



# ITASCA WATERS

*Team Up for Clean Waters*

## Itasca Waters Board Meeting

**Monday, 12 January 2026, 4:30 pm at Move It Real Estate Office & 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	Stephanie Kessler	P	Andy Arens	A
Cary Bates	P	Jessica Loes	P	Benjamin Benoit	A
Glen Bergstrand	A	Grace/Tom? McCullough	P/ P	Eric Raitanen	A
John Downing	P	Jan Sandberg	P/	Chad Severts	A
Bill Grantges	E	Cory Smith (nonvoting)	A		
Jack Jones	P				

Coordinator: Bethann Perendy

**The President may wish to suggest reorganizing the agenda for convenience.**

-Please note that the meeting will be recorded and retained until approval of the meeting minutes.

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

Agenda Items/ Attachments	Key Discussion Five	Outcome s	Follow-up Needed Who/When
<b>1. Opening Items</b>			
<b>1.a Call to order</b>	Itasca Waters Board meeting called to order at 4:30pm		
<b>1.b Confirm Quorum</b>	Quorum = 50 percent of the voting members of the whole board, currently six-- <i>confirmed</i>	Confirm	
<b>1.c Agenda</b>	<i>Motion to approve the agenda as distributed (Sandy Anderson, Tom McCullough) M/S/U</i>	Motion	

<b>2. Financial Report</b>			
<b>2.a Financial Update</b>	<p>Sandy reported about \$30,000 in savings, \$3,850 checking. We spent about \$21,000 last year, donations totaled \$6,800 including a small grant.</p> <p>John brought news of a major donation, \$25-35,000 per year. Bethann sent John the paperwork. John suggested discussing naming possibilities. Consensus to cash out any stock as received.</p> <p>Made plans to add Stephanie as signer on the bank account.</p> <p>Discussed the new Paid Family Leave (PFL) requirements.</p> <p><i>Motion to split PFL .33 and .33 between IW and Bethann. (Tom McCullough, Jess Loes) M/S/U</i></p> <p><i>Motion to approve the financial report (Tom McCullough, Jan Sandberg) M/S/U</i></p>	Motion	
<b>2.b <a href="#">2026 Budget Detail</a></b>	Postpone final details pending receipt of the large contribution.		Jan: Put on agenda for next meeting
<b>3. Unfinished Business</b>			
<b>3.a Appoint/Ratify Board Members</b>	<p>See <a href="#">attachment</a>—note that Rose Lawler is not officially joining until June.</p> <p><i>Motion to:</i></p> <p><i>Approve an additional term for Bill Grantges;</i></p> <p><i>Approve new three-year terms for Jessica Loes and Bill Grantges (both to serve to 2029);</i></p> <p><i>Ratify Stephanie Kessler to serve until 2028 and ratify Jan Sandberg to serve until 2029 ;</i></p> <p><i>Appoint new members Cary Bates(2029) and Glen Bergstrand (2028). (Tom McCullough, Sandy Anderson) M/S/U</i></p>		
<b>3.b Officers</b>	<p>In January 2025, we elected, for three-year terms, Kathy as President, John as Vice-President and Sandy as Treasurer.</p> <p><i>Motion to ratify Stephanie Kessler as President and Jan Sandberg as Secretary for the balance of the officer term (new election in 2028) (Jessica Loes, Sandy Anderson) M/S/U</i></p>		
<b>3.c 2026 Meeting Dates</b>	<i>Motion approve meetings on alternate months beginning in January on the 3rd Monday (except January 2027 due to MLK Day), 5:00 pm, 7pm in hybrid format (Move It Real Estate office) (Sandy Anderson, Tom McCullough) M/S/U</i>		Board: Upcoming: meetings March 16, May 18, July 20, September 21, November 16, January 25
<b>3.d 2024 Annual Report</b>	In process, any comments need to go to Jess by Feb 15 <sup>th</sup> ; she will start on the 2025 report soon.		Board: Send Sandy info for the website—bio, photo, review other bios

<b>3.e TAB appointments</b>			Jan: Move to next meeting John: set up online document Board: review John's document and comment
<b>3.f Youth Water Summit</b>	Update from Bethann and Committee: ready to send out email to past presenters and volunteers this week.		Bethann: send info to Bd members about being a presenter
<b>4. New Business</b>			
<b>4.a Board Member Recruitment</b>	See <a href="#">Board member recruitment</a> and <a href="#">Potential Board Members</a>		Jan: move to next meeting
<b>4.b Invitation Packet</b>	Review proposed <a href="#">packet</a>		Board: review packet and send comments to John and Steph John & Steph: modify in connection with strategic plan Strategy 2
<b>4.c Strategic Plan</b>	<p>Review Steph's edited document (see link to revised plan in motion below) Also discussed fundraising through membership, donation, paid events/merch, publications</p> <p>Strategy 2 (1) Recruit Board members (Steph, John) due May Discussion--in order to recruit Board members, let them know current and likely future activity (YWS, PWW, hope for research based on past work). Consider addressing hot topics, public vs private events, in-person vs. virtual, broader community outreach (2) Standing committees (Jan) due in March (3) Grant review: John, Grace, Jack, Jess, Tom's Debbie</p> <p>Strategy 3: (1) YSW (Bethann): needs help to ID business support (2) Appreciation event: Grace, Sandy, John, Steph, Jack</p> <p>Strategy 4: (1) PWW: current committee (2) Social media (Bethann, Grace) Expand options like clubs (Grace), explore Chamber connection, opportunities to give out guides (real estate offices)</p> <p>Strategy 6 (1) Identify TAB candidate groups (John, Cary) <i>Motion to adopt the <a href="#">revised strategic plan</a> (john, Grace) M/S/U</i></p>		<p>Bethann: create list of businesses including in-kind for YWS and distribute to Board</p> <p>Grace: help Bethann with sharing Facebook to Instagram (Shirley connection)</p>
<b>5. On-going Business</b>			
<b>5.a Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes</b>	<a href="#">November 17, 2025</a> <i>Motion to approve November 17, 2025 minutes (Tom McCullough, Sandy Anderson) M/S/U</i>	Motion	

<b>5.b ICOLA</b>	<p>Website for published minutes: <a href="#">Itasca COLA Minutes</a> from last meeting, October 15</p> <p>The 2026 Meetings will be: February 18, April 15, October 21 beginning 11:30am at the Itasca Courthouse</p> <p>June 17 and July 15 meetings will be 6 -8 pm with June at the Courthouse and Annual Meeting in July at a place to be determined.</p> <p>ZOOM may be provided by Itasca Waters. NOTE: TWO SUMMER MEETINGS ARE IN EVENING.</p>		
<b>5.c 2026 Conflict of Interest Forms</b>	<p>Jan has forms for Jack, Bill G and Jan. The form (attached) was sent November 29, 2025 and needs to be completed each year.</p>		Jan: Send out form again

<b>6. Reports</b>			
<b>6.a President's Report, Executive Committee</b>	<p>Steph reviewed her bio--degrees in geography, worked for FEMA for many years, lives on Johnson Lake.</p> <p>Cary has a computer science background, (Mayo Clinic &amp; IBM,) cabin on Turtle Lake</p>		
<b>6.b. Coordinator/ Office Report</b>			
<b>6.c. Education</b>	<p><a href="#">Presentation Update</a> includes a list of topics and status for 2026.</p> <p>John discussed the March panel PWW.</p>		<p>John: draft <a href="#">letter</a> jointly from IW and SeaGrant thanking PWW presenters, ideally sent to the presenter's supervisor. Determine letterhead.</p> <p>Jan: send John list of titles, speakers, emails.</p>
<b>6.d Grants</b>	<p><a href="#">Grants data</a></p> <p>John would like to work with others to put together a proposal--Grace, Jack, Jess, Debbie (Tom's wife), Tom.</p> <p><a href="#">LCCMR grant opportunity is open--</a> <a href="https://www.lccmr.mn.gov/proposals/2027/2027_lccmr_rfp.pdf">https://www.lccmr.mn.gov/proposals/2027/2027_lccmr_rfp.pdf</a></p> <p>Thoughts: run through UMD, perhaps update last proposal and new idea</p>		<p>Board: review LCCMR info and send ideas or possible topics to committee by February 1</p>
<b>6.e Membership</b>			<p>Bethann: draft membership letter, ideas for change to website link</p> <p>John: Ask if Dina is OK with recognizing donation, prepare press release info</p>
<b>6.f Shoreland Advisors</b>	<p>One request this year, suggested that it is sent just to our own folks for now.</p> <p>Consider reviewing list of advisors as to continued interest</p>		
<b>6.g Youth Water Summit</b>	<p>See above</p>		

<b>6.h Other Committee Reports</b>		
<b>7. Other</b>		
<b>7.a Upcoming Board Meetings</b>	<b>Next Meeting:</b> All at 5:00 pm via Zoom/hybrid, third Monday except January 2027 Dates will be added as approved	Bethann: set up Google Calendar invite
<b>7.b Upcoming Events</b>		.
<b>8. Adjournment</b>		

If there is time:

Jess can comment on the forestry survey and discussion with Katie Benes about We are Water: comment as leaving that there is nothing to report

Move to March: IW Future Activity

Discussion items:

[Survey results](#)

[Types of actions to take](#)

[Matching exercise](#) (part of first link above)

From November: John—distribute to Board members for comment in advance possibly as a survey