

Itasca Waters Board Meeting Minutes

July 10, 2023 4:30 pm online via Zoom

Attendance (quorum 5 of voting Board): Present (P), Absent (A), Excused(E), Left (L). Non-voting Technical Advisory Board

Board of Directors				Technical Advisory Board			
Sandy Anderson	E	David Lick	P	Andy Arens		Eric Raitanen	
Kathy Cone	P	Jan Sandberg	P	Benjamin Benoit		Chad Severts	
Jesse Davis	P	Wes Sisson	P	Megan Christianson		Dan Swenson	
John Downing	P	Cory Smith	A	Stephanie Kessler	E		
Bill Grantges	A			Shirley Loegering	E		

Coordinator: Bethann Perendy

Guests: Perry Loegering, Jessica Loes

Agenda Items/ Attachments A#--	Key Discussion/ Outcomes	Follow-up Needed Who/When
Call to order	Meeting called to order by Jesse Davis at about 4:35 pm	
1. Agenda	An agenda was circulated in advance of the meeting. <i>Motion to approve the agenda. (Dave Lick, Kathy Cone) M/S/U</i>	
2. Financial Report	Jesse, reporting for Sandy, said that the report including June info will be available later—contact Sandy if you want a copy it. YTD expenses are approximately \$22,000 including \$1228 for WW and so far for YWS \$4581 (I expect we still have expenses coming for that). Our check balance is currently \$7,340 Savings balance is: \$75,175 YTD Donations appx = \$3700 <i>Motion to approve the Treasurer’s report (Dave Lick, John Downing) M/S/U</i> Jesse referenced an email from Sonja about Blandin’s strategy going forward. Dave suggested continuing to spend the balance remaining from the last grant.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board—contact Sandy if interested in financial report from accountants • Jesse—forward Sonja’s email to the full Board
3. Unfinished Business		
3.a Approve Jessica Loes and McKeon Roberts membership A#3.a	<i>Motion to approve Jessica Loes and McKeon Roberts as voting members of the Itasca Waters Board, to be ratified at the January 2024 BOD organizational meeting, terms to expire January 2026. (Dave Lick, Kathy Cone) M/S/U</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jan--send Jessica and McKeon the two policy forms that need to be signed.
3.b Itasca-SWCD WPIC Update A#3.b	Perry Loegering reported that at its last meeting the SWCD is entering planning process for Upper Mississippi Grand Rapids (Mississippi River from ACOE dam through Aitkin County to about 8 miles north of Aitkin). Unique to this area is the number of very old ditches that created channelized streams. Planning involves five counties (Itasca	

Agenda Items/ Attachments A#--	Key Discussion/ Outcomes	Follow-up Needed Who/When
	<p>is the lead) to address the six topics --see attachment with a schedule of meetings for those interested. The next meeting is Wednesday. Some discussion will focus on prioritizing water issues, e.g., stormwater vs. lakes. Next up will be the Big Fork River watershed. Funding comes from the Legacy money.</p> <p>Dave stressed the need to keep septic systems as a priority--the county needs to enforce its ordinances, perhaps more like Cass County. Jessica noted that it isn't easy to get a simple inspection.</p> <p>John suggested that supporting a testing program for lakes should be considered.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ??--Contact Bunes? to discuss possible inspection program
3.c. 2022 Annual Report	Jan is waiting for updated Shoreland language.	
3.d Secretary	Jan's term on the Board ends in 2023 and she will not continue as a Board member and Secretary. She is willing to help bring someone up to speed on this work (Google Drive, agenda prep, annual report), preferably in 2023 due to unavailability in early 2024.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jan—create list of Secretary duties including agenda, record keeping, Google Drive, annual report
4. New Business		
4.a NCROC Visitors Day	NCROC has moved to July 27 for reasons unknown. It will run all day, 9am-4pm with tours and similar. They have room for Itasca Waters in same or similar space, close to the Master Gardeners. Bethann will be gone for that time but will set up the day before. Day of staff would include Jesse and perhaps other volunteers.	
4.b Trademark Issue	<p>Jan reported the following from Brian Whittemore Public Relations Report June 14, 2017: The US government has rejected our application for trademarking Itasca Waters, saying that it cannot issue a trademark for a geographical feature. We do have the ability to appeal but we would need a trademark lawyer, and that would run into an additional hundreds of dollars without guaranty of success. I have recommended to Dave that we withdraw from this effort. The \$400 application fee will not be refunded by the US trademark office.</p> <p>There is no interest in continuing to pursue the trademark issue.</p>	
4.c IW Website	We need bios for Wes, Jessica, and McKeon to be used on the website and in next year's annual report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jan S—send bio samples to Wes, Jessica, and McKeon
4.d Education vs. Advocacy	There were earlier discussions about IW being more active in advocating for issues. According to the IRS "In general, no organization may qualify for section 501(c)(3) status if a substantial part of its activities is attempting to influence legislation (commonly known as lobbying). A 501(c)(3) organization may engage in some lobbying, but too much lobbying activity risks loss of tax-exempt status." Minnesota law (which requires that any persons acting as lobbyists be registered as such) also changed recently but in the past,	

Agenda Items/ Attachments A#--	Key Discussion/ Outcomes	Follow-up Needed Who/When
	<p>we could expend up to 3% to lobby for an issue. IW donates to Minnesota Lakes and Rivers which is an advocacy organization but our contribution would likely not be considered substantial.</p> <p><i>Consensus that personal advocacy, Individuals acting on their own, is appropriate. However, anything carrying the name of Itasca Waters requires Board approval.</i></p>	
4.e Domain Name Issues	<p>IWLP rather than IW is linked to various reviewing organizations such as Charity Navigator and Propublica and is the name on the Articles of Incorporation A#4.e-1. Are there any legal issues with keeping the DBA website name and dropping the official website name? Also see A#4.e-2 from Bethann</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jan S--defer domain name issue to September as Sandy had opinions about this issue
4.f Adult Community Ed Class	<p>We tried to pull this together a few years ago (rain barrels). John</p>	
4.g KAXE Underwriting Renewal	<p><i>Motion to continue \$500 KAXE sponsorship for 2023 and 2024. (Dave Lick, John Downing) M/S/U</i></p>	
5. Consent Agenda	<p><i>Motion to approve the consent agenda (Dave Lick, Wes Sisson) M/S/U</i></p>	
5.a Minutes from Board meeting May 8, 2023 A#5.a		
5.b ICOLA Minutes April 19 A#5.b		
5.c New Board Member Handbook	<p>Files are in Google Drive and include current policies, annual report, bylaws and strategic plan. Let Jan S know if other items should be included</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jan S—add Wes, Jessica, and McKeon to Google Drive
6. Reports	<p>Members were directed to the written reports.</p>	
6.a President's Report		
6.b Coordinator/Office Report	<p>Bethann is back in action. Thank you cards will go out for YWS. QR codes are printed. Dave asked about updating the budget for YWS including payments to presenters.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jan S—find former budget spreadsheet for YWS • Bethann—update YWS budget spreadsheet
6.c Education		
6.d Executive/ Governance Committee		
6.e Finance		
6.f Grants		
6.g Marketing		
6.h Membership & Fundraising		
6.i Personnel		
6.j Planning		
6.k Shoreland Advisors		
6.l Vision/New Projects		

Agenda Items/ Attachments A#--	Key Discussion/ Outcomes	Follow-up Needed Who/When
6.m Youth Water Summit	Dave reported his interactions with a few teachers who enjoyed the day.	• Bethann--Send YWS summary to Jan for the annual report
7. Other		
	Wes asked who is responsible for writing Blandin grants? Dave—John Connelly is still available. Shirley wrote smaller grants for Water Wisdom.	• Jan S—Ask Shirley to contact Wes about grant writing
Adjournment	<i>Hearing no objection, Jan adjourned the meeting at 5:48 pm</i>	

Upcoming Meetings & Events

September 11, 2023, November 13 2023, January 8, 2024

All at 4:30 pm via Zoom

Executive Committee meetings are held as needed and communicated in advance to the Board and Technical Advisory Board.

As we have several members without Gmail addresses and to save me some time, I will continue to modify links in the future to allow anyone with a link to view.

Follow Up Needed ✓ completed before minutes distributed

Bethann—update YWS budget spreadsheet

Bethann--Send YWS summary to Jan for the annual report

??--Contact Bunes? to discuss possible inspection program

Board—contact Sandy if interested in financial report from accountants

✓ Jan S--send Jessica and McKeon the two policy forms that need to be signed.

✓ Jan S—create list of Secretary duties including agenda, record keeping, Google Drive, annual report

✓ Jan S—send bio samples to Wes, Jessica, and McKeon

Jan S--defer domain name issue to September as Sandy had opinions about this issue

Jan S—add Wes, Jessica, and McKeon to Google Drive

Jan S—find former budget spreadsheet for YWS

✓ Jan S—Ask Shirley to contact Wes about grant writing

Jesse—forward Sonja’s email to the full Board