnership Award through the MASWCD.

Bill described the statistics for inspections--9,861 total inspections (DNR + IWLP) completed at 26 landings on 17 lakes. He also described the work of SWCD on rapid response. Attached is the AIS report from the Executive Committee meeting (Attachment #4) and a report about the CAP grant program (Attachment #5).

An important project now is working with County on the final boat access count that will determine funding for FY2017.

Discussion: where decon units were used: Tioga Beach Pokegama, Trout Lake Coleraine, Sand Lake, Deer Lake, 1000 Lakes, and Tall Timber Days parade; need for fines.

Dave described the possible shift of AIS responsibilities from IWLP to SWCD possibly by July. This fits with IWLP's model to initiate projects and then transfer to other entities, such as was done with purple loosestrife.

c. Planning Committee – John Zimmerman

John is working on a planning meeting for March that would include lake associations and other locals interested in water. The goal is to develop a list of possible issues that IWLP might address. The Board will be solicited for their comments about possible topics and their new ideas.

Dave Lick offered some ideas. In 1999, he was part of a septic system project on Wabana Lake. To do either a follow-up now or a similar project on other lakes required identifying possible barriers. We would need county support. Determine if this is more than IWLP can tackle, as we would need a leader for each lake. One thought is a possible fit with an LCCMR grant application although this is due in a few months. A possible barrier is the need to find funds for remediation. Dave thought that the noncompliance rates at that time were higher than found by the County during compliance inspections. The support at the County level is likely there if there is funding for replacement systems. Maybe Johnson (Pat has some history there) and Shallow lakes. Dan Swenson noted that the County has been inventorying inspection data through GIS. John Downing added other thoughts on the issue including some other paths to pursue.

Another possibility, is there interest in following up the original economic study?

Shirley mentioned discussions with Roberta Baker who thinks that there should be a water center in Grand Rapids.

Andy mentioned the Eco Footprint grant through Enbridge but the deadline is soon. Andy also said that they are trying to find ways to follow up on the Deer-Pokegama Study.

John noted that this area has substantial phosphorus in rainfall. We need to understand groundwater transport as that makes up what flushes lake. And the excess oxygen consumption in deep water is a mystery.

If you are interested in working with John on the Planning Committee, please contact him at jwzimmerjr@gmail.com

d. Education Committee – Kathy Cone

They just ha a meeting to plan the 5th year of the Youth Water Summit. Kathy briefly reviewed last years activities noting that there are some changes for this year; she will be working with Bill on Children's First. Ask for report for attachment. If you are interested in being part of the Education Committee, please contact Kathy at kathy.cone@itascaswcd.org

e. Membership Committee – Patty Gould-St. Aubin/Shirley Loegering

Shirley's report is included as Attachment #6. Memberships are down a bit this year although timing may be an issue. We did add Johnson Lake as a member. If you are interested in working on the Membership Committee, contact Shirley at pershirl@gmail.com

f. Grants Committee – Need Chair

Moriya is helping with the grant work and we also have access to John Connelly at the County.

Anyone who is interested in working on the Grant Committee should contact Dave Lick at wabana54@gmail.com

1. Letter to Blandin Foundation re. 2011 Grant

Dave gave some background on the 2011 Blandin Grant, where excess money is being used for public awareness. Dave would like to preserve these funds for the future, perhaps find several businesses to finance Youth Summit. In any case, we need to submit a report asking that BLanin allow us to retain and continue to us them.

2. New BWSR grant for multi-lake analysis: Mariah described that first they worked on a grant with Crow Wing County is ending, designed to work with lakes that already had data, analyze and include in the county water plan. Only about half of the lakes had data. The second grant process is to collect data on 35 lakes without data. The grant had to go through Crow Wing County for Itasca County because IWLP is not an LGU. Bob added that the reports on 250 lakes was developed to be useful for the water plans. This would be available for the Water Plan that is just now in the process of being updated.

g. PR Committee – Need Chair

This work focuses on IWLP—Bill already does considerable PR work for AIS. It is agreed that IWLP needs to be in front of the public more.

Dave reported that he is working with Sally Sedgwick (she does PR for Big Fork Hospital and has a background in chemistry) to write news releases for IWLP under contract for \$200 for an article. Dave would like a monthly column in the newspaper.

Anyone interested in working on PR should contact Dave Lick at wabana54@gmail.com

h. Technology Committee—Shirley Loegering

Please send Shirley events for the website. Also, Shirley described a recent phone call that appears to be a scam about the IWLP website. Also we are now listed on Guidestar with annual reports and other info (see <http://www.guidestar.org/PartnerReport.aspx?ein=27-4411875&Partner=Amex>) If you are interested in working on the Technology Committee, contact Shirley at pershirl@gmail.com

4. 2016 quarterly meeting dates are as follows:

Monday, April 18 3:00pm

Friday, July 15 - 1:00pm

Monday, October 17 - 3:00pm

Shirley will confirm meeting rooms for the quarterly and exec committee meetings.

Meeting adjourned 2:50 pm