

“Team Up for Clean Waters”
Itasca Water Legacy Partnership
Quarterly Meeting
Friday, July 17, 2015, 1:00pm
Itasca County Courthouse ITV Room 135

MINUTES

PRESENT: Dave Lick, John Zimmerman, Jan Sandberg, Kathy Loucks, Dennis Anderson, Dan Swenson, Byron Snowden, Patty Gould-St. Aubin, Davin Tinquist, Brian Rusch and Shirley Loegering; **Technical Advisory Board:** Bill Grantges, Eric Raitanen, and Dan Steward; **Guests:** Moriya Rufer (via conference phone) and Terry Schaedig

1. Administrative Items

- a. Kathy Loucks moved, 2nd by John Zimmerman, to approve the Minutes from the January and April 2015 Quarterly Board meetings—motion passed.
- b. Jan Sandberg moved, 2nd by John Zimmerman, to approve the Treasurer’s report as presented by Brian Rusch—motion passed.

Brian reported that, as of June 30, 2015, IWLP had \$50,127.70 in checking and \$88,931.41 in savings. See summary compiled by Pat Leistikow attached.

- c. Dave introduced Moriya Rufer, Director of Client Services, RMB Environmental Laboratories, Inc., and Terry Schaedig, District Manager, Itasca County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD), and asked the Board to consider them as new members on the non-voting Technical Advisory Board. [Jan Sandberg moved, 2nd by Dennis Anderson, to approve Terry Schaedig—motion passed.](#) [Patty Gould-St. Aubin moved, 2nd by Kathy Loucks, to approve Moriya Rufer—motion passed.](#)

Shirley will send Moriya and Terry board member orientation material via email. We welcome them to the IWLP Board, appreciate their willingness to serve, and look forward to working with them.

- d. Dave read the list of current Board of Directors and Technical Advisory Board with a recommendation to move Bill Grantges and Dan Swenson from the Board of Directors to the Technical Advisory Board. [John Zimmerman moved, 2nd by Jan Sandberg, to accept that recommendation—motion passed.](#) Because Julie Miedtke is no longer employed with University of MN Extension, she will no longer be serving on the Technical Advisory Board.

Additionally, the Board regretfully recognizes that Mary Blickenderfer has not been present at a Board of Directors meeting since July 2014 and she has not responded to calls to clarify whether or not she intends to stay active. Therefore, her name will be removed from the Board of Directors with the understanding that the Board would certainly consider welcoming her back at some time in the future if she would so desire. Mary has been a great asset to IWLP in the past and her presence will be missed.

Current Board of Directors

Dave Lick, President*
Byron Snowden, Vice President*
Brian Rusch, Treasurer*
Pat Leistikow, Finance *
Sarah Verke, Secretary*
Jan Sandberg, Operations*
Kathy Loucks, Education*

Patty Gould-St. Aubin, Membership*
John Zimmerman, Planning*
Dennis Anderson
John Downing
Shirley Loegering
Davin Tinquist
* Indicates Executive Committee Member

Current Technical Advisory Board

Bill Grantges, AIS Coordinator
Erika Herr, MN DNR Hydrologist
Eric Raitanen, USFS
Moriya Rufer, RMB Environmental Laboratories

Terry Schaedig, Itasca County SWCD
Dan Steward, BWSR
Dan Swenson, Itasca Co. Env. Services

Emeritus Board Member

Harold Dziuk

- d. Jan Sandberg presented a proposed change in the Bylaws as follows (change in red):

ARTICLE 3. BOARD OF DIRECTORS **AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY BOARD**

The management of all of the affairs, property and business of IWLP shall be vested in the Board of Directors consisting of up to thirty persons. The City of Grand Rapids and Itasca County will be invited to attend. Other government entities may be invited to attend upon request.

The terms of the Board members shall be three years, one third of who will be elected each year. All board members shall serve until their successors are elected and qualified, even though that may extend their term for a short period.

A Technical Advisory Board comprised of non-voting members with particular expertise valuable to the Partnership may be established.

Members of the Board of Directors and the Technical Advisory Board are expected to attend all Quarterly Board meetings. In the event of an unavoidable absence, members may be excused by notifying the IWLP secretary before the meeting. Members absent more than three meetings in a calendar year shall be deemed resigned from the Board unless the Executive Committee takes specific action by majority vote to reinstate the member. Emeritus members are non-voting and are excused from attendance requirements.

10th paragraph:

A quorum at all the meetings of the Board of Directors shall consist of a majority **of voting members** of the whole board, but in no case shall a quorum of the Board of Directors be less than one half the current members, plus one. Less than a quorum may, however, adjourn any meetings, which may be held on a subsequent date without further notice, provided a quorum is present at such a meeting.

Shirley Loegering moved, 2nd by Jan Sandberg, to approve the proposed amendments to the Bylaws as presented--motion carried. Said Bylaws amendments become effective in 30 days.

- e. Dave Lick let the Board know that he has served three, three-year terms as President and that, according to our Bylaws, is the longest that an officer can serve. Therefore, IWLP will need to elect a new president at the January 2016 Board meeting. .
- 2. Website update:** Shirley requested an additional \$150 over the \$2,000 that was approved for the website update at the May 13, 2015 Executive Committee meeting, **Patty Gould-St. Aubin moved, 2nd by Jan Sandberg, to pay Terry Barth Design \$1,900 for web development and Pixelle8 Media \$250 for web re-design for a total of \$2,150. Motion passed.**
 - 3. Purple loosestrife:** Dave reported that purple loosestrife control has been successfully turned over to the Itasca SWCD. Jan mentioned SWCD is producing nice reports for the AIS Tech Committee.
 - 4. RMB Environmental Laboratories:** Dave reported that the lab has had some delays in becoming fully operational on the ICC campus site due to remodeling that included, but not limited to, asbestos abatement and loss of internet connection. IWLP, as the landlord, will act as the intermediary between

ICC and RMB Labs. As part of the agreement, RMB Labs will keep students involved at the lab. Moriya stated that the lab will possibly be ready to do drinking (well) water testing by September and that they will be able to do lake monitoring beginning next spring.

- 5. Lake assessment trends—a possible new project for IWLP:** Dave met with Bob Borash, RMB Labs, and Dan Steward, BWSR, to discuss possible ways in which IWLP could be involved in developing trend analysis for county lakes in collaboration with SWCD and ICOLA. This has been done successfully in other counties, i.e. Cass and Crow Wing. Terry Schaedig reported that SWCD is already doing that for 37 lakes in Itasca County but it was felt that it was important to try to expand to more lakes in the county.

RMB Labs would be willing to collect all of the data available from the statewide database and from various other sources that may just be sitting somewhere in a file but indicated that there needs to be enough years of data to make the trends significant. The purpose for collecting such data and sharing with those involved would be to prioritize lakes and to develop action plans as needed—especially important as Itasca County moves into reviewing its water plan this fall. There are three ways action could be implemented:

- a. Manage (involving ordinances, impervious surfaces, etc.)
- b. Build (recommending BMP's involving storm water, rain gardens, etc.)
- c. Acquire (i.e. conservation easements)

Byron wondered how one could tell if samples were collected correctly and Moriya stated that a few ways to tell are by checking to see if a certified lab was used, if data was collected from the same site over a certain time period and not different sites, and to take outlying results into consideration.

Dan Steward said chances for receiving grants would be improved and is another important reason for collecting as much data for the county as possible. Dave will meet with Moriya Rufer and Terry Schaedig to determine whether or not IWLP should pursue this issue.

6. Committee/Project Reports

- a. **AIS Coordinator Report** – The full report by Bill Grantges that was handed out at the meeting is attached. Highlights of his report are that they completed over 4,300 watercraft inspections with a 20% violation rate (down from 29% last year), put a mobile decontamination unit into service and completing 5-12 decontaminations/day, conducted two AIS identification training workshops, gave out \$16,098 in community action grants, and established a zebra mussel density study with an ISD318 High School student. In addition, Bill has made many public presentations about AIS locally, on ICTV and MPR.

One area where Bill would like some help is in determining the actual number of public water accesses in the County and their accompanying parking spaces.

- b. **Planning** – After being unavailable for much of this year due to personal reasons, John Zimmerman is now ready to take another look at the Strategic Plan review that was started earlier. He will make the obvious administrative updates but would like to see the next Executive Committee meeting dedicated solely to the strategic plan—specifically, what direction do we want IWLP to take, what projects might be important, and we call ourselves a “Partnership” but who are our partners and what does that mean? All Board members are invited to the meeting or can submit their ideas via email to John at jwzimmerjr@gmail.com.
- c. **Education** – The following reports by Kathy Loucks are attached: 1) 2015 Youth Water Summit Report and 2) 2015 Youth Water Summit Student and Teacher Survey Results. There were about 440 fifth grade students, 80 volunteers, 44 presentations and 77 presenters that took part in this year's program in May and, by all accounts, an amazing success. Thank you to everyone who participated.

Bill Grantges and his wife, Lynda, staffed the IWLP booth at the Children First event held each year at the IRA Civic arena in April. This is another very successful event reaching out to area youth with over 2,000 people attending. They let the youth pretend to be "AIS detectives" with caps, moustaches and magnifying glasses and had minnows in a "good water" "bad water" display. Fishing poles, swimming masks and fins were given away as door prizes. For future years, Bill recommends getting a larger than 10x10 booth and purchasing door prizes that are geared to a slightly older youth (not the 3-5 yr olds).

Shirley reported on the 2015 Healthy Watersheds Conference: Water & Forests that will be held on Friday, July 31st at Sugar Lake Lodge. The conference has had tremendous community support with \$6,000 in grants and donations received, and the event includes a great line-up of speakers and topics. Registration has been slow to-date and Shirley asked the Board members to help spread the word. Currently there are between 12-20 attendees registered for each the 15 breakout sessions.

- d. Membership** – Shirley Loegering reported that membership donations are at \$1,700 (slightly ahead of where they were last year at this time). Keep in mind that the bulk of memberships get paid during the December membership drive. Annual membership has been averaging \$6,800.

Due to the fact that another company purchased the membership software being used and the resulting annual maintenance fee would be \$1,080, Shirley was able to download a majority of the information and will recreate the membership roster on an Excel spreadsheet.

- e. PR – A PR Chair is needed.** Shirley brought in the portable tabletop display that was purchased for \$170.33. It has a header with the IWLP logo, a velcro-accepting cloth on one side for ease in changing the display and a dry erase board on the reverse. The display will be available for any Board member to use for events, etc. Shirley will give the display to Bill Grantges at the Healthy Watersheds Conference to possibly be used at the Fair booth in August.

- 5. President's report by Dave Lick:** Dave thought that the AIS program was moving along nicely and that the Technical Committee was working well. Currently IWLP is writing the checks for expenditures and the County will reimburse IWLP when they receive the money from the State. Something to discuss at the January meeting is the need or a PR and Grants Chair. John Downing is checking with a couple of people that he would recommend.

- 6. Jan handed out a work schedule for the Itasca County Fair booth and asked that people sign up. IWLP and ICOLA will be sharing the booth. Please contact her as soon as possible so the schedule can be filled. Everyone's help is needed.**

- 7. Next quarterly meeting is set for Monday, October 19, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. in the ITV Room 135 at the Courthouse**

John Zimmerman moved, 2nd by Jan Sandberg to adjourn the meeting at about 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Shirley Loegering
Acting in the absence of secretary, Sarah Verke