

Itasca Waters

ANNUAL REPORT

itascawaters.org

2017



CONTENTS

3	MISSION AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES
3	SUPPORTERS AND PARTNERS
3	ORGANIZATION HISTORY
4	2017 EVENTS AND SUCCESSES
4	COMMITTEES
	Education
	Membership
	Planning
	Public Relations
	Technology
5	PROJECTS & GRANTS
	Shoreland Initiative
	We are Water
	Website Project
	Blandin Grant Application
7	2017 FINANCIAL REPORT
10	2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Cover photo of Wabana Lake and other drone photos including Ice Lake in Grand Rapids (shown above) courtesy of Bill Marshall.

MISSION AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The mission of the Itasca Waters (formerly Itasca Water Legacy Partnership) is to “Team Up” with other organizations and concerned citizens to maintain abundant, clean water for our continued health, enjoyment and a strong economy.

Itasca Waters (IW) is pursuing its mission by:

- Promoting water stewardship through education and outreach
- Engaging all Itasca County citizens to join in these efforts
- Continuing its efforts to fund science-based, water-quality research

SUPPORTERS AND PARTNERS

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

ORGANIZATION HISTORY

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.

2009: IWLP’s first Board election--IWLP has continued to ask representatives from 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.

2010: IWLP’s Certificate of Incorporation and Articles of Incorporation as a nonprofit organization were filed under the laws of the State of Minnesota.

2011: A request for a 501(c)3 status with the IRS was approved and organized a full-day adult water summit at Itasca Community College.

2012: Strengthened financial reporting and implemented an informal system for tracking the completion of Board and committee activities; hosted a series of evening meetings for adults; and organized the first Youth Water Summit for fifth graders.

2013: Released the Deer-Pokegama Study; hosted several educational events; and helped create a (CISMA) Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area in collaboration with Leech Lake Band, Itasca County land department, MN DOT, USFS, MDNR, U OF M extension and ICOLA.

2014: Cooperated with partners to develop program for prevention and eradication of aquatic invasive species; released results on economic value of water in Itasca County; hosted several educational events; and awarded the Itasca County Outstanding Conservationist Award.

2015: Continued work with the Itasca County Aquatic Invasive Species program; sponsored educational events for adults (including a second Adult Summit in partnership with the forestry community) and children; shared in the Outstanding Conservationist Award given to the Aquatic Invasive Species Partnership of Itasca County; and continued support for the water lab at ICC.

2016: Sponsored several educational events; continued work on the AIS Technical Advisory Committee; and negotiated the successful transfer of the AIS program to the Itasca SWCD.

2017 EVENTS AND SUCCESSSES

Itasca Waters continued to work with its many partners to look for new opportunities 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:

- Effective Jan 1, 2017 transferred the Aquatic Invasive Species program to Itasca County Soil and Water District. During the four years IW coordinated the AIS program, it grew from under 1,000 boat landing inspections to nearly 18,000.
- Continued to work with partner organizations on the Aquatic Invasive Species Technical Advisory Committee.
- Hosted a Youth Water Summit in May that allowed over 400 fifth graders a chance to participate in all-day scientific hands-on activities.
- Rebranded itself as Itasca Waters, to better define our focus.
- Worked on building awareness of IW, including an article and paid advertisement in Lake Time Magazine
- Began work on a significant shoreland project, including an Itasca County Shoreland Guide to Lake Stewardship, and revised and expanded the website.
- Agreed to host a six-week 2019 event, We Are Water, in conjunction with the Minnesota Humanities Center and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

COMMITTEES

Education

Throughout the year, Itasca Waters volunteers help run a series of events designed to better inform the community about the importance of our water resources.

Youth Water Summit

Over 400 fifth-grade students from District 318 RJE Middle School, St. Joseph's Catholic, and Deer River schools took part in the 7th Annual Youth Water Summit, a full day of water science education. The day arrived with the possibility of rain and temperatures in the upper 40s, but rain did not ruin the day. Nearly 140 volunteers, including school staff and presenters, assisted with the event, which opened with water songs by Patty Jo Erven and Noreen Hautala. The five-hour event, held on May 22, 2017 at the Itasca County Fairgrounds, was funded by grants from the the District 318 endowment, Cans for Kids and Itasca Waters' funding from the Blandin Foundation.

Students rotated through eight of the forty 25-minutes presentations. Some of the topics presented included, aquatic micro and macro invertebrate identification, pH, surface tension, scientific instrumentation, shoreland practices, water art, runoff and erosion, aquatic invasive species, fish identification, aquatic plant identification, and rain gardens to name a few. The keynote, a well-received skit performed by Rachel Randle, John Schroeder, and Nathan Bergstedt focused on how plastic disrupts wildlife.

Students were given a vocabulary list of terms prior to the event for better understanding the sessions and each student, presenter, volunteer and teacher was provided with a blue t-shirt to wear with a "Team Up for Clean Waters" logo. Surveys collected from the students, teachers, presenters, and volunteers will help generate ideas for improvements in 2018.

Membership

Itasca Water's accomplishments for 2017 were made possible by generous support from its members and dedicated volunteers. Financial contributions enable Itasca Waters (IW) to carry out its mission by providing funds for educational outreach, special events, and operational costs not covered by grant monies. The commitment by volunteers who share IW's vision for maintaining our water resources was invaluable. Itasca Waters thanks all who so generously shared their time, talent and financial support in 2017.



PROJECTS & GRANTS

Planning

Itasca Waters ended its first five-year strategic plan for 2011-2015. In 2016 we took a less formal approach. First, holding a board focus group in 2016, then holding a community outreach session for non-board input, and finally meeting as a board to assemble our focus areas for the next 3-5 years. The focus areas included were: handing off AIS (finalized in January 2018), building a strong relationship with RMB Labs and supporting their work to provide lake water-quality data to lake associations, and a focus going forward on a Shoreland Initiative with an emphasis on building strong communications with the community.

Public Relations

Informing the public about the importance of one of our County's most valuable resources—our water—is one of the major goals for Itasca Waters. We accomplish this through our sponsored events, on our website at <http://www.itscawaters.org/> and on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/ItascaWaters/>.

In early 2017, the expanded and revitalized committee planned numerous new initiatives in print, television, and online media.

Rebranding

In early 2017, the PR committee recommended to the Board of Directors that the public name of the Itasca Water Legacy Partnership be changed to Itasca Waters and the change was unanimously approved. Itasca Waters will be much easier to use for marketing our organization, and our soon-to-be revised website www.itscawaters.org will be much easier to remember. As part of that work, Lake Time magazine, the glossy quarterly north country magazine published in Grand Rapids, printed a feature article on Itasca Waters in its summer issue.

The committee also led work on four new efforts described under Projects: the Itasca County Shoreland Guide to Lake Stewardship, We are Water, Ruination, and the website overhaul.

Technology

Committee members oversee Itasca Water's Facebook page and website, updating administrative information such as minutes and news items. The committee also coordinates a virtual filing cabinet at Dropbox, which gives Board members access to historical and current documents.

Shoreland Initiative

Launched by the Planning Committee, first steps included identifying areas of emphasis--the aquatic zone, shoreland, runoff and erosion, and septic/excavation, with the later addition of private forest management. Team members accepted ownership for each, developed community questions in each area, developed Itasca County-appropriate answers, and identified sources for more detailed responses. Next steps involve developing projects in these areas, including septic seminars and a comprehensive Itasca County Shoreland Guide to Lake Stewardship.

Shoreland Guide

Itasca Waters spearheaded the production and dissemination in 2018 of the Itasca County Shoreland Guide to Lake Stewardship. It is a 30-page guide that covers such topics as: runoff, watersheds, shoreland buffers, AIS, private forest management, land easements, shoreland permit requirements, and frequent county contact information. The Guide will be available on line at www.itscawaters.org, as well as the websites of other local groups that are concerned about water quality. In addition, print copies will be available at county office buildings, the DNR, lake associations, and events attended by Itasca Waters. The online Guide will have clickable links to websites mentioned in the Guide.

We Are Water Project

In mid-2017, Itasca Waters learned of a water-focused exhibit produced by the MN Humanities Center in partnership with the MN Pollution Control Agency and several other state agencies. Only eight host organizations across the state are selected to host the exhibit. IW's proposal to be one of those eight hosts was accepted, planning started in 2017, and planning will continue throughout 2018 and 2019. The information displays for the six-week exhibit will be anchored at our partner, The Reif Center, from August 4 to September 16, 2019. The exhibit is all about clean water and related environmental issues, such as AIS. For its part, Itasca Waters will partner up with local organizations, groups, and agencies to plan for and stage several local events connected to the project between September 2018 and September 2019.

Ruination

In late 2017, Northern Lights, an artistic performance group from the Twin Cities, approached Itasca Waters about partnering with them and the Reif Center to stage a participation-focused, artistic event in September 2018. After meeting with representatives from Northern Lights and the Reif Center, Itasca Waters agreed to participate. The weekend-long event, titled Ruination, will be staged in Grand Rapids in the fall of 2018. Ruination will mark the official launch of Itasca Waters' year-long We Are Water program.

Website Project

Itasca Waters spent considerable time and resources to rebuild its website into a major source of online information about issues for Itasca County lakeshore property owners. The primary focuses will be the aquatic zone, shoreland, runoff and erosion, septic/excavation and private forest management. The website will also feature information about the Shoreland Initiative and the new Itasca County Shoreland Guide to Lake Stewardship, AIS, a news and calendar section, and information about Itasca Waters. The new website, www.itascawaters.org, should be online around the first of April 2018.

Blandin Grant

In late 2017, the Board applied to the Blandin Foundation for a \$150,000 grant to fund a three-year program focused on protecting and restoring shoreland areas in Itasca County to reduce nutrient loading in area lakes and maintain high water quality. The application included a request for a part-time coordinator to help implement the program, a first for Itasca Waters. A funding decision should be made in March 2018.

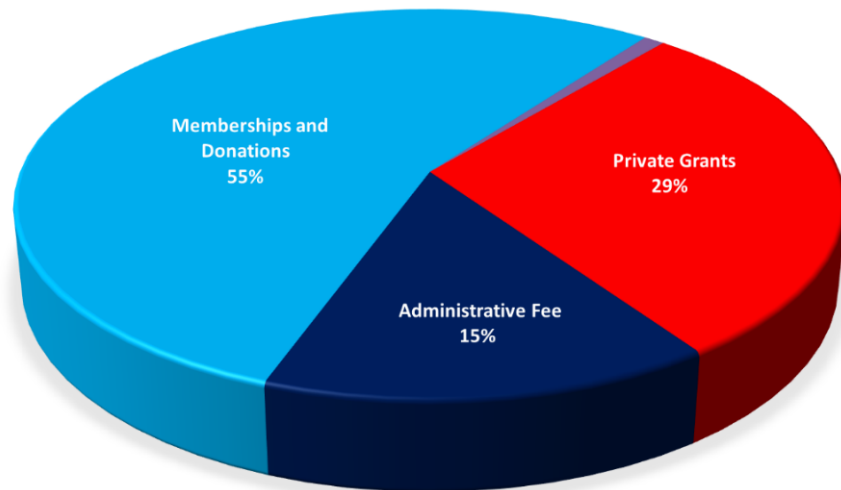
2017 FINANCIAL REPORT

Because of Itasca Waters’ strong relationship with Itasca County, the Aquatic Invasive Species lake access inspections, prevention, and communication were handed over to the Itasca County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) on January 1, 2017. We returned \$26,888 of grant funds to Itasca County and had cleanup costs of \$17,369.

Much of 2017 was spent on future for Itasca Waters through meetings with community, water experts, and board members, finally deciding to focus on shoreland issues. Education for youth, \$5,800, was funded by the Blandin Foundation. We are proud that we can sponsor the Youth Water Summit at this low cost. The power of volunteers is our strength.

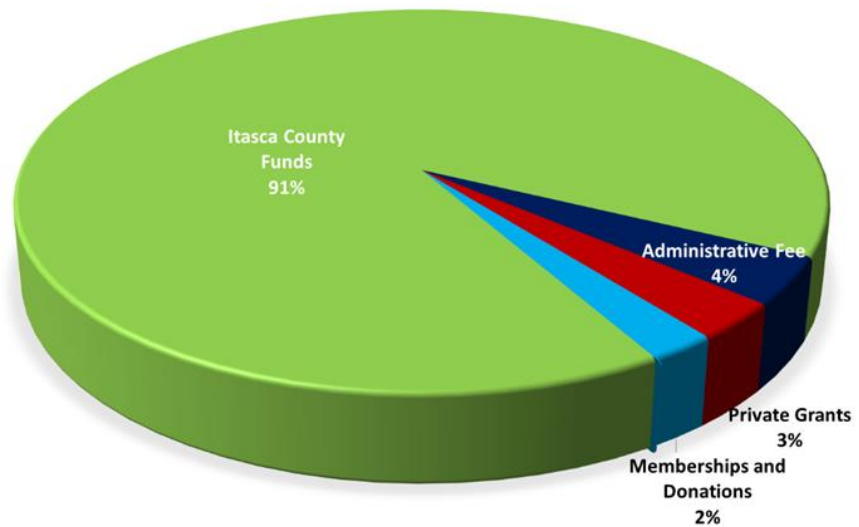
Itasca Waters had general operating expenses of \$12,530 (including office supplies, postage, promotion, accounting fees, insurance, and website), an increase from 2016 of \$722. Insurance and accounting fees went down but promotion and website increased as we look for new membership and planning for our next project - Shoreland. Itasca Waters ended with a cash balance of \$93,498-- operating - \$66,791; Blandin Foundation - \$25,256; and startup costs for Shoreland of \$1,451.

2017 SOURCE OF FUNDS



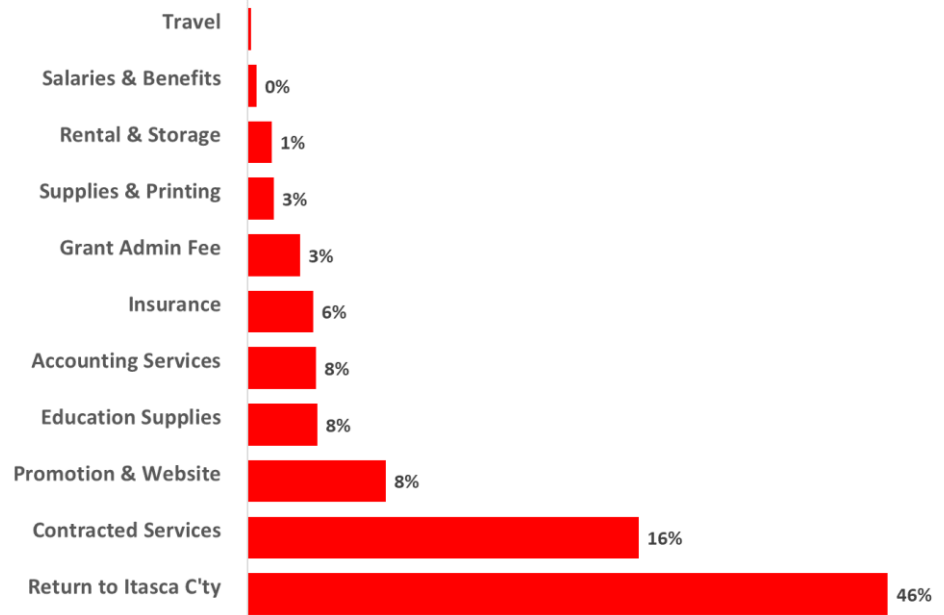
NOTE: 2017 funds received totaled \$14,498 with interest & dividends of \$137.

2016 SOURCE OF FUNDS



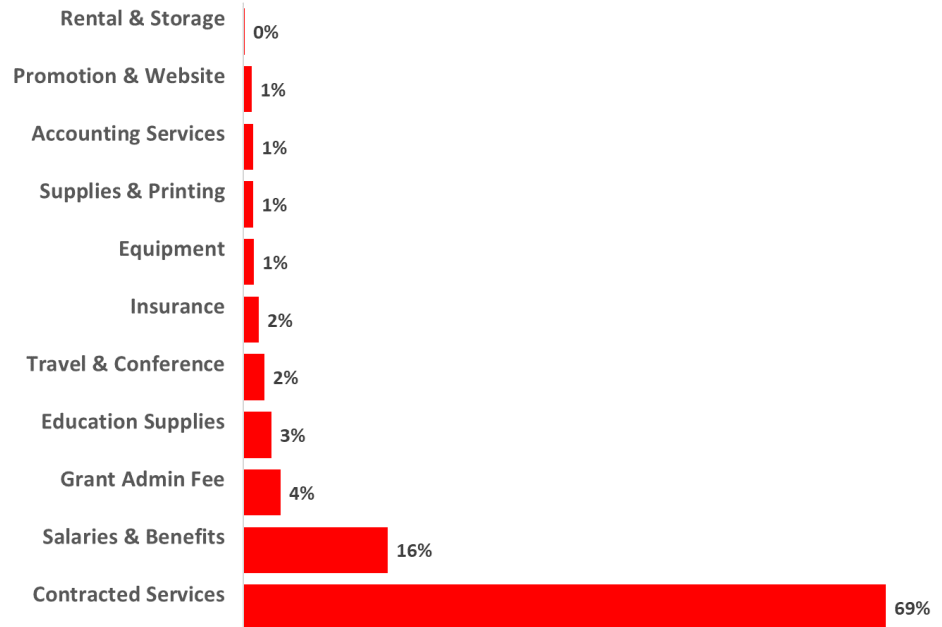
NOTE: 2016 funds received totaled \$317,012 with interest & dividends of \$128.

2017 SPENDING BY ACTIVITY



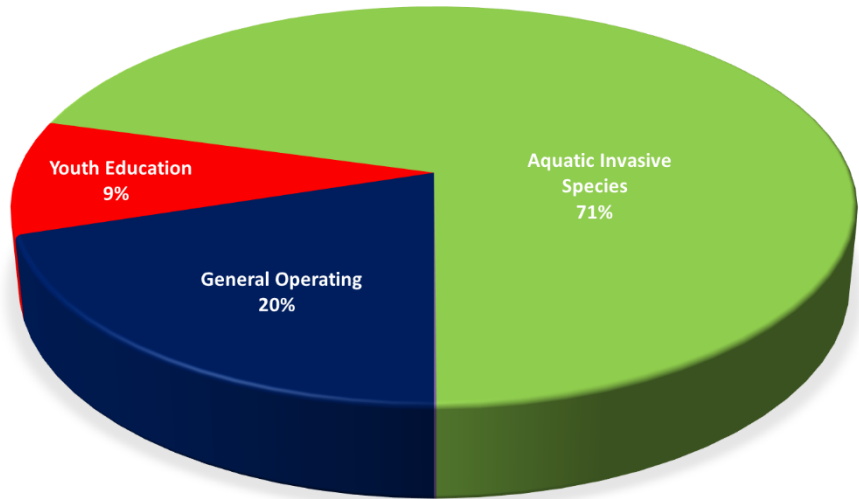
NOTE: 2017 spending totaled \$62,483.

2016 SPENDING BY ACTIVITY



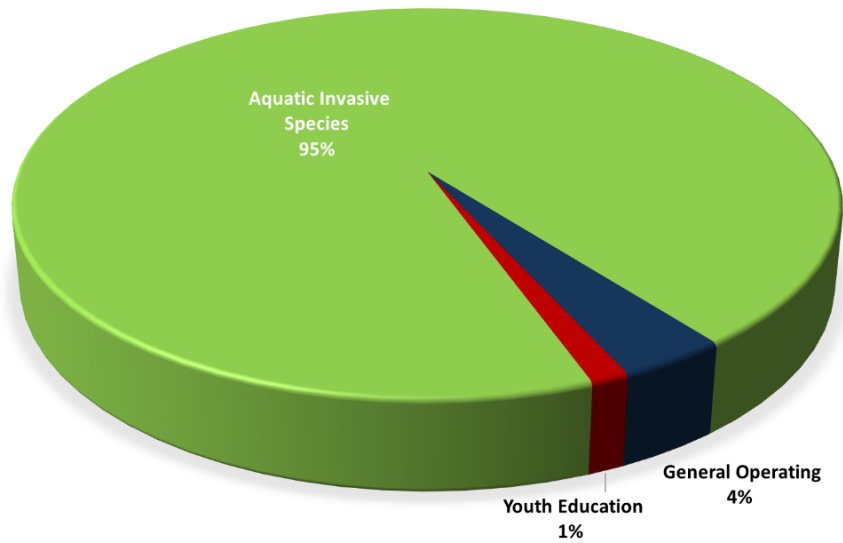
NOTE: 2016 spending totaled \$318,637.

2017 SPENDING BY PROGRAM



NOTE: 2017 spending totaled \$62,483.

2016 SPENDING BY PROGRAM



NOTE: 2016 spending totaled \$318,637.

2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dennis Anderson



Dennis joined the IWLP Board in 2010. He graduated with a degree in Fisheries Management from the University of Minnesota in 1969. In December of 1969, he was hired as an Aquatic Biologist by the Minnesota DNR (Conservation Department then) stationed at the St. Paul Fish Hatchery. He was assigned to cold-water fish culture trouble shooting to modernize the practices of the time. Subsequently he worked in southeast Minnesota and Brainerd. In 1987 he was promoted to the Regional Fisheries Management position in Grand Rapids. That position included oversight of fisheries management field stations in northeastern Minnesota. He retired in August 2002.

Dennis's interests include gardening, fishing (winter and summer), especially fly fishing for trout, deer and ruffed grouse hunting and nearly everything outdoors (includes birds, camping, camp cooking, etc.). His interest in environmental quality attracted him to IWLP. Prior to his University schooling, he spent three years in the Army, stationed for two years in northern Italy.

Jan Best



Jan joined IWLP in 2017, and serves on the Public Relations Committee with her husband, Brian Whittemore. With master's degrees in Education and Counseling, Jan has a special interest in children and their families, having taught and participated in the establishment of a landmark elementary counseling program in a New York State school district. In addition, Jan was an officer with the NY State Counseling Association.

An avid outdoors person, Jan has a lifelong interest and concern for the environment, particularly after seeing the effects of acid rain on lakes in the Adirondacks, where she grew up.

Kathy Cone



Kathy has represented IWLP as Education Chair from 2012 to present, when she joined the Board. In addition, Kathy works full time as an accountant, has two children, and volunteers on the Community Cafe Board and completed a two-year training in "Leadership for the Century".

Kathy enjoys spending time raising meat birds, pork, beef, and laying hens for the farm fresh eggs as well as raising vegetables. She also likes to paint with water color and oil, hunting, fishing, crafts, and spending time with friends.

John A. Downing



John is currently the Director of the Minnesota Sea Grant College Program, a research scientist at the Large Lakes Observatory, and a tenured Professor in the Department of Biology at the University of Minnesota Duluth. His research and teaching dossiers concern many aspects of the aquatic sciences. His leadership experience has included positions in the US and Canada. He has founded and run several small businesses in the US and Canada. He has a long-standing record of success in securing research funding from federal, state, provincial, and local agencies. He maintains current international research collaborations with

Canada, Brazil, and Holland.

John's family has conserved and managed a shore-habitat and forest area in northern Minnesota for 108 years. He is a certified diver, a once-professional musician, and volunteers to help citizens across the US Midwest with local water quality concerns.

Patricia A. Gould St. Aubin



Patty was born and raised in Grand Rapids and is a second-generation Itasca County resident. She is a broker at Itasca Realty Lakes and Homes with 33 years in the business. Patty taught pre-licensing Real Estate at Itasca Community College, Vermillion, Rainy River and Bemidji State University. She has lived on Pokegama Lake for 24 years and, prior to that, her family owned a cabin there. Patty's grandfather developed lakeshore and was an appraiser and an owner of a well drilling company here in Itasca County. Water, the lakes, and a responsibility for stewardship has been part of her entire life. Patty has been on the IWLP Board since its inception and serves as its Membership Chair.

Bill Grantges



Bill Grantges is the Itasca County Aquatic Invasive Species Program Coordinator. Bill is a board member of Itasca Waters, serves on the technical committee of the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC) and is Vice-President of the Itasca Coalition of Lake Associations. He received his Master's in Business Administration from the University of Rhode Island and worked as a program manager for Siemens Medical Systems before coming to Minnesota in 1999. Bill has held certifications from the MN DNR as a Lake Service Provider and as a Level 1 & Level 2 AIS Watercraft Inspector. He is also a certified University of Minnesota Extension AIS Detector. Bill is passionate about building partnerships to help preserve our strong outdoor traditions.

Katie Hopkins



Katie began serving on the IWLP Board in 2016. She was born and raised in Deer River, MN and grew up with a love for being on the water. She pursued this passion and graduated from UW-Superior with a bachelor's degree in Biology with an emphasis in Aquatic Biology and Fisheries with a minor in GIS. During college, she worked at the Lake Superior Research Institute performing various aquatic research projects on the great lakes. During this time, she realized how precious lakes and streams are and how easily they can be disrupted. Katie began her career at Minnesota Power in 2008 as a chemist and has since transferred positions and is now an operator at the plant.

Katie is an avid outdoorsman who loves fishing, hunting, harvesting wild rice & making maple syrup. Because of her love for the outdoors, she wants to help preserve and protect the waters of Itasca County for future generations to come.

Patricia Leistikow, Treasurer



Pat was born and raised on a farm in SE Iowa, attending University of Northern Iowa and earning a degree in Accounting. She has worked in private and public business throughout Minnesota, retiring in October 2013. She also took off nine years from working outside the home to raise two young children but kept busy with consulting and volunteering.

Pat has been involved with IWLP since the beginning, first serving on the Advisory Group for the setup of the Itasca Community College Water Lab and joining the Board as Finance chair in July 2013. Pat also serves on her Church's Finance Council and the Board of Youth for Christ-Campus Life.

Pat and her husband, Rod, spend vacations enjoying the United States especially Colorado and the Caribbean. At her home on the lake, she loves to swim, fish, and kayak.

Dave Lick, President



Dave is retired as principal owner of Itasca Reliable Insurance Agency, Inc., has a B.S. degree in biology, a minor in chemistry, past president of Itasca Coalition of Lake Associations, responsible for septic compliance for Wabana Township Lakes, past board member for Advocates for Family Peace, lifetime member of Izaak Walton League, current member of Minnesota Power's Citizen Advisory Board, active organizer of Citizens Advocating Responsible Power Production "CARRP", public school science teacher for four years, and he directed Youth Conservation Corp camps for the USFS for two years.

Dave's additional Interests are extensive international travel, forest landowner, sustainable forest management from 1994 to present converting 70 acres back to white pine, beekeeper, gardener, woodworker, avid bike rider and cross-country skier, canoeist and scuba diver. He is married and has two children.

Shirley Loegering, Co-Secretary



Shirley served as Board Secretary from 2010 through 2016 and managed the membership roster, website and Facebook page. She is a retired Administrator with a keen interest in preserving our water resources for future generations, such as her four grandchildren. She is active with the Wes Libbey Northern Lakes Chapter of the Izaak Walton League and enjoys the outdoors. Over the years, Shirley has help to organize several environmental events for IWLP, Izaak Walton League and others.

Shirley and her husband, Perry, spend vacations enjoying the outdoors, i.e. camping, fishing, and bird watching and she, occasionally, joins Perry for turkey and duck hunting outings. Shirley is an active member in the Northstar Herb Guild, and, in her spare time, enjoys working on her family genealogy and attending auctions looking for those unique antique items to sell that tell a story about our past.

Bill Marshall



Born and raised in Grand Rapids, Bill completed a bachelor's degree in Family Social Science at the University of Minnesota. He worked there for five years before returning to work in Grand Rapids, where he is now the Director of Enrollment at ICC. In 2012, Bill married Katelyn on the Mississippi River at the Showboat Landing.

Bill has always had a strong connection to our area's lakes and rivers. Having grown-up just a five-minute walk from his Grandpa's aunt's 1930's cabin on Pokegama, young Billy, his sisters, and friends spent most of the summer in the lake and at the cabin. In his free time, Bill enjoys relic hunting at old logging camp sites, metal detecting for silver coins and other artifacts, nature photography, snorkeling area lakes and rivers, deer and bird hunting, having fun with his niece and nephews, and spending time with his dogs, cat, and wife at home.

Grant Prokop



Grant was born and raised in Itasca County, and holds Northern Minnesota's waters close to his heart. 2016 is Grant's first year being part of the IWLP committee. He will be an asset to the committee as he has an unmatched knowledge base and passion for Itasca County's resources. His motivation and drive will help the committee get projects accomplished and spread community awareness.

Grant was born and raised on the North end of Pokegama Lake. He has tremendous knowledge of the area lakes and understands the recreational standpoint of the water resources. He is also a Co-Owner of Thousand Lakes Sporting Goods and has a considerable influence on many of the areas local anglers and the areas tourism anglers.

Jan Sandberg, Co-Secretary



Jan joined the IWLP Board in 2012 and helps ensure that the board's work is kept on track. She compiles the annual report and assists with the Itasca County Aquatic Invasive Species committee. Jan and her husband, Richard, bought a cabin on Pokegama Lake in 1986.

Since retiring as a program evaluator with the Office of the Legislative Auditor in 2007, Jan and Richard, spend much of the summer at the lake. In 2018, they welcomed their first grandchild and plan frequent visits to Vancouver, British Columbia to "help" as needed. Jan makes Minneapolis her urban home, serving on the Minneapolis Charter Commission as its vice-chair.

Davin Tinquist



Davin, an Itasca County Commissioner since 2011, joined the Board in 2011. Davin is a resident of Cohasset where he was born and raised. He has been married 31 years and has two children and two grandchildren. He is an active outdoor enthusiast concerned with preserving our natural resources for our future generations.

Davin is co-owner of Cohasset Mill and Lumber since 1998. He is also a member of Cohasset Fire Department for the past 24 years, currently starting his 10th year as Fire Chief. As a County Commissioner, he sits on many committees and

boards, one of which is the Mississippi Headwaters Board. These positions all contribute to a broader understanding of the needs of Itasca County. There is a delicate balance between preservation and future growth, and it is important our leaders gain experience and understand what can be at times opposing viewpoints.

Brian Whittemore



Brian is the IWLP Public Relations Committee Chair. He is retired after a 40-year career in broadcasting as an executive, news anchor, and reporter. He was a Vice President/General Manager with CBS Radio and retired as General Manager of WCCO Radio in Minneapolis. Brian has been on national boards of the Radio and Television News Director Association and the consumer group Call for Action. He has served on the Minneapolis Downtown Council, the Twin Cities Communication Counsel, and the Prior Lake, MN, Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. He is a volunteer/member at KAXE/KBXE Radio and produced the documentary series “Teachings from Turtle Island, Stories of Anishanaabe People”. He also served as a volunteer at The Raptor

Center in St. Paul.

John W. Zimmerman, Jr., Vice President



John has served on the IW board since January 2011. He leads our planning initiatives, has taken an active role on the AIS Technical Committee, and worked with Itasca County as they have taken a leadership role in water resources, including the recent transfer of the AIS mission from IW to SWCD. John is retired from a career in Human Resources Management with Lockheed Martin where he was also responsible for communications, media relations, administration, and security. He has served as the president and historian of the Wabana Chain of

Lakes Association and has also been an active board member with the Itasca County Historical Society including board chair most recently. He and Alida have been married almost 40 years, raised three children, and are enjoying their first granddaughter.

EMERITUS BOARD MEMBER

Harold E. Dziuk



As a young kid, Harold first learned to appreciate the wonders of nature on a small dairy farm in Benton County, MN. He left the farm to embark on undergraduate and graduate studies in Veterinary Medicine and a career in teaching and research. His graduate studies were delayed for two years while he was on active duty in the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps at the Biological Warfare Laboratories, Fort Detrick, Maryland.

His employment included a wide range of public and private venues, including the Tuskegee, Minnesota and Iowa State universities, General Electric, and the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission.

His primary role in IWLP over 8 years of service on the Executive Committee was to seek grants to support IWLP’s many initiatives.

2017 TECHNICAL ADVISORY BOARD

Andy Arens, District Manager, Itasca Soil and Water Conservation District



Andy Arens graduated in 2001 with a Forest Management Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. Andy has been with the Itasca Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) since 2003, as Forestry and Shoreland Specialist initially, and District Manager and Water Plan Coordinator since October 2015.

Eric Raitanen, Fisheries Biologist, Chippewa National Forest

Moriya Rufer, Director of Client Services, RMB Environmental Laboratories, Inc.



Growing up, Moriya spent summers at her family's cabin on Leech Lake in northern Minnesota. Spending so much time on the lake helped her realize the importance of clean water in lakes and streams.

Moriya has degrees in biology and aquatic entomology with a focus on lakes. She has 12 years' experience working with lake associations, conducting lake monitoring programs and assessing lake water quality data. She enjoys working directly with lake residents and teaching them about lakes and how to protect

them.

At RMB Labs, she also identifies aquatic macroinvertebrates, algae and zooplankton, and runs one of the only non-governmental laboratories in the United States that can identify Zebra mussel veligers. She has been developing risk assessment criteria for AIS in lakes and is part of a school outreach program to teach kids about AIS.

She lives in Detroit Lakes, MN with her husband and two children.

Dan Steward, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources

Dan Swenson, Environmental Services Administrator, Itasca County Environmental Services