

# Itasca Water Legacy Partnership



## **ANNUAL REPORT**

**[itascawaterlegacypartnership.org](http://itascawaterlegacypartnership.org)**

**2012**



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## **MISSION AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

The mission of the Itasca Water Legacy Partnership (IWLP) is to work collaboratively on water issues and mobilize on-the-ground actions that encourage diverse sustainable use, protection, recovery and enjoyment of Itasca County's world-class water and shoreland resources that are critical to a strong economy.

### **Itasca Water Legacy Partnership (IWLP) is pursuing its mission by:**

- Gathering baseline water quality data through a comprehensive lake assessment program
- Supporting a water quality technical training program and water testing lab in cooperation with Itasca Community College
- Promoting water stewardship through education and outreach
- Engaging all Itasca County citizens to join in these efforts

## **IMPORTANT SUPPORTERS AND PARTNERS**

Our supporters and partners include the Blandin Foundation – Itasca County Lake Associations – Itasca County – Itasca Community College – Itasca Soil & Water Conservation District – University of MN Extension – ISD #318 – U.S. Forest Service - MN DNR – MN PCA – LCCMR– Wes Libbey Chapter of the Izaak Walton League – Minnesota Power – Itasca County Business Community -- Community Volunteers & Individual Members

## **ORGANIZATION UPDATE**

Local water quality advocates came together in late 2006 to identify and implement a set of activities that would ensure clean water resources and quality habitat in the major watersheds of Itasca County. IWLP formalized its operations as a community coalition by establishing a board and executive committee to guide partnership activities. The first election took place in January 2009. IWLP has continued to ask representatives from many walks of life and organizations with varying interests in Itasca County's water resources to join the volunteers of IWLP as Board members and to assist with assuring that IWLP is sensitive to the concerns of all Itasca County citizens. IWLP's Certificate of Incorporation and Articles of Incorporation as a nonprofit organization were filed under the laws of the State of Minnesota on December 23, 2010. A request for a 501 (c) 3 status with the IRS was approved on March 3, 2011.

## **2012 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### **Board Members**

Dennis Anderson  
Mary Blickenderfer  
Al Donnell  
John Downing  
Harold Dziuk  
Patty Gould-St. Aubin  
Scott Hall  
David Lick, President

Shirley Loegering, Secretary  
Kathy Loucks  
Brian Rusch, Treasurer  
Jan Sandberg  
Byron Snowden, Vice-President  
Leo Trunt  
John Zimmerman

### **Technical Assistance**

Eric Ahlstrom  
Jim Gustafson  
Erika Herr  
Pat Leistikow  
Barbara McDonald  
Eric Raitanen  
Dan Steward

## EVENTS AND SUCSESSES

IWLP continued to work with its many partners to look for new opportunities on how to be good stewards of our great water resources. You will find specific information on projects funded by grants later in this report, but here are just a few highlights:

- To date, IWLP has raised \$1,354,152 in grant monies. These grants have been instrumental in creating local jobs and creating learning experiences for student interns at Itasca Community College.
- IWLP hosted an amazing Youth Water Summit in May that allowed about 300 5th graders a chance to participate in all-day scientific hands-on activities.
- Hosted a series of four Mini Water Summit evening programs for adults on a variety of subjects in cooperation with the Grand Rapids Area Library and University of MN Extension.
- ICC and the lab took a new approach to organization with the lab reporting to a faculty lead and putting in place a new staff leader.

## COMMITTEES

### Communication and Public Relations

Informing the public about the importance of maintaining the abundant and clean water resources available in Itasca County is one of the major goals of IWLP. This effort was accomplished in 2012 through our many educational programs offered for both students and adults. IWLP maintains a website that showcases all of our current and past accomplishments at [www.ItascaWaterLegacyPartnership.org](http://www.ItascaWaterLegacyPartnership.org) and a Facebook page at [www.Facebook.com/Itasca.Water.Legacy.IWLP](http://www.Facebook.com/Itasca.Water.Legacy.IWLP) that encourages interactive communication with the public. In addition, brochures describing IWLP's mission were distributed whenever and wherever it was possible to reach out to the citizens of Itasca County.

### Education

#### **Youth Water Summit 2012**

A soggy day greeted the 270 or so fifth grade students from District 318 Middle School and Bigfork and St. Joseph's Catholic School at the Itasca County Fairgrounds. Students arrived early and spent the day in groups of 12 escorted by volunteers to a series of 30-minute presentations. Students were provided a vocabulary list of terms to be understood and each student, presenter, volunteer and teacher was provided with a blue t-shirt to wear with Itasca Water Legacy Partnership's "Team Up for Clean Waters" logo.

Local science educators taught sessions such as water Olympics, water science instrumentation, groundwater, watersheds, septic systems, surface tension, wavelength of light penetrating water, hydrologic cycles, invasive species, macro and micro aquatic critters, water art, heavy metals, kayaking, observing aquatic plants, and hard vs. soft water.

Justin Liles, WDIO Meteorologist, provided the keynote to all students. City of Grand Rapids staff provided a tour of the rain gardens at the fairgrounds and Grand Rapids Public Utilities organized a tour of the water treatment plant.

This water summit generated tremendous community support. There were a total of 62 volunteers including 39 presenters and 23 volunteers (who either assisted on the day of the summit or helped with planning) plus an additional 10 teachers with about 20 parent chaperones. A list of presenters, topics, volunteers and sponsors is included in the full report on the IWLP website.

The event committee surveyed teachers, students, presenters and volunteers and will use the information gathered to improve the 2013 event. More information from the survey may be found in the full report.

Dale Christy and David Lick, Itasca Water Legacy Partnership members, organized the event with expert organizational assistance from Karen Walker, District 318 Community Education.



## Youth Water Summit 2013 Planning

The Youth Summit for 2013 is planned for May 23 at the Itasca County Fairgrounds. There will be around 30 presenters and 350 students. New for 2013 is the addition of the Deer River 5<sup>th</sup> Graders -- approximately 60 youth. About 15 or more volunteers will be needed. Parent volunteer and adult family members will be invited to attend at a cost. More Native American presenters will be sought.

## Mini Water Summits

As part of its educational outreach, and to fulfill that portion of the Blandin Grant dedicated to engaging the wider community, IWLP initiated a series of Mini Water Summit programs for 2012. These programs were designed to give Itasca County residents the knowledge and confidence to become engaged in improving the water quality where they live and/or recreate. A short summary of the four events is included below.

1. February 6<sup>th</sup>: **“Harvest the Rain for Gardens, Wildlife, Clean Lakes and Rivers”** by Dr. Mary Blickenderfer. The participants learned about the benefits of rain gardens and how to plan, construct and maintain a rain garden in their yards. The class included a “virtual tour” of a number of existing rain gardens in Grand Rapids. Sponsored by the Grand Rapids Area Library, University of Minnesota Extension, Itasca County Master Gardeners, and IWLP (IWLP had no expenses for this program).
2. June 7<sup>th</sup>: **“Aquatic Invasive Species – A Citizen Action Plan”** by Richard Rezanka, MN DNR Invasive Species Specialist; Tony Arhart, DNR Enforcement; Dr. Mary Blickenderfer, U of MN Extension Botanist; Russ Wedl, Splithand Lake Association; and Dale Hill, Turtle Lake Association. The session began with an overview of current and potential threats AIS pose the environment, current laws and information on how to organize citizens at the grass-roots level. Participants then had a hands-on opportunity to identify aquatic invasive species they might expect to find in Itasca County. There were 30 people in attendance, including representatives from six lake associations. Program evaluations indicated that this was a very successful event and some commented that it was one of the best programs of its kind they had attended. Sponsored by MN DNR, University of Minnesota Extension, and IWLP. IWLP’s cost to put on this program totaled \$106.40.
3. July 19<sup>th</sup>: **“Itasca Lake Challenge”** by Dr. Mary Blickenderfer. This program challenged lake associations and citizens to do an even better job of keeping Itasca lakes and rivers clean and wildlife abundant. They learned about “Hosting a Scientist”, becoming a “Shoreland Scientist”, and the “Beachcomber”, “Welcome Aboard”, and “Lake Cache” programs. There were 13 participants, including one educator who was interested in taking the information back to his classroom. This program was co-sponsored by the Grand Rapids Area Library, University of Minnesota Extension, and IWLP. IWLP’s costs totaled \$38.68.
4. October 4<sup>th</sup>: **“Pharmaceuticals in Our Waters: Sources and Fate”** by Dr. William Arnold, Dept. of Civil Engineering, University of Minnesota. Pharmaceuticals and personal care products are widely used and, through their normal course of use, often find their way into the sewage system. Potential impacts on humans and ecosystems were summarized. Sponsored by the Grand Rapids Area Library, Itasca Community College (ICC), and IWLP with financial support from Globe Drug, Thrifty White Drug, Grand Rapids Area Clinic & Hospitals and the Itasca County Sheriff’s Department. Approximately 70 people attended (50 at ICC and 20 at the Library) and the cost to IWLP over and above donations was \$426.91.

## **Membership**

IWLP's accomplishments for 2012 were made possible by generous support from its members and dedicated volunteers. Financial contributions enable IWLP to carry out its mission by providing funds for educational outreach, special events, and operational costs not covered by grant monies. The personal commitment made by volunteers who share IWLP's vision for maintaining our quality water resources was invaluable. IWLP thanks all who so generously shared of their time, talent and finances.

As of December 2012, current, paid-up memberships totaled 136, a slight decrease from the 139 members in 2011, and includes 11 new members. Total membership revenue for 2012 was \$6,130.00. The cost to run the membership campaign was \$204.66, or 3.3% of the membership revenue.

According to a survey sent to members in December of 2011:

- 13% of respondents indicated they are seasonal lakeshore residents of Itasca County,
- 58% are permanent lakeshore residents, and
- 27% are non-lakeshore residents.

There were 79 respondents out of 312 surveys sent for a return rate of about 25%. The seasonal percentage correlates closely with the number of members with permanent addresses outside of the county (16 or 3.5%).

	<u>Dec. 2009</u>	<u>Dec. 2010</u>	<u>Dec. 2011</u>	<u>Dec. 2012</u>
Non-Profits (includes Lake Assns)	7	7	7	8
Business (includes Resorts)	0	6	10	7
Individual Benefactors (> \$1,000)	3	3	3	3
Individual/family units	<u>58</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>119</u>	<u>118</u>
	68	106	139	136

## **Strategic Planning**

IWLP dedicated significant energy and board attention to putting in place our first 5 year strategic plan in late 2010. Results achieved and opportunities missed were assessed in mid 2012. Our plans focused on internal objectives - strengthening our new organization, and external objectives around focusing the impact of our work. In brief summary, by mid 2012, on those objectives aimed at strengthening IWLP - we became a 501 (c) 3, formalized a planning process, revamped our funding approach, put updated bylaws in place, and assessed our board makeup - adding several strong players with skills we needed but lacked. Our external milestones showed success as well, including focus on performance around grants already committed, launching our Economic Value of Water study, doubling our invasives funding and impact, sharing mission and results through a much improved website, good community outreach thru our "mini-summit" series of public sessions and strong educational outreach with our 2012 Youth Water Summit. Many of these initiatives are discussed elsewhere in this annual report - and for the more detailed 2012 Strategic Plan Status please refer to our website.

**ITASCA  
COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE WATER  
LAB**

Lake and stream samples collected by ICC students and technicians over the past five years have been analyzed at the ICC Water Testing laboratory. Funded by grants from the MPCA, the Itasca County Environmental Trust Fund, and with additional financial support, technical guidance and/or assistance from Iowa State University, University of Missouri, Itasca Community College, Itasca Soil and Water Conservation District, MN DNR, University of MN Extension, Itasca County and Itasca Water Legacy Partnership, the certified ICC Water Testing Lab is the crux of a much larger initiative to establish baseline data on water quality and subsequently to monitor water quality in Itasca County lakes, streams and groundwater while also providing educational opportunities and experience in water quality testing and analysis for students at ICC and other community colleges and universities.

The ICC Water Testing Laboratory is not limited to lake water testing. The laboratory technicians have processed rainwater run-off samples collected by volunteers for shoreland buffer research conducted by the University of MN Extension. The results will enable researchers to determine the levels of pollutants (nutrients and sediment) entering the lake from a wide variety of shoreland landscape practices, ultimately enabling them to fine-tune our landscaping to better protect our lakes. Of nearly 1,000 lakes in Itasca County, 275 have been sampled. See <http://limnoweb.eeob.iastate.edu/itascalakes/> for results of the analysis. Students have been trained to use cutting-edge field and lab equipment as well as science methodology.

Students and staff from ICC continued to work cooperatively with the Itasca SWCD and Iowa State University on major projects during 2011. Work on a Surface Water Assessment Grant (SWAG) that was managed by the SWCD was completed in the spring of 2011. The initial SWAG no. 1 project "First water quality inventory of Itasca County's developing lakes" was completed in 2010. This project established baseline data for 147 lakes; data will be used to detect changes in individual lakes as well as to establish regional patterns. SWAG no. 2 grant titled "Assessing Itasca County's Small-Medium Sized Lakes" began in 2010 when 42 Itasca County lakes were assessed. SWAG no. 2 has been successfully completed and the final report was submitted Jun 30, 2012.

The major project for the ICC lab in 2012 in conjunction with the SWCD was the Deer and Pokegama Diagnostic Project. The project is a detailed look into the inner workings of Deer Lake and Pokegama Lake, including precipitation, stream, and groundwater inputs. The majority of the sampling and lab analysis has been complete, although there will be some up into April-May. The ICC lab is very thankful to IWLP for the purchase of a new spectrophotometer that has been used on the diagnostic study to analyze Total Nitrogen (TN).

In addition to the Deer and Pokegama Diagnostic Study, in 2012 the ICC lab conducted testing on Siseebakwet (Sugar) Lake, Johnson Lake, Round Lake and Forest Lake.

The lab is currently working towards certification for well water testing and plan to have that completed in the spring of 2013.

## GRANTS

### **IN PROGRESS OR COMPLETED 2012**

#### **Surface Water Assessment Grant**

Since 2008, two SWAG grants have been received from MPCA in partnership with SWCD and ICC. SWAG number 1 was for \$327,350 in 2008 – 2009. SWAG number 2 was for \$121,816 in 2010 – 2012. The purpose of these grants was to sample and assess water quality for Itasca County lakes and the Bigfork River Watershed and included lakes that had never been sampled in the past.

#### **Deer and Pokegama Lake Diagnostic Study**

In 2010, a three-year (2010 - 2013) Clean Water Partnership (CWP) grant (\$249,986) was received from the MPCA. This innovative study analyzes "nutrient input-output" samples from lakes and streams, precipitation and groundwater associated with Pokegama and Deer Lakes and is a collaborative effort of Itasca SWCD, ICC, IWLP, Deer and Pokegama Lake Associations, and citizen volunteers.

The following text was prepared by Dr. John Downing and Noel Griese for the 2012 report:

The second field-season for the Pokegama & Deer Lake Diagnostic study was successfully completed and will culminate in a final report to be completed to the State by June 30, 2013. Project direction and monitoring efforts were a collaborative effort between ICC Laboratory and associated staff, Itasca SWCD, IWLP, Jake Smokovitz and his collaborators at ISU, Jack Jones, John Downing, and, of course, the invaluable volunteers and helpers on and around Pokegama and Deer Lakes. As with any scientific study, this study has been adaptive and the successes of 2012 were a testament to the partner's ability to make needed adjustments based on research findings in 2011 and recognized change needed in 2012. 2012 was far from a typical year in terms of water budgets primarily due to major storm events. Another integral piece to a successful season was the biweekly phone conference coordinated by Barb

McDonald with ICC, which provided close communication amongst partners.

A focal point of this study has been the unknown role that groundwater plays in the function of these two systems. Jake Smokovitz returned in 2012 to further research on the deep groundwater portion of the study by collecting additional data on private landowner wells and shallow groundwater data continued to be collected via seepage meters and piezometers installed in near-shore monitoring stations around the lakes. An interest in concentrated, near-shore groundwater seepage that many of us call "springs" resulted from groundwater research completed in 2011. A study to understand the influence of these spring sites was developed and carried out on Deer Lake in 2012 but not on Pokegama due to high water levels. Tom Nelson with the Deer Lake Association is to be commended for his many hours and efforts to further this spring research in which he had an integral part. Dr. Downing is continuing to collaborate with Tom Nelson to complete this study and will report on spring research findings. A report detailing the overall role groundwater plays in these two systems will be completed by Jake Smokovitz and Dr. Bill Simpkins and is anticipated by February, 2013.

Groundwater research is complete for the most part with limited data collection still underway on Deer Lake. The surface water studies (lake water, tributaries, and outflows) will proceed through April of 2013 in order to collect further data necessary to model these systems. SWCD and ICC will continue to oversee field monitoring as planned.

Project cooperators are now busy submitting data to MPCA and will soon be analyzing the mountains of information that will allow us to calculate the overall water and nutrient budgets of these two important lakes and direct the final report. The results of this study should be a source of community pride when it is complete as they will give the whole community a clearer picture of how these valuable lakes work, how lakes in the region are functioning, and how the community can ensure the sustainable use of these outstanding natural resources.

Thanks again to all the cooperators and volunteers who have made this project a success.

### **Sensitive Lakeshore Identification in Itasca County**

The major impetus for this collaborative project with the Itasca County and the DNR is the need to better protect and manage functional lake ecosystems in Itasca County. There is widespread concern about the consequences of poorly planned development on water quality and fish and wildlife habitat. Given the increased demands for water and shoreland, continued habitat fragmentation, loss of species diversity, and exotic species expansion, protection of sensitive lakeshores is critical. Data on the distribution and ecology of rare plants and animals, native plant communities, and vulnerable lakeshores are needed to prioritize actions to conserve and manage lake ecosystems. As the county assesses the status of its natural resources, develops plans for priority resources, and invests in resource protection efforts, information that helps target conservation decisions along lakeshores will be vital. This project's intent is to deliver information specifically for that need.

The primary focus of this project is to identify priority areas in Itasca County for shoreland reclassification and voluntary conservation easement, as well as provide interpretive products to shoreland property owners and local organizations, and assist with regional planning efforts. The project is funded with a \$160,000 grant from the LCCMR (Environment and Natural Resource Trust Fund) and a State Wildlife Grant.

The DNR is conducting sensitive lakeshore assessments on the large lakes within the county. Two approaches are being used. First, detailed on-site biological survey work is being conducted on a few selected lakes. Project partners met with Itasca County officials, Itasca Water Legacy Partnership members, lake association representatives, and county residents to develop and use an objective system to select the lakes for extensive aquatic plant and animal surveys. Three water bodies were selected, and included Bass Lake (31-576), Turtle Lake (31-725), and Sand Lake (31-826; and associated lakes: Portage (31-842), Birds Eye (31-834), and Little Sand (31-853). In 2012, the DNR biologists completed the field assessments on Bass and Sand lakes, and they plan to complete the field surveys on Turtle Lake this summer (2013). Loon nesting surveys were also completed on 18 lakes. For assistance with those loon nesting surveys, citizen volunteers were used. Second, sensitive lakeshores on at least 20 lakes greater than 500 acres will be identified with the DNR's Rapid Assessment Model, which uses existing biological surveys and results of the loon nesting surveys.



Itasca SWCD will cooperate with lake associations and other groups to identify restorable shorelines, improve capacity of project outputs to effectively inform state and local government decisions that impact the conservation and management of lake ecosystems. And lastly, Itasca County Environmental Services will engage in updating zoning and ordinances to provide higher standards for new developments and additional protection to sensitive shoreland.

Additional information is available on the DNR website: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/sli/>

### **Lake Challenge Program**

**Program Promotion:** The Lake Challenge was promoted at a variety of venues: the Library/IWLP Mini Water Summit Series, Upper Prairie Lake Association (presented by Master Gardeners), Johnson Lake Association, Sugar Lake Association (presented by Master Gardener) and Who Speaks for the Lakes Symposium (Ely, MN). Johnson Lake Association will be working with Mary Blickenderfer to develop the programmatic aspects to complement the site evaluation form. Other lake associations have been invited to participate, but have not responded.

In addition, lake associations in other counties requested copies of the site evaluation worksheet to promote shoreland stewardship in their counties.

**Site Evaluations:** Master Gardeners, Lois Bendix and Tim Obrien, presented the Lake Challenge at the Upper Prairie Lake Association Annual Meeting, conducted follow-up site visits on four properties and provided suggestions to the property owners in the form of a report (all very well-done and professional, according to feedback). Their involvement also resulted in the request for an AIS training in June 2013.

**Volunteers:** The number of program presentations and site evaluations, for which Master Gardeners have been trained to deliver, are limited by Master Gardener availability. We need to train additional people (non-MG) to present and conduct site evaluations for this program to grow in the future.

**Website:** The programmatic aspects of The Lake Challenge need to be developed before the website can be completed. Our work with the Johnson Lake Association (and other interested lake associations) should help guide the further development of this site.

**Funding:** The state-funded portion of the NSBI grant ended in 2011. However, approximately \$8,000 remains of the county matching funds for the NSBI grant/Lake Challenge – currently managed by Itasca SWCD. These funds will be needed to complete the website development, develop curriculum and purchase necessary equipment to support the further development of Itasca County Lake Challenge Program in 2013.

### **Economic Study of Water Quality in Itasca County**

On August 17, 2012, as a part of a grant from the Blandin Foundation, a subcontract research agreement in the amount of \$87,094 between IWLP and the University of Wisconsin was approved. It will provide part of the funds for the research project entitled “Economic Valuation of Water Quality in Itasca County Minnesota.” The project is supervised by U of WI Professor Daniel Phaneuf, Principal Investigator and an environmental economist.

**Soliciting Contact Information:** During July and August of 2012, students with local residence were hired by Professor Phaneuf to intercept out-of-town visitors to Grand Rapids to ask them if they would be willing to participate in the survey that will be mailed in February 2013. Three students staffed establishments on Friday afternoons and Saturday mornings where visitors were likely to frequent and approached people to request their contact information. Addresses of nearly 150 visitors to the County were gathered. These people, as well as a large sample of county residents, will serve as the primary contact group for the economic valuation survey.

**Logistical Elements:** Several design stages and pretesting of the survey are under way. Input from the University of Wisconsin Survey Center is being used to determine how the sample and survey will be presented.

**Graduate Research Assistant:** Austin Williams, a PhD student, has been hired as a Graduate Research Assistant to work on fielding the survey and reviewing the literature related to water quality valuation and the applied methods to be used in the data analysis step.

**Survey Drafting:** Survey drafting tasks include reviewing and reworking Professor Phaneuf's existing work and looking at relevant, basic survey components that might be used in the current project.

**Survey Launch:** Finalizing of the survey logistics with the University of Wisconsin Survey Center and writing of the survey vehicle will be completed prior to the survey launch target January/February, 2013.

### **Purple Loosestrife Control—US Forest Service and Itasca County Partnership to Control Purple Loosestrife—National Fish and Wildlife Foundation**

2012 was an important year for our invasive species program. With new RAC funding, increased funding from the US Forest Service and the use of two vehicles from the Itasca County Land Department we were able to expand our program to 2-2 man crews. With 4 interns working we were able to pick 52,900 beetles (a record number). We continued to release them on Turtle, Bowstring and Sand/Portage Lakes. We also started new colonies on Snaptail (Balsam), Ink (Deer River), Long Lake (Cohasset) and the Mississippi River, as well as donating 5,500 beetles to the State of MN Department of Natural Resources.

We continued treatment on 19 Itasca County lakes. We also surveyed 34 new lakes in 2012, finding Loosestrife on 15 of them. This brings the total number of lakes we are treating to 34 and the number of road right of ways to 20. We also moved 3 additional lakes to ERADICATED status for a total of 8 lakes since the program started. We will continue to monitor these lakes. We are at the stage where more will be added to this status each year.

The most exciting new addition to our program was its expansion to other invasives by adding Public Access checks. After receiving training from MN DNR we did checks at landings on 15 Itasca County lakes. We found that nearly 30% of boaters were unfamiliar with new laws on Aquatic Invasive Species and 10% were in violation of existing laws. Educational materials were accepted by 77% of surveyed boaters. This is an excellent means of educating the boating public.

Dale Hill has retired from running the Purple Loosestrife Program and IWLP has agreed to hire Chris Evans as the Program Director. Chris has a degree in Natural Resources and has been involved with the Purple Loosestrife Program since it was started in 2007. Al Donnell will serve as the IWLP Board liaison.

### **NOT FULLY FUNDED**

**Joyce Foundation:** A letter of inquiry was submitted to the Joyce Foundation requesting their consideration of supporting IWLP's need for funds in the amount of \$132,550 to cover IWLP's administrative costs and educational activities in 2013 to 2015.

**Minnesota Power Foundation:** A grant application in the amount of \$20,000 was submitted to the Minnesota Power Foundation to provide educational water summits for youth and adults in the years 2013 to 2014. Matching funds in the amount of \$10,000 is provided by other sources. A grant from Minnesota Power Foundation in the amount of \$1,000 was awarded in December, 2012.

### **SEARCH FOR FUTURE GRANTS/COLLABORATION**

IWLP investigators have sought funding for projects that would fit the priorities established by Itasca County's Comprehensive Land Use Plan and the Local Water Management Plan. They accomplished this through partnerships with Itasca County, Itasca County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), Itasca Community College (ICC), Iowa State University (ISU), University of Minnesota, University of Wisconsin, MPCA, MN DNR, US Forest Service and lake associations.

**University of Minnesota's North East Minnesota Sustainable Development Partnership:**

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IWLP has submitted a “Project Idea Form” to the NMSDP requesting support and collaboration for future water summits. This partnership could provide part of the funds needed to conduct the summits but also could help identify speakers and facilities that could be available for summit activities.

IWLP started the year with just over \$190,000 in the bank. Donations and memberships for the year totaled \$7,800. Funds from grants designated for specific projects totaled over \$48,000. An \$8,400 grant administrative fee is used to provide administrative support for projects.

Expenditures for the year totaled just over \$60,000 with more than 90 percent of funds spent on grant activities.