

Itasca Waters Board Meeting Minutes

January 8, 2024 4:30 pm online via Zoom

Attendance (quorum 6 of voting Board): Present (P), Absent (A), Excused(E), Left (L). Non-voting Technical Advisory Board

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

Coordinator: Bethann Perendy

Guests: Perry Loegering

Agenda Items/ Attachments A#--	Key Discussion/ Outcomes	Follow-up Needed Who/When
Call to order	Meeting called to order by Dave Lick at about 4:30 pm	
1. Agenda	An agenda was circulated in advance of the meeting. <i>Motion to approve the agenda as amended. (Downing, Loes) M/S/U</i>	
2. Financial Report A#2-1 , A#2-2	Sandy reported that we have about \$65,000 in savings at year end and \$7,900 checking, with small expenditures last month. She has worked with Bethann on next year’s budget—IW is projected to spend about \$35,000 but set the budget a bit higher. Tracking coordinator hours changed last year from previous years as there were no grant dollars so Coordinator hours are now taken from general operating. Currently we have about \$8,000 in donations. <i>Motion to approve the financial report (Cone, Sisson) M/S/U</i>	
3. Unfinished Business		
3.a Three Term Limit Motion	<i>Motion to approve exceeding the three-term limit in the bylaws for John Downing and Dave Lick. (Anderson, Loes) M/S/U except Lick & Downing abstain</i>	
3.b Board Term Renewals	<i>Motion to elect John Downing and Dave Lick to terms ending in 2027. (Cone, Anderson) M/S/U except Lick and Downing abstain.</i>	
3.c Ratify appointments	<i>Motion to ratify appointments of Wesley Sisson (appointed in May, term to 2026) and Jessica Loes (appointed in July, term to 2026) (Downing, Grantges) M/S/U Sisson and Loes abstain</i> <i>Motion to decline to ratify the appointment of McKeon Roberts (appointed in July, term to 2026). (Downing, Sisson) M/S/U</i>	

Itasca Waters Board Meeting Minutes

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<p>3.d Elect Secretary and Ratify Executive Committee</p>	<p><i>Motion to elect, with gratitude, Jessica Loes as Secretary for one year to fill remainder of Sandberg term (Downing, Sisson) M/S/U</i> <i>Thanks to Jan Sandberg for her service (Downing, Lick) M/S/U</i> <i>Motion to ratify Executive Committee composition as President (Davis), Vice-President (Cone), Secretary (Loes) and Treasurer (Anderson). (Sandberg, Loes) M/S/U</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J. Sandberg—change J. Loes access in Google Drive
<p>3.e Draft 2024 Budget A#3.e</p>	<p><i>Discussed in combination with the financial report.</i> <i>Motion to approve the attached 2024 budget (Sisson, Downing) M/S/U</i></p>	
<p>3.f Website Hosting</p>	<p>Discussion deferred to March</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J. Loes—add Website hosting to March agenda
<p>3.g Dropbox Termination</p>	<p>Discussion deferred to March</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J. Loes—add Dropbox termination to March agenda
<p>3.h SWCD/WPIC Update</p>	<p>Perry Loegering update: Mississippi - Grand Rapids watershed topic meetings are complete, ag land met last December. There appear to be ~ ten major issues arising from the six topics to be addressed at upcoming meetings. During February they will set goals for the issues, have a draft plan in May.</p> <p>Itasca SWCD collaborated with Itasca County Highway Dept to fund equipment to reduce salt application on county roads. There is a culvert inventory underway that is important as when culverts are improperly placed or undersized.</p> <p>SWCD is hiring next summer for a well locator position that will support the Geologic Atlas.</p> <p>Other sub watershed plans are in progress. Dave expressed continued interest in septic systems. Meetings are recorded— Matt Goetzman at the SWCD is the contact for notes.</p>	
<p>3.i Water Wisdom Update A#3.i</p>	<p>See also item 4.a in New Business regarding the new committee members.</p> <p>The WW committee is excited about all of the interest that the survey sent by Bethann generated to expand the WW Committee. There is concern there may not be enough for all of the new members to do. Someone will be needed to fill Jan’s spot in February.</p> <p>Recommendation from Stephanie to generate a volunteer opportunity list.</p> <p>Dave would like greater exposure for the WPIC and watershed discussions. Perhaps see if PWW committee has ideas about how to do this.</p> <p>Bethann discussed the meetings that have taken place with Blue Thumb. Jessica has also been involved with these. See also discussion under Shoreland Advisors.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J. Sandberg - bring WPIC/Watershed topic to Education committee. • J. Sandberg—draft letter to PWW Committee as thank you, need for additional energy, refer to history and share with Bethann • J. Loes— add to March agenda to formally name Jan Sandberg as Education Committee Chair

Itasca Waters Board Meeting Minutes

January 8, 2024 4:30 pm online via Zoom

3.j Nonprofit Budget Reporting Requirements	Discussion deferred to March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J. Loes—add nonprofit budget reporting requirements to March agenda
3.k Water Quality Ass’n Report	Discussion Postponed, John is writing a white paper on this topic. Follow up date TBD.	
3.l Policy Forms A#3.l-1 , A#3.l-2	All voting Board members must submit signed Conflict of Interest and Whistleblower policy forms to Bethann each calendar year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Voting Board Members — return new signed forms if you have not yet done this.
4. New Business		
4.a. Water Wisdom Committee	<i>Motion to ratify members for 2024 Education Water Wisdom Committee with access to Google Drive Water Wisdom files: Cary Bates, (Mary) Gail Blackmer, Kathy Cone, John Downing, Bill Grantges, Bill & Deb Hagenbuck, Stephanie Kessler, Jean Koewler, Rose Lawler, Jan Sandberg, Wesley Sisson, Christina VanDeventer, Brian Whittemore, Bethann Perendy (Coordinator) and appoint Jan Sandberg as Education Committee Chair.(Downing, Loes) M/S/U</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J. Sandberg—give non-Board members access to Google Drive • J. Sandberg—poll committee to sign up for tasks
4.b. Annual Report	Identify responsibility for the annual report preparation—no takers yet.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J.Loos—add annual report responsibility discussion to March agenda
4.c. Dan Swenson	<i>Remove Dan Swenson from TAB per discussion with Kathy Cone (he asked to be removed).</i> Bill G. proposed that the board ask Katie Benes if she would join the TAB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J. Sandberg—remove Swenson and Roberts from Google Drive • K. Cone—remove D. Swenson and M. Roberts from Google Drive
4.d Activate Committees	Reference items under agenda item 6. Reports	
4.e Long Range Plan	Discussion deferred to March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J. Loes—add long range plan to March agenda
5. Consent Agenda	<i>Motion to approve consent agenda.(Cone, Anderson) M/S/U</i>	
5.a Minutes from Board meeting November 13, 2023 A#5.a	Reference attachment	
5.b Next ICOLA Meeting in February	Discussion that we will include the ICOLA meeting minutes after the ICOLA meeting is held.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J. Loes—add Feb ICOLA minutes to March agenda
6. Reports		

Itasca Waters Board Meeting Minutes

January 8, 2024 4:30 pm online via Zoom

6.a. President’s Report	Report deferred	
6.b Coordinator/Office Report	Bethann reported on work with Jessica on the Blue Thumb project. Membership drive--Board members reported not getting a request. Comment that the online donation site is easy to use. Bethann noted some ideas from Wesley for scheduling the drive. Kathy will help in the spring.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B. Perendy—email membership request to Board members
6.c Education	See above 3.i.	
6.d Executive/ Governance Committee	Committee ratified, no report. Reference Agenda item 3.d	
6.e Finance	No new updates. Reference agenda items 2. , 3.e , and 6.f	
6.f Grants	<p>Dave—consider submitting a Blandin grant by June 1 to cover coordinator time and quick brainstorm about other activities. There is a concern that IW lacks people power. Is John the Grants chair?</p> <p>To proceed we need to set a deadline, ask John Connelly to help draft. We should highlight that we are the only environmental group Blandin donates to projects such as WW, YWS, the good working relationship with SWCD and SeaGrant.</p> <p>Comments included that it is now very difficult to get money, must match Blandin’s new strategy, what made the Orchestra grant successful?</p> <p>John is working on idea for an LCCMR proposal. It could be managed through UMD.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J. Loes--set date, solicit participation, and gather ideas on new Blandin grant proposal.
6.g Marketing	Discussion deferred to March	
6.h Membership & Fundraising	Reference agenda item 6.b	
6.i Personnel	Reference agenda item 2.	
6.j Planning	Reference agenda item 4.e	
6.k Shoreland Advisors	<p>Dave said that he is working with Rachel and will get together again when plants are ready.</p> <p>Bethann and Jess discussed the Blue Thumb workshop. Tentative date is set for the first week of April. Bethann reached out to Rachel. There is a desire to bring the Shoreland Advisors into this workshop.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J. Loes or B. Perendy--reach out to Matt G. to see if he’d like to speak at the Blue Thumb workshop
6.l Vision/New Projects	Reference agenda item 4.e	
6.m Youth Water Summit	Bethann is taking the lead on coordinating. Work is a bit behind schedule. All previous committee members have committed to participating again.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B. Perendy--inventory current t-shirt stock
7. Other		

Itasca Waters Board Meeting Minutes

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8. Adjournment	Dave adjourned the meeting at 5:30 pm	
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Upcoming Events *Dates will be added as approved*

- March 11 2024*
 - May 13, 2024*
 - July 8, 2024*
 - September 9, 2024*
 - November 18, 2024*
 - January 13, 2025*
- *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.

<p>January Board Meeting Task List Summarized</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> J. Sandberg—change J. Loes access in Google Drive<input type="checkbox"/> J. Loes—add Website hosting to March agenda<input type="checkbox"/> J. Loes—add Dropbox termination to March agenda<input type="checkbox"/> J. Sandberg - bring WPIC/Watershed topic to Education committee.<input type="checkbox"/> J. Sandberg—draft letter to PWW Committee as thank you, need for additional energy, refer to history and share with Bethann<input type="checkbox"/> J. Loes— add to March agenda to formally name Jan Sandberg as Education Committee Chair<input type="checkbox"/> J. Loes—add nonprofit budget reporting requirements to March agenda<input type="checkbox"/> All Voting Board Members — return new signed forms if you have not yet done this.<input type="checkbox"/> J. Sandberg—give non-Board members access to Google Drive<input type="checkbox"/> J. Sandberg—poll committee to sign up for tasks<input type="checkbox"/> J.Loos—add annual report responsibility discussion to March agenda<input type="checkbox"/> J. Sandberg—remove Swenson and Roberts from Google Drive<input type="checkbox"/> K. Cone—remove D. Swenson and M. Roberts from Google Drive<input type="checkbox"/> J. Loes—add long range plan to March agenda<input type="checkbox"/> J. Loes—add Feb ICOLA minutes to March agenda<input type="checkbox"/> B. Perendy—email membership request to Board members<input type="checkbox"/> J. Loes--set date, solicit participation, and gather ideas on new Blandin grant proposal.<input type="checkbox"/> J. Loes or B. Perendy--reach out to Matt G. to see if he'd like to speak at the Blue Thumb workshop<input type="checkbox"/> B. Perendy--inventory current t-shirt stock
