

***“Team Up for Clean Waters”***  
**Itasca Water Legacy Partnership**  
**Quarterly Board Meeting**  
**Monday, October 19th, 3:00 p.m.**  
**Itasca County Courthouse, Room 135**

**MINUTES**

Present: Dave Lick, Davin Tinquist, Dennis Anderson, Shirley Loegering, Jan Sandberg, Pat Leistikow, Bob Conzemius, Moriah Rufer (by phone), Patty Gould-St. Aubin, Bill Grantges, Sarah Verke, Bob Lindahl (guest)

Not Present: John Downing, John Zimmerman, Kathy Loucks

The meeting began at 3:07p.m.

Patty Gould-St. Aubin made a motion to approve the July quarterly minutes. Motion seconded by Shirley Loegering. Motion Carried.

Pat Leistikow presented the September financial summary to the board. Jan Sandberg made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report. Motion seconded by Shirley Loegering. Motion carried.

Prospective board members

Byron has asked to be relieved of his position as Vice President, but he will stay on in the position until a replacement is found.

Brian Rusch would like to resign as Treasurer. Bob Lindahl is present at the meeting today, but also as a possible board member to take Brian’s place, although not as Treasurer. Bob works at Minnesota Power.

Over the past months, the board has been discussing adding new board members. Bob Conzemius is not on the board, but has been receiving minutes to become more informed about what IWLP does, Moriah Rufer has recently joined the Technical Advisory Board, and John Connolly has agreed to help with grant writing when needed.

Dave Lick asked Bob Conzemius if he would be willing to serve as a full board member. Bob is considering this, and will let Dave know.

Pat Leistikow contacted Grant Prokop, Bill Marshall and Stephanie Kessler. Grant is interested, but couldn’t make today’s meeting. He will come to the January quarterly meeting. Bill Marshall agreed to serve on the board, and Stephanie Kessler can’t serve right now, but she asked to be contacted again next year.

Dave Lick contacted Katie Aho and John Adams. Katie has agreed to serve on the board, and Dave hasn’t heard back from John Adams yet.

Jan Sandberg attempted to contact Janet Florine, but she is out of town right now.

Bill Grantges contacted Diane Herendeen, and she said she would consider joining the board as Treasurer.

Patty Gould-St. Aubin suggested Lori Flohaug as a potential board member. She will contact her.

Shirley Loegering suggested Roberta Baker as a marketing/PR person for the board. She will contact her.

Patty Gould-St. Aubin made a motion that the people who have had initial contact with prospective board members should resume contact with them so we can get a final decision. IWLP orientation packet will be given to them, and bios will be collected so they can be sworn in at the January 2016 quarterly meeting. Motion seconded by Jan Sandberg. Motion carried.

Patty Gould-St. Aubin made a motion to appoint Pat Leistikow as interim Treasurer until a replacement can be found for Brian Rusch. Motion seconded by Shirley Loegering. Motion carried.

#### RMB Lab Update

Moriya Rufer reported that the lab is not accepting well water samples yet. They are still waiting for final certification from the State. They are hoping this will happen within the month.

Patty Gould-St. Aubin asked if IWLP plans to hold a reception when RMB Labs opens to the public. Members of the board felt this was a good idea. Pat L. advised that if we do that we should be present to be sure that it is known that IWLP is acting as the Lessor only.

#### **Project/Committee Reports:**

##### President's Report:

Dave talked to Andy Arens at SWDC and he confirmed that BWSR did receive the grant application for the Trend Analysis and they are putting it through their rating system.

##### Education Committee:

Dave reported that the Youth Water Summit is scheduled for Tuesday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Greenway school district has expressed interest in attending the summit, so in order to make that happen we would need additional presenters to keep the groups small. There are already 37 presenters signed up. The county fairgrounds has given a verbal confirmation that 5/24 will work. A Native American opening ceremony is in place, as well as a Native American themed water presentation.

Dave Christy is trying to track down some past students to see if they will come present at the summit.

ISD 318 will do all printing for the summit.

Pat L. gave a positive example of students commenting about the water summit at the Itasca County fair booth this year.

##### Membership/Public Relations Committees:

Shirley would like to purchase membership software, potentially Wild Apricot. The cost for this would be \$40 per month (\$480 per year) for up to 250 members. There may be a couple other software options as well, as they all have different elements they offer. Shirley is still researching this.

Pat Leistikow made a motion to approve membership software not to exceed \$750 per year, including set up costs. Motion seconded by Sarah Verke. Motion carried.

Shirley will send an email out to IWLP members for Give to the Max day, which is on November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

Shirley and Patty suggested a sponsorship for an event at the Reif Center to get more publicity for IWLP. Shirley will call Dave Marty to ask him to notify IWLP when they contact sponsors for events.

Jan and Shirley are working on the website and updating content right now. It's coming along.

#### AIS Coordinator Report:

Bill Grantges presented his quarterly AIS Coordinator Report to all board members present. The report is attached to the minutes. Additionally, Bill reported that the AIS program is moving into high gear with planning for the winter season. The mobile decontamination unit has worked out spectacularly.

Dave commented on the possibility of the AIS program moving to SWCD. He said we are willing to do this as long as there is a good transition and they continue what has been started. A potential concern is to ensure there is continued work and planning during the winter months. With a possible transition to SWCD, there may be a pause put on any changes to AIS program right now.

Dave thanked Bill for his detailed report, and expressed appreciation for his work and efforts to the AIS Program.

#### Additional Items:

Quarterly meeting dates were set for 2016. The dates are:

January 14<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 p.m.

April 18<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 p.m.

July 15<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 p.m.

October 17<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 p.m.

The July meeting would potentially be a potluck barbeque, and hold the board meeting at someone's house. Pat Leistikow said her house would be an option.

Sarah will contact Carrie in Administration to reserve the room for these dates.

#### Pharmaceuticals in Water

Dennis Anderson shared that the Wes Libbey Chapter of the Isaak Walton League (IKES) is pursuing the issue of pharmaceuticals in the water supply. They have formed a working group to discuss the development of a community awareness plan. They are working on a proposed mission, and performing outreach to some key people, such as Mike Brandt from Globe Drug, and Kathy Lee from USGS.

They would like to see pharmacies in the area post information on drug takeback programs, as well as increased collection sites in the area.

It was suggested that a library program be put together and co-sponsored between IKES and IWLP.

Dave suggested doing awareness in conjunction with another event such as the county fair booth, as well as a presentation at the youth water summit.

Some comments made were to contact the MN Dept. of Health if that hasn't been done already, and the more people involved, the more credibility this awareness campaign will have.

Sarah suggested a student sponsorship at ICC so an event can be put together and held at Davies Hall.

#### Sales Tax Exemption

Pat L. will be sending the paperwork in for sales tax exemption. She only needs the application for original 501c3 filing.

Shirley made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Pat L., and the meeting was adjourned at 4:43 p.m. Motion carried.

#### **2016 Quarterly meeting dates as follows:**

January 14<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 p.m.

April 18<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 p.m.

July 15<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 p.m.

October 17<sup>th</sup>, 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

October 19, 2015

Itasca County AIS Plan Accomplishments 7/16/15 – 10/19/15

### Prevention:

- Over 7,840 watercraft inspections completed as of 10/10/15. Trends still pointing to a 20% +- violation rate. This rate is high, but has improved by 9 percentage points from the 2014 season (1,600 inspections in 22 weeks). 6,357 hours of inspection and decontamination time have been logged this season as of 10/10.
- Zebra mussels found on bunk trailers on August 7 and August 8<sup>th</sup> at Sherry's Arm landing, Pokegama Lake. I am working with Pokegama Lake Association on methods to improve AIS detection and prevention for that lake.
- Two Level 1 and two Level 2 inspectors on payroll. Inspection season extended through all October on Friday-Sunday in response to heavier than expected traffic.
- Mobile Thermal AIS Decontamination Unit in service since June 24. Unit has been very well received by the public. The last 4 weekends, the decon unit has seen near constant use while stationed on Sand lake.
- "Let's Go Fishing", Duluth Bass Group and "GRAHA Walleye Shootout" fishing tournaments received complete inspection coverage including 5 days of pre-fishing inspections in July. A strong partnership has been formed with GRAHA Walleye Shootout organizers and event participants.

### Early Detection:

- Julie Miedtke and Mary Blickenderfer both retired suddenly leaving this Priority area without any staff.
- AIS Facebook page responsibility take over by me.
- AIS Technical Committee has made a recommendation to the Itasca County Commissioners to not fund a full time Extension position. *"It is the recommendation of the AIS Technical Committee that Itasca County not spend State of Minnesota AIS funds on a full-time University of Minnesota Extension AIS position. Since April 2014, the combination of Itasca Soil and Water Conservation District, Itasca Water Legacy Partnership, Itasca County and the Itasca Coalition of Lake Associations used State of Minnesota AIS funds to implement a successful AIS program. Any training needs would be contracted through one of several agencies, including the University of Minnesota Extension."*

### Control & Monitoring:

- AIS Crew of 4 lead by Chris Evans has completed their work for 2015.

- 47 Lake Surveys completed where AIS was found.
- 49 Lake Surveys completed where no AIS found.
- Zebra mussel traps placed in 21 locations County wide.
- Purple Loosestrife control program had a successful year with 45,159 beetles collected and released. 28 Hwy sites also treated.
- Chris Evans on Early Detection and Rapid Response duties. Chris did an excellent job, earning praise from DNR Specialist Rich Rezanka.

#### Community Action Projects (CAP):

- 6 grants completed with a total of \$13,793 awarded in matching funds since July 15.
- 3 grants in process.

#### Communications & Awareness:

- AIS Watercraft inspectors and SWCD AIS Field Crew participated in the Tall Timber Days parade with 2 trucks. The AIS Decon Unit made a big “splash” and was extremely popular. SWCD participated with their AIS truck towing an SWCD boat with a canoe on top of the truck. This was a very good showing and great PR for the Itasca AIS Program and we should plan to participate every year.
- The Itasca County Fair was a great success. Despite the Fair closing early on 3 of the 5 days due to bad weather, 1,514 people listened to conversations about AIS and how to prevent its spread.
- Presentations on AIS given to Grand Rapids Morning and Lunch Rotary Groups, Johnson Lake Association and the Trout Lake Association.
- The fieldwork for the ISD 318 Zebra mussel density study on Sand Lake was completed on September 10<sup>th</sup>. I have partnered with Grand Rapids High School IB Biology program. I am bringing all the Zebra mussel traps from the density study on Sand Lake, with Zebra mussels intact, to the High School Biology lab where the advance biology students, for each of the 40 plates, will count and log the Zebra mussels found. Shelly Lindstrom and I are working together to develop addition AIS fieldwork opportunities for the high school.

#### Database & Website:

- Work on adding AIS information to County website progressing very slowly.

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