

WHITE IRON CHAIN OF LAKES ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
August 1, 2019
Grand Ely Lodge

DRAFT MINUTES

72 total attendees with 62 members, 6 comps and 4 guests were present at the meeting. There were enough members present to represent the necessary quorum established by the bylaws.

Vice President David Lee called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm.

WELCOME

Vice President David Lee welcomed everyone to the annual meeting. He introduced both of the following guest speakers.

PROGRAM

Edie Evarts, DNR Fisheries Specialist said the White Iron, Garden and Farm Lake management plans are up for review. She wanted to explain what has been happening with northern pike and walleye in the lakes. Special regulations and slot limits were set in 2003 for northern pike and in 2006 for walleye. DNR wanted to preserve or increase the proportion of larger-sized fish to enhance the fishing experience. For northern pike, they compared our lakes to Moose Lake where there were no special regulations. They found that the proportion of larger-sized pike increased on Garden and White Iron but not on Moose. They recommend keeping the special regulation for northern pike. Walleye are stocked on Garden and Farm every other year. White Iron is not stocked. Again, they found an increase in the catch rate and the proportion of larger-sized walleye has increased. They recommend keeping the special regulation for walleye.

Dr. Amy Kireta, University of MN – Duluth, gave a presentation on Climate Change Threats to Lakes and the Importance of Engaged Lake Lovers

Amy provided the following statistics: 1) scientists are 95% certain that human activities are responsible for global warming, 2) Carbon dioxides are at an unprecedented level not seen in the past 800,000 years, 3) Sea levels are set to rise, and 4) Greenland and Antarctic ice shields are melting. Temperatures could increase by 5 to 8 degrees by the end of the century, with expected stronger, more frequent storms with more precipitation. This will result in direct, physical and biological changes to the lakes.

Some things we could do involve mitigation and adaptation. Amy gave two examples. One is of a group in Grand Marais doing a zero net greenhouse project and another group doing a “Zero Waste Lifestyle” project. Other examples include lake associations working on NNIS, monitoring, and working with others to educate and inform lake owners about shorelines, water quality and NNIS prevention. She said we don’t need a handful of people doing it perfectly, we need a million people doing it imperfectly.

Approval of 2018 annual meeting minutes.

- Motion by Peter Davis and seconded by Helen Spry to approve 2018 annual meeting minutes. Passed unanimously.

President's report (by vice president David Lee)

- David introduced current board members and thanked them for their service.
- Four of the previous presidents were in attendance and acknowledged: Charlene Mason, Teresa Sagen, Jim Pinckney, and Dwight McConnell.
- WICOLA received two grants recently, an AIS grant that Mary talked about and a grant through the Winton Dam re-licensing and FERC that is being used to help cover monitoring expenses.
- WICOLA worked with RMB to develop lake quality reports for each of the lakes in the chain. Reports were printed and made available to attendees.
- WICOLA was a Blueberry Arts Festival and will be at the Harvest Moon Festival in September.
- Metals testing will be done later in the summer.

Membership

- Teresa Sagen announced there are 187 household members.
- Someone asked why Fall Lake isn't part of WICOLA. Two main reasons were given: There is not an organized group of residents on Fall Lake who have expressed interest in joining WICOLA and Fall Lake has not been considered part of the Chain. WICOLA would be interested in working with Fall Lake if there were opportunities. Fall Lake landowners are welcome to join WICOLA.

AIS Coordinator Report

- Mary Setterholm, Farm Lake Representative and AIS coordinator, thanked all the volunteers who have helped with AIS, including trapping rusty crayfish and working at the Blueberry Arts Festival. We reached over 1,000 people at the festival. She had traps available at the meeting.
- WICOLA received a grant from Lake County SWCD that was used to purchase the paper and cloth bags that were handed out at Blueberry and at the meeting. Also purchased crayfish traps and will be used to create a coloring book for kids.
- Volunteers are needed for a Starry Stonewort Trek on August 17, meeting at the Forest Service office.

Water Quality Monitoring Report

- Chris Chandler, White Iron Representative and Water Monitoring Coordinator informed the group about the water monitoring occurring five times during the summer. This was some of the data that was used to create the water quality reports. She urged people interested in volunteering to contact any board member.
- A question was asked about the older secchi disk data from citizen monitoring done in the past. This will be discussed at the next board meeting.

Nomination and Election of Officers

- The following slate of officers was presented to the membership by the nominating committee:
 - Treasurer – Bill Bailey

- Secretary – Sue Duffy
- Birch Lake Representative – Dan O’Brien
- Farm Lake Representative – Dave Setterholm
- East White Iron Lake Representative – Robin Vora
- There were no nominations from the floor.
- Motion by Mary Setterholm to accept the slate of officers for the 2020-2021 as presented. Motion seconded by Peter Davis. Passed unanimously.

Financial Report

- Bill Bailey thanked Dolores for her many years of service as the treasurer for WICOLA. Bill has been working with Dolores on the budget reports.
- Bill informed us that the finances are strong. For 2019, revenue is forecast at \$15,800 and expenses are forecast at \$14,900. Net assets as of July 31, 2019 are \$48,500.
- WICOLA will be able to continue our work on key initiatives, test for heavy metals, continue water quality monitoring, and communicating with our members.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Sheldon Damberg. Motion was seconded by Peter Davis. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Notes submitted by Sue Duffy