

Island Chain of Lakes, Assn (ICOLA)
Board Meeting Minutes
11/6/19 @ John's House

Present: Karl Nordin, Mark Schmitt, John Kowalewski, Ted Hakala, Rick Krahn, Ron Ottum and Alec Christianson

Absent: Tom Slowinski

Agenda Discussion

- I. Karl thanked John (and later Linda) for hosting the meeting.
- II. Karl gave an update on the fish stocking. He advised that the DNR has completed stocking operations on our lakes for 2019. Along with walleye the DNR also stocked Muskies. UPDATE: Karl sent a thank you to the Spooner Fish Hatchery on behalf of the organization for their continues support with the walleye restocking efforts- on 11/7/2019.
- III. The board recapped 2019 discussing what the ICOLA had done well, what could have been better and where the assn. should go from here. Discussions were:
 - a. Went well: The invasive species program as a whole went very well.
 - b. Better:
 - i. Due to scheduling problems with Arrowhead Bible Camp, there was no Lake Days in 2019.
 - ii. One of ICOLA's goals is to provide education. The board agreed that with a speaker at only the May meeting (July's speaker was scheduled but became unavailable) the ICOLA did not fulfill that expectation.
 - c. Forward:
 - i. See Area Lake Day's discussion below.
 - ii. To attract more speakers the board discussed reimbursing speakers for mileage and to possibly pay some to attract a more diverse and educated ones.
- IV. Karl advised that the ICOLA has all the documents needed to complete the property tax exemption on the ICOLA's property; however the name on the property deed needs to be changed from the ICOLA's former name to the ICOLA. Deadline for completion March 2020
- V. Planning for 2020
 - a. The board agreed that monthly meetings should continue to be held on the second Saturday of May, June, July and August in 2020. Locations expected to be as in 2019. Exception: May's meeting may be held in conjunction with Lake Day's as Arrowhead previously reported that that was an open date for possibly holding Lake Day.
 - b. Karl asked about contacting the new owners of Sunny's to verify they would host July's meeting. Ron said that Sunny's hosts their monthly Neighbor Nights and he would get contact information for Karl.
- VI. The board discussed purchasing a wood map for Bea Burnap (including her husband, Bill), as had been done for other past retiring board members. Alec motioned to have the ICOLA purchase such map and Ted seconded the motion. The board by unanimous voice vote approved the motion.

- VII. John and Karl discussed the ICOLA budget. John has received the past budget information from Dan Borreson, John is going to put together a budget based on past information and future association activities. This will then be presented to the board and when Dan Borreson returns from down South we will commit to financial committee meeting to finalize the budget for 2020.
- VIII. Karl said that Stephanie is looking for assistance with maintaining the ICOLA website. Alec agreed to help Stephanie with being a web designer. Karl also advised that the website needs updated board member pictures. Will complete getting pictures of all the board members and Lake Representatives at or before the May 2020 meeting
- IX. Karl asked the board if the ICOLA wanted to continue to donate to the WRA as a Silver Sponsor. Mark made a motion for the ICOLA to do so and Ted seconded the vote. A unanimous voice vote approved continuing the donation to the WRA.
- X. Karl advised that Saturdays in April were not available for the ICOLA Area Lake Days, however most Sundays were. The board all agreed that Lake Days should continue and discussed various options for hosting Lake Days to include hosting it at the New Auburn High School or at the Fireside Barn, which lacks the need electronics for Lake Days. After learning that Saturday, May 9, 2020 was available, that Lake Days could be held in conjunction with the May ICOLA meeting, at Arrowhead Bible Camp. This would also assist in locating speaker(s) for May's meeting. Karl will coordinate with Arrowhead to ensure that date works with them. UPDATE: After the meeting Karl made contact with Jeremiah Harder and was able to book Arrowhead for May 9th for Area Lake Days.
- XI. Karl provided the board with the following list of "priorities for 2020" as submitted by ICOLA members at August's meeting or via email.
- a. Shoreline erosion/waves/boat wakes.
 - b. Shoreline restoration/fertilizer use/mailings to members who do not attend meetings.
 - c. Slow/no wake between McCann Lake and Chain Lake.
 - d. Weeds.
 - e. Theft.
 - f. Having a "sales link" for property owners to use as a market place for items for sale on the lakes.
- The board had a very lengthy discussion on the above items with time spent discussing wakes, erosion, boat operator courtesies, etc. The board also spent time discussing the location of buoys. On September 17, 2019 the board received notice from the DNR that the DNR had approved the GPS'd locations of all the buoys being placed by the ICOLA. Relocating buoys without DNR approval may negate those buoy(s) from being enforceable for violations.
- XII. A discussion was held regarding possible speakers and topics the ICOLA would like addressed.
- a. A speaker from the Wabasha Eagle group.
 - b. Dragonfly to speak on raingardens.
 - c. Having a shoreline restoration with possible speakers being from TSB Lakeshore Restoration or the DNR.
- XIII. Projects were also discussed. Those discussions included the following projects:
- a. Area Lake Days.
 - b. Lake Management Plan (Karl provided a copy of the Lake Amacoy management plan).

- c. Continuation of the Invasive Species Committee's work on purple loosestrife eradication.
- d. Karl advised that the Walleye Committee remains active and has met with our designated Fish Biologist Jeff Scheirer from the DNR, and at this time no specific projects are being recommended by Jeff at this time for the committee to pursue. Karl reported that cribs, spawning area enhancement projects were discussed but not recommended by the DNR at this time.

XIV. Other discussion items included the following:

- a. Updating and "scrubbing" the roster to ensure it is as accurate as can be.
- b. Karl asked for and received permission to apply for organizational status on Amazon Smile. Persons buying on Amazon have the option to have 1% of their purchase amount to be donated to a 501(c)3 organization, which ICOLA is.
- c. Put an option on the ICOLA membership form to have newsletters sent to members via email rather than snail mail; and to send a weblink rather than a pdf file out so to provide members easy access to the ICOLA website. Also to note on the form that for IRS purposes, a cancelled check acts as a receipt for tax donation purposes.
- d. The board also discussed various options to distribute calendars, to include hand delivering them to members' homes, handing out when paying dues, possibly selling extra calendars at the bars if they would do that for us. etc.

XV. The board meeting was adjourned.