

“Team Up for Clean Waters”
Itasca Water Legacy Partnership
Quarterly Board Meeting
Monday April 20th, 3:00 p.m.
Itasca County Courthouse, Room 135

MINUTES

Present: Jan Sandberg, Kathy Loucks, Patty Gould-St. Aubin, Eric Raitanen, Bill Grantges, Pat Leistikow, Dennis Anderson, Terry Schaedig (guest from SWCD)

The meeting began at 3:05 p.m. There were not enough voting members present to reach a quorum, however the meeting resumed. There was no action taken on any agenda items.

Hold on January 2015 minutes until next meeting

Hold on formal acceptance on treasury report until next meeting. Pat L distributed information for year-end 2014 and for the first three months of 2015. She reported that 2014 was pretty much as expected. We ended the year with \$51,530.55 in the IWLP operating fund and \$165,707.42 ending cash balance in all funds. At the end of March we had \$47,572.02 in the IWLP operating fund.

Prospective board members

Bob Conzemius agreed to act as a consultant with grants, but is not able to serve on the board.

Moriya Rufer will join the advisory board in July, and will help with science grants.

Kathy Loucks will contact Noel Griese, and follow up with Julie Miedke to see if she is still interested in serving on the advisory board.

Terry Schaedig from Soil and Water Conservation District will serve on the advisory board.

Sarah Verke will contact Katie Marshall to see if she knows anyone in the community who might be interested in serving on the board.

Other names mentioned were Tom Chapin and Bob Borash and Brad Jones from ICC. John Downing had mentioned a couple names at the last meeting, so we need to follow up with him to determine interest.

Annual Report

The annual report is almost complete. Jan will work with Bill Grantges to make sure the language is in the AIS section to better reflect the program and coordinator work. We need to find the cooperative agreement online so that it can be referenced, but this could be a problem as it is buried in County minutes.

Tracking List

The executive board went over the tracking list at the last meeting, and identified items that are ongoing, have been completed, or can be dropped. Jan has updated the tracking list and emailed it out to the board members.

Lab Update

Bob will be bringing test kits to Patty Gould-St. Aubin. RMB will be using SpeedDee to send water samples to Detroit Lakes. Patty has contacted the well drillers in the area. The lab has been moved to an outside building and the asbestos has been removed.

Project/Committee Reports:

President's Report

Jan Sandberg reported – Dave is seeking grant ideas. If you have any, please contact him.

We need to make a motion at the next meeting that the Purple Loosestrife program has been moved to the SWCD.

Lilah Crowe is going to move forward with the pitch for the Smithsonian project. She is hoping that IWLP can help in some capacity, so if the project moves forward in the area, we will need a liaison from IWLP.

We need to come up with a strategy for an attendance policy.

The executive meetings have been changed to the 2nd Wednesday of the month. The start time will remain at 11:30 a.m., and they will be held in the conference room at the Second Harvest Food Bank.

Education Committee:

Kathy Loucks reported on the Youth Water Summit. The committee has been meeting monthly. The summit is set for May 21st at the Itasca County Fairgrounds, and there are 44 presenters scheduled. The summit will end at 2:15 p.m. this year instead of 2:45 p.m. They are looking into hiring a professional drummer in the morning to start the day. The cost will be \$300. The committee will be meeting at Second Harvest on May 6th to sort through the T-Shirts for the students. There will be 410 students this year, and approximately 100 volunteers.

IWLP is not participating in the KAXE River Fest this year.

Jan Sandberg reported on the Healthy Watershed Summit. She said the planning is in very good shape. A registration link will be sent out to IWLP board members next week. There is a \$20 registration fee. The date is set for July 31st at Sugar Lake Lodge. The day will end with a World Café Session that will be coordinated by the Blandin Foundation. The committee is short about \$2000 in funds, but they are still waiting for a few potential sponsors.

There will be a joint application filed by ICOLA and IWLP for a booth at the Itasca County Fair. ICOLA will pay the fee, and IWLP will provide the insurance.

Membership Committee:

Patty Gould St. Aubin reported that most business owners don't want to take on a project, but they will purchase a membership. Many want something showing they are members. Shirley and Patty have been discussing different ways to address memberships. They will come up with a proposal to bring to the executive committee.

AIS Coordinator Report:

Bill Grantges submitted a written quarterly report that is attached to the minutes. In addition to this report, he added that there will be a float/display for IWLP and SWCD in the Tall Timber Days Parade in August.

Additional Items:

Dennis Anderson referred to a brochure from a Minnesota organization called Anglers for Habitat. He plans to become a member and is interested in being a liaison between IWLP and Anglers for Habitat if they are willing. Dennis will keep IWLP updated on this.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:23 p.m.

2015 Quarterly meeting dates as follows:

Friday, July 17th, 1:00 p.m.

Monday, October 19th, 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sarah Verke, Board Secretary

Itasca County Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator Quarterly Report

To the Itasca Water Legacy Partnership Board of Directors

April 20, 2015

Since the IWLP Board of Directors last met on January 16, much has been accomplished while working to implement and coordinate a county wide strategy, relevant programs and effective partnerships for preventing and controlling the spread of AIS in Itasca County. Work on the Itasca County AIS Program has transitioned from mostly planning to mostly implementation now. Partnerships have been built both inside Itasca County and throughout Minnesota. Grants have been awarded by the Itasca County AIS Technical Committee within Itasca County to fight the spread of AIS. IWLP has been awarded two AIS grants from the DNR. Personnel Dynamics is in the process of hiring Itasca County AIS Watercraft Inspectors for the 2015 boating season and Itasca County has ordered its first mobile thermal decontamination unit. Public presentations on AIS, how to prevent its spread and the Itasca County AIS Program were given on eleven days between the end of January and mid-April.

New partnerships have been built and existing ones strengthened. Active partnerships include: Minnesota Power, Boswell Plant; Wired2fish; T&M Marine; Grand Rapids Marine; Itasca SWCD; U of M Extension Minnesota Sea Grant; St. Louis County; Minnesota Coalition of Lake Associations; Itasca County Coalition of Lake Associations; Itasca County Community Television; Bowstring Resort; Itasca County Environmental Services, Land Department, Township Association and Sheriff's Department; MN DNR; Wildlife Forever; Mississippi Headwaters Board; Itasca County 4H; Grand Rapids Kiwanis and Jaycees as well as numerous Lake Service Providers.

The Itasca County AIS Technical Committee awarded five Community Action Projects (CAP) matching fund grants totaling \$11,097 on March 25. Grand Rapids Marine, T&M Marine and Bowstring Resort were awarded grants for the purchase of thermal decontamination equipment. Sand Lake Association's grant request for public landing water access signs was also approved. ICTV was awarded a grant to help offset costs for producing a Tom Chapin "Just Outdoors" episode that "educates boaters on what they can expect from enhanced boat landing inspections."

IWLP was awarded two AIS Prevention Grants by the DNR for 2015. The \$8,000 AIS Prevention Grant for Public Awareness Projects will reimburse IWLP 50% for the purchase of AIS promotional and educational materials for distribution at public events and AIS Watercraft Inspections. The Watercraft Inspections by DNR Staff Grant awarded IWLP 750 hours of AIS inspections by DNR staff to be used at Pokegama, Bowstring and Trout Lakes. The DNR will bill IWLP only \$8/Hour for the 750 hours of inspections. These inspections are supplemental to those normally scheduled for Itasca County this summer.

Public presentations on AIS, how to prevent its spread and the Itasca County AIS Program were given to: Itasca County SWCD; Itasca County Association of Townships; Itasca County 4H; Grand Rapids Kiwanis; Itasca Coalition of Lake Associations; three days of the Jaycees Home and Sport Show; the Duluth Home and Sport Show at the DECC (with MN Sea Grant) and to the DNR Lake Service Providers Certification class for Itasca County.

Much has been accomplished and there remains much to do.

Respectfully submitted: Bill Grantges, Itasca County AIS Coordinator, Itasca Water Legacy Partnership.