



ITASCA WATERS

Team Up for Clean Waters

ANNUAL REPORT

ItascaWaters.org

2020

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MISSION AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The mission of 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 community outreach
- Engaging all Itasca County citizens to join in these efforts
- Continuing its efforts to fund science-based research focused on water quality
- Promoting partnerships with other like-minded agencies and foundations

SUPPORTERS AND PARTNERS

Our supporters and partners over the years have included the Blandin Foundation – Bush Foundation – Minnesota Humanities Center – Itasca County – Itasca Soil & Water Conservation District – ISD #318 – U.S. Forest Service – National Fish and Wildlife Foundation – Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) – Minnesota Pollution Control Agency – Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources – Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources – Wes Libbey Northern Lakes Chapter of the Izaak Walton League – Grand Rapids Players – Minnesota Power – Itasca County Lake Associations – Itasca County Business Community – University of Minnesota/Morris – Itasca County Master Gardeners – Community Volunteers and Individual Members.

THE CHALLENGE OF 2020

Itasca Waters continued to work with its many partners to look for new opportunities to be good stewards of our great water resources. However, the COVID-19 pandemic significantly curtailed our activity, leading to the first time ever cancellation of the popular Youth Water Summit in May. We were also unable to participate in several planned shoreland advisor activities, such as a community education event at Rapids Brewing. Also, several community events, such as the North Central Research and Outreach Center’s (NCROC) Visitor Day with attendance last year of over 500 visitors, Tall Timber Days, the Itasca County Fair, and First Friday Earth Month, were cancelled. However, we continued to work on clean water, although at a slower pace than we had hoped.

Mississippi Headwaters Watershed Management Plan Advisory Committee

Despite the need for remote meeting, during 2020, Perry Loegering represented Itasca Waters and the Wes Libbey Northern Lakes Chapter of the Izaak Walton League at several meetings of the Advisory Committee. The committee’s job was to write the Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan for the Mississippi Headwaters Watershed. This plan is part of the statewide “One Watershed, One Plan” created by the Board of Water and Soil Resources. The plan will be available for formal comment in 2021. If adopted by the County, this watershed plan will replace the current county Comprehensive Water Plan.

ACTIVE GRANTS

Itasca Waters has been fortunate to receive major funding from the Blandin Foundation and Bush Foundation.

Blandin Foundation Grants

In 2011, Blandin Foundation awarded the Itasca Water Legacy Partnership funds for its first Itasca Adult Water Summit (\$15,000). In the same year, we received a multi-year grant of \$155,000 for operations to build local capacity for water quality assessment and other activities to maintain Itasca County’s high-quality water. Some funds from this 2011 Blandin grant are still available for use for community events such as the Youth Water Summit.

In March 2018, the Blandin Foundation awarded Itasca Waters 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. In 2019, Itasca Waters worked with the University of Minnesota Morris, Center for Small Towns, to implement a survey of lakeshore owners.

Bush Foundation Grant

With the generous support of Itasca County allowing grant writer John Connelly to assist in preparing a grant proposal, Itasca Waters was notified in February 2019 that Itasca Waters was awarded a \$107,040 grant to use community driven solutions to protect Itasca County’s water. In addition, \$7,000 was available for Board development. Work during 2020 is described below.



COORDINATOR & OFFICE

In September 2020, the Itasca Waters coordinator resigned. Brian Whittemore took the lead and worked with other directors to revise the job description and management practices. Because of the pandemic, there was substantially less activity at the office than had been anticipated in 2019.

With the new focus on committees and shared information, IW keeps current meeting materials and resources to Google Drive, and uses Dropbox for historic storage. The goal is to encourage online collaboration.

COMMITTEES

The restructuring work started in late 2019 meant that moving forward Itasca Waters committees would change. Below is a brief review of the work in 2020 of several of the twelve committees, including projects within each committee’s purview. Due to the pandemic, several committees were not active and have been omitted from the report for 2020.

Bush Grant Community Engagement

Year One (2019) of the Bush Foundation Community Innovation Grant focused on widespread community engagement. This work helped us understand residents’ values, generating ideas about how to close the gap between best known practices to protect water quality and people’s behavior and actions.

The engagement process collected information from over 1,000 county residents. Using that information, we developed a water quality protection model consisting of five elements that, when working together, will lead to a more cohesive community-wide water protection plan. The five elements include:

- 1) Advocacy and education
- 2) Creating shared beliefs and values
- 3) Leadership support
- 4) Enforcement and implementation
- 5) Monitoring and assessment

In Year Two, our work focused on three of the elements: actions connected to advocacy and education; creating shared beliefs and values; and fostering greater commitment and support from elected officials and others in leadership roles.

We found that most people take clean water for granted—it is everywhere here—and we identified a need for some basic grassroots efforts to create a groundswell of recognition that we all have a role in keeping the water clean.

Key activities in Year Two:

1. Prepared a simplified version of an Itasca area shoreland guide for real estate agencies to use with people purchasing lake properties. So far 10 real estate agencies have committed to using the condensed guide.
2. Created an Itasca Waters-branded “Seven Easy to Protect Itasca Waters” infographic



that is being hosted on a variety of targeted websites (i.e., the city of Grand Rapids, Itasca County, Edge of the Wilderness Facebook page, North Itasca Joint Powers Board, Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce, Visit Grand Rapids, Itasca Soil and Water Districts Facebook page, and more). In addition, several thousand people will also see that infographic insert in their Grand Rapids Public Utilities bills during February and April 2021.

Area residents identified the importance of leadership support of the economic and social value of clean water, including elected officials. In response to a request to approve a Clean Water Commitment resolution, the following governmental units agreed:

Itasca County Board of Commissioners		
Arbo Township	Balsam Township	Bigfork
Bigfork Township	Bovey	Calumet
Coleraine	Cohasset	Deer River
Deer River Township	Feeley Township	Grand Rapids
Greenway Township	Keewatin	LaPrairie
Lone Pine Township	Marble	Marcell Township
Morse Township	Nashwauk Township	Oteneagen Township
Taconite	Trout Lake Township	Wabana Township

Work on community engagement will continue through 2021.

Marketing

The Itasca Waters Marketing Committee had a busy and productive year in 2020. Chaired in 2020 by Sandy Anderson, our 2020 volunteer board members on the committee included Jan Best, Jesse Davis, Megan Christianson, and Brian Whittemore, all of whom continue on the Marketing Committee in 2021. Brian will serve as the 2021 chair. The Committee worked with other Itasca Waters committees, particularly the Shoreland Committee, to plan, produce, and launch the initiatives listed below.



- Purchased a billboard located on Rt. 169 to promote healthy shorelands and our Shoreland Advisors program
- Purchased radio spots on KAXE/KBXE and Lamke Broadcasting stations to promote healthy shorelands and the Shoreland Advisors program
- Created the IW YouTube channel
- Filmed and produced the lakeside Shoreland Advisors mini-series, available on itascawaters.org and the IW YouTube channel
- Created a series of short videos about native plants available on our website and YouTube channel
- Wrote and produced mini newsletters on water issues and healthy practices, with links to more information on itascawaters.org
- Increased the use of social media platforms to increase Itasca Waters exposure and promote healthy shoreland practices
- Updated information on itascawaters.org and began planning for a more substantial update in 2021

In addition, Itasca Waters worked with our consultant, Karen Terry, on two projects:

- Karen Terry produced a 30-minute instructional video about healthy shoreland practices, available on our website itascawaters.org and the Itasca Waters YouTube channel



- President Jesse Davis and Karen Terry appeared on KAXE/KBXE radio to discuss the value of native plants and how they relate to healthy lake water
-

Membership and Fundraising



Itasca Water’s accomplishments for 2020 were made possible by generous support from its members and dedicated volunteers. Financial contributions enable Itasca Waters to carry out its mission by providing funds for educational outreach, special events, and operational costs not covered by grant monies. Individual, business, lake association and stock donations ranged from \$25 to \$500, for a total of \$10,218 in 2020. The generous donations received make a powerful statement about how the people of Itasca County value our water resources and want to be part of a community who actively work to maintain those resources.

In 2020, 32 new members joined Itasca Waters, the highest number of new members except for the first two years, an indication that the organization’s hard work towards maintaining high water quality in the County is recognized.

Itasca Waters’ members hail from all corners of the county from Effie/Bigfork/Marcell to the north; Deer River area to the west; Bovey, Coleraine, Warba and Pengilly to the east; and everything in between.

Planning

Work on a revised strategic plan was put on hold in 2019 to allow Itasca Waters to better focus on restructuring. It is anticipated that planning will restart in 2021 with assistance from UnTapped, the organization that has guided the implementation of the Bush Foundation Grant.

Shoreland Initiative



Launched by the Planning Committee in 2017 with funding from the 2018 Blandin Foundation grant, 2020 activities hoped to expand the Shoreland Advisor program which focuses on improving shoreland in Itasca County. However, the pandemic limited Advisor visits and only 13 could be scheduled during the year.

In early March, Itasca Waters set up shop at the Northern Minnesota Builders Association's 25th annual Home & Cabin show in Grand Rapids. This premier event brings over 100 vendors from across the State and was attended by more than 1,400 people. Itasca Waters signed up four interested property owners for future visits with an Advisor. Itasca Waters was fortunate to have its booth manned by dedicated volunteers. In addition to handing out over 250 shoreland guides and informing the general public about the mission of Itasca Waters, a series of demonstrations were held at the booth. One was a session about the construction and use of willow wattles to secure slopes along shorelines led by Dave Lick and Steve Melin. A second demonstration, led by Gary Seigford, showed audiences how to construct their own rain barrel to help reduce the amount of stormwater runoff on their property.

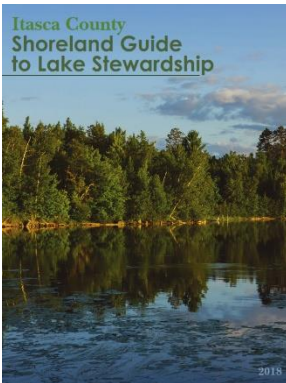


Native Plants

Itasca Waters partnered with two local nurseries to grow and sell native plants recommended by Karen Terry, of the University of Minnesota Morris Extension. These plants, which are appropriate for planting along the lakeshore, were available for purchase: swamp milkweed, boneset, northern blue flag, blue vervain, golden alexander, brown fox sedge, and cord grass. The Itasca Waters Coordinator shot a series of videos, now available on our YouTube channel, which showcase these seven native plants, exploring their benefits, advantages, and

ways to keep our shorelines and waters healthy.

Itasca Waters also partnered with the North Central Research and Outreach Center (NCROC) to begin growing a variety of native plants and grasses for use in future lakeshore restoration projects. Boreal Natives, a subsidiary of Prairie Restorations based in Cloquet, donated high quality local origin seeds that are being grown in NCROC's greenhouse. These plants will be available in the 2021 growing season.



Shoreland Guide

Our popular 2018 Shoreland Guide has been well received in our community. Guides are available at all Itasca Waters' events. Realtors have been distributing the guide to people interested in purchasing homes and the Downtown Council has been giving them to new residents. Guides have been distributed to people and groups in connection with work on the Bush Foundation grant. Participants in our shoreland advisors' workshops received the guide and they in turn have distributed them to lakeshore property owners they visited. The Guide is available online at our website at <https://ItascaWaters.org/shoreland-guide-2018>.

Youth Water Summit

Unfortunately, another victim of the Covid-19 pandemic was the popular Youth Water Summit, which had been scheduled for May at the Itasca County Fairgrounds. It is hoped that the many volunteers who had been ready to participate will be available if we are able to hold the event in the future.

2020 FINANCIAL REPORT

Itasca Waters contracts with the Kirk Gilbertson CPA accounting firm for compilation and general ledger services. This firm records all receipts and expenses, reconciles the bank statement, and provides financial statements each month. This is a valued service to strengthen our internal controls.

COVID 19 changed many projects and plans for 2020 to virtual events, social media, and mailings. The year was spent promoting shoreland practices through native plant education and availability, billboard education, and radio sponsorships. Community engagement, through our consultants unTapped, contacted many governmental units to get on board with the clean water initiative.

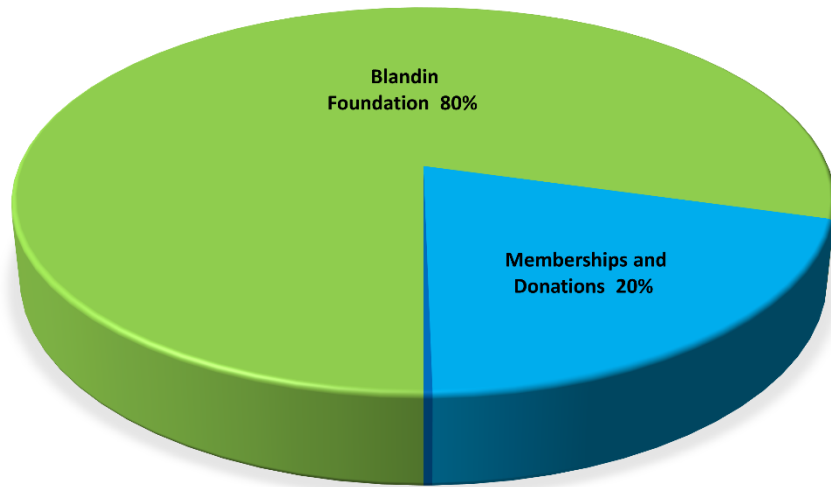
Education for youth, our annual sponsored and planned Youth Summit, was cancelled.

Itasca Waters general operating expenses of \$9,891.26, include annual membership expenses, cell phone, office supplies, postage, accounting fees, membership drive, and insurance, a decrease from 2019 of \$540. Itasca Waters ended with a cash balance of \$191,107. Itasca Waters operating funds balance was \$62,366; Bush Grant - \$50,970 and Blandin Foundation (2) - \$77,771.

We had an increase in membership donations from 2019 of \$1,475, due to the hard work of the Membership/Fundraising committee.

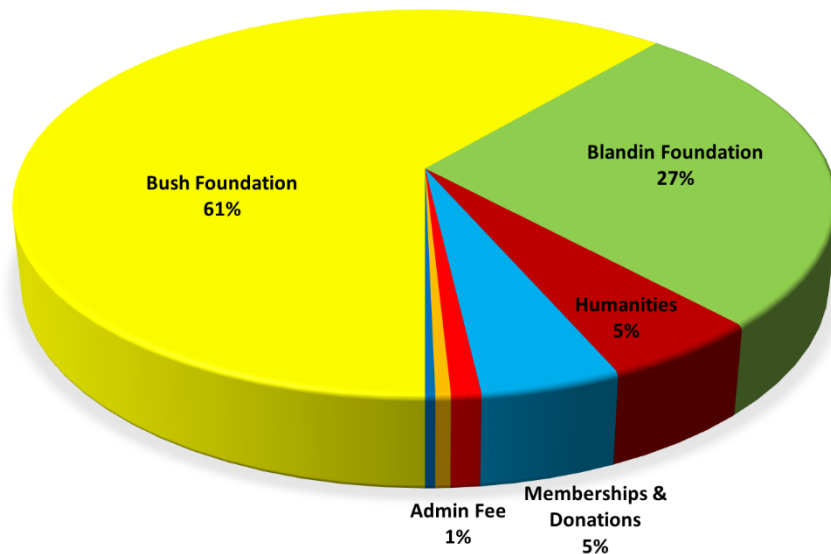
We are in the process of restructuring our board's daily and yearly activities with \$7,000 of the Bush Grant. Expenses for 2020 were \$1,372, mostly Zoom contract and internet access. For 2021, we have hired a consultant to help us through this process.

2020 SOURCE OF FUNDS



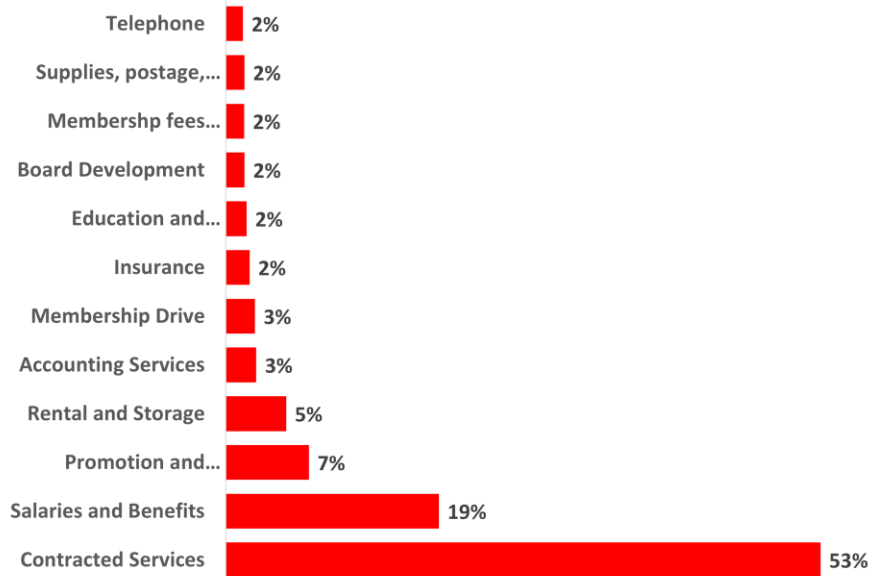
NOTE: 2020 funds received totaled \$50,400. Interest and Dividends (unlabeled) totaled \$149.

2019 SOURCE OF FUNDS



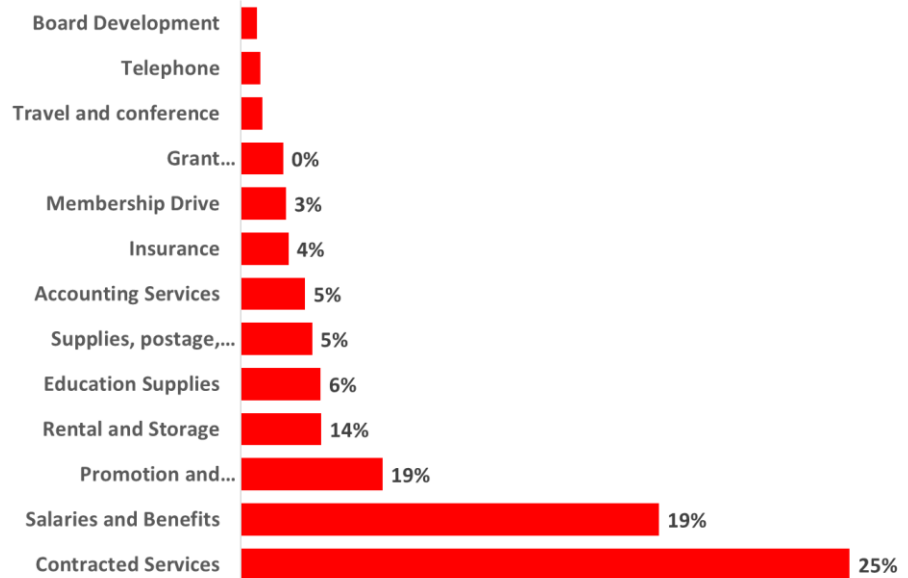
NOTE: 2019 funds received totaled \$186,245. Unlabeled categories include private grants (\$950) and interest (\$622).

2020 Spending by Activity



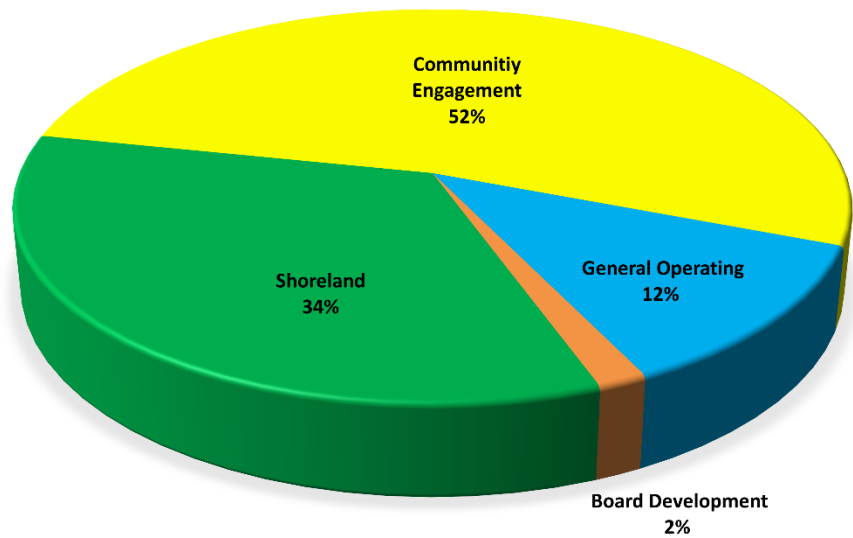
NOTE: 2020 spending totaled \$82,694.

2019 Spending by Activity



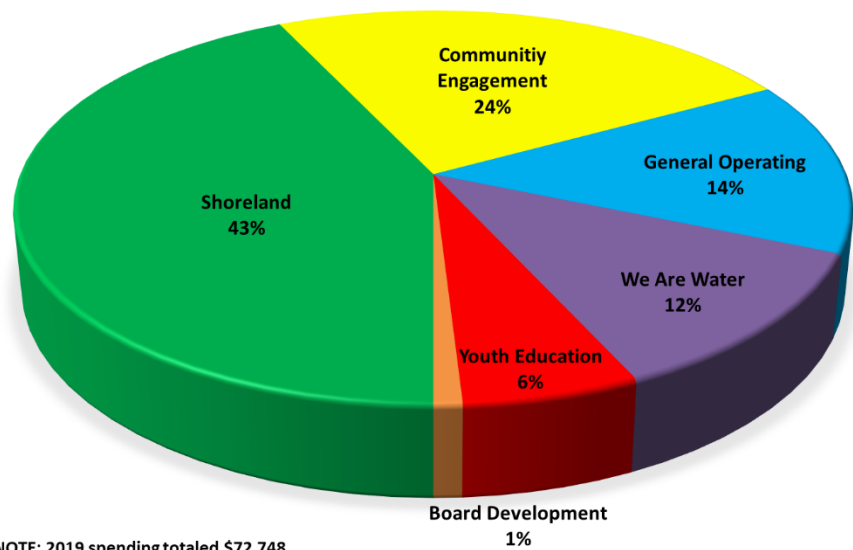
NOTE: 2019 spending totaled \$72,748.

2020 SPENDING BY PROGRAM



NOTE: 2020 spending totaled \$82,694.

2019 SPENDING BY PROGRAM



NOTE: 2019 spending totaled \$72,748.

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. In 2009, IWLP completed its first surface water assessment grant to assess water quality for previously untested lakes in the county.

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: Qualified for 501(c)3 status with the IRS 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; completed a second surface water assessment grant assessing the Bigfork River Watershed; and, helped create a Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA) in collaboration with Leech Lake Band, Itasca County land department, MN Department of Transportation, USFS, DNR, University of Minnesota Extension and ICOLA.

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

2015: Continued work with the Itasca County Aquatic Invasive Species program; sponsored educational events for children and adults (including a second Adult Summit in partnership with the forestry community); 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 County SWCD.

2017: Completed transfer of the AIS program to Itasca County SWCD; rebranded IWLP to Itasca Waters; hosted the 6th Youth Water Summit; began work on the Shoreland Initiative and Shoreland Guide; and, agreed to host a six-week 2019 event, We are Water.

2018: Won a \$150,000 grant from the Blandin Foundation focused on protecting shorelands; hosted the 7th Youth Water Summit; hired a part-time coordinator and opened an office; erected a billboard and updated the website; published the Shoreland Guide; hosted a Septic Secrets seminar; continued to work on We are Water 2019.

2019: Won a \$114,040 grant from the Bush Foundation focused on using community driven solutions to protect water and Board development; hosted the eighth Youth Water Summit; successfully hosted the Minnesota Humanities Center exhibit We are Water, and related events; rolled out the Shoreland Advisors program; worked with the University of Minnesota at Morris to survey Itasca County residents about attitudes and practices focused on water quality in the county; and, developed a plan to restructure the operations of Itasca Waters to better work through committees.

2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sandy Anderson



Sandy moved to Minnesota in the early 80's and to Grand Rapids in 2001. With a Masters in Geography and a GIS certification, Sandy worked as a site location analyst for Dayton-Hudson Corp. for years before starting Lakehomes.com Realty in 1999 with her husband, Dan. With a family cabin on Lake Ontario and Dan's experience growing up on Rainy Lake, they brought their love of lake property to the business. In 2013 Lake Homes Realty grew into the Move It Real Estate Group keeping a strong emphasis on waterfront sales. With a strong history of waterfront sales in Northern, Minnesota, she and Dan understand the importance of clean waters on the environment and a community's growth potential.

Ben Benoit



Born in Hartford Conn, Ben likes to jokingly tell people that he has lived the Ojibwe migration story. Starting on the East coast and ultimately making his way to Minnesota, Ben went to high school in Anoka, began college at St Cloud State and finished with a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities in Biochemistry. After college, Ben worked for a few years in industry, as a microbiologist and chemist and when he began looking for a house but decided that city life wasn't for him and it was time to rejoin his family in the North. The best parts of Minnesota are found in this area. Some of the most pristine lakes and watersheds in the county and he is committed to protecting them for future generations to rely on as his family does today. He was taught that if we care for the manoomin, land and waters, they will care for us. That is the mission Ben works towards as Leech Lake Environmental Director and as an Anishinaabe man. He hopes that through working with Itasca Waters he can further develop relationships between local governments, help push projects that benefit all parties and share the core values that bring people together to care about the water.

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.

Meghan Christianson



Megan Christianson has been the Executive Director of Visit Grand Rapids since 2012. Christianson has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Concordia University, St. Paul Campus. She has 20 years of marketing, public relations, and trade industry membership/advocacy experience. Christianson currently serves as a Board Member of the Minnesota Arrowhead Association and is the NE Minnesota representative on the Explore Minnesota Tourism Council. She is also a Blandin Foundation Community Leadership Alumni. Megan lives in Cohasset Minnesota with her husband (Chad) and their two children (Madison – 17 and Caleb – 15). She enjoys being on the lake, scrapbooking, and spending time with family and friends.

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 watercolor and oil, hunting, fishing, crafts, and spending time with friends.

Jesse Davis, President



A native of Colorado, Jesse and his husband are 4th generation family farmers in Trout Lake Township. Active in local farmers' markets and the local food community and principal viola player in the Itasca Symphony. Jesse is presently a Realtor with the Move It Real Estate Group. Jesse feels that healthy lakes and waters are integral to the economic, cultural, and social sustainability of the Greater Itasca area.

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.

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 ICOLA. 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 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.

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



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 ICOLA, 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



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

Shirley and husband, Perry, spend vacations enjoying the outdoors, i.e., camping, fishing and bird watching. She is an active member in the Northstar Herb Guild where they study traditional uses for native plants and she also enjoys working on her family genealogy and searching estate sales and auctions for unique antiques.

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.

Lynn Moratzka



Lynn joined the IW Board in 2018 and serves on the Development Committee. Lynn retired as the director of the Office of Planning, Physical Development Division for Dakota County Minnesota in 2008. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from the College of St. Catherine and her Master's in Public Administration from Hamline University, St. Paul, Minnesota.

Lynn has been an active volunteer throughout her career and since retirement. Currently, she is still involved in the Friends of the Mississippi, a non-profit Board supporting the Mississippi National River Recreation Area (MNRRA) and Regina Medical Center. In 2017, Lynn was appointed by the Itasca County Board of Commissioners to the County Parks and Recreation Commission.

Lynn, her husband, Tim, and two children have been coming to Trout Lake since 1976 purchasing their home in 2000. In 2017, they retired full time to the area. Lynn enjoys spending time with her grandchildren and family, especially at the lake. She also enjoys skiing, biking, reading, and doing genealogy with her sisters.

Jan Sandberg, 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 Google Drive and Dropbox. 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 2017, 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.

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.

2020 TECHNICAL ADVISORY BOARD

Andy Arens, District Manager, Itasca County 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 County 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

Dan Steward, Watershed/Private Forest Management Program Coordinator,
Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources

Dan Swenson, Environmental Services Administrator, Itasca County
Environmental Services