

Island Chain of Lakes, Assn (ICOLA) Board Meeting Minutes
11/7//24 John Kowalewskis home

Present: Jeff Pippenger, John Kowalewski, Ted Hakala, Rick Krahn, Larry Bins, Sandy Johnson Frank Draxler, and LaNette Flunker

Jeff called the meeting to order and stated that the focus of the meeting was to listen to a presentation from Jeff Messmanns, Director of The Last Wilderness Alliance regarding the damage to lakes from the use of wake/surf boats and the work he has done in helping lake communities establish "ordinances" to restrict the use of ballast systems. In earlier surveys done by ICOLA of its members has indicated a concern of the growing number of wake-boards on our lakes.

Agenda Discussion

Wake board Presentation

1. Damage is caused by use of ballast systems. Visuals were presented of the damage done to lake bottoms and shorelines. The damage is significant and irreversible. Lake bottoms are disturbed and stirred up causing years of sediment with phosphorus to be released into the water potentially causing increased weeds. Wakes from wake-surfing can be as high as 3-4 ft causing damage to boats and lifts as well as shoreline erosion.
2. Safety issues with large waves to others on the lake.
3. Live wells can be inspected for draining compliance, ballasts systems can not. The ballasts are known to be impossible to completely drain and invasive species have been found which can be transported to other lakes.
4. The state has an ordinance that can be used immediately. Ordinances typically include: prohibited equipment and prohibited operation.
5. We can anticipate a threat of a law suit yet not a single suit has been filed in other similar situations as we have the right per 30.77 state law to protect property and natural resources.
6. There are five ways to enforce: County sheriff contract, Boat patrol, Town constable, Town can issue citations, (missing the 5th one)
7. Discussed our interest in moving forward: The board feels strongly there is a need to be completely transparent with our membership before moving forward. Educational material is being requested from the Last Wilderness Alliance to be able to share/discuss with the membership. Members would then be surveyed/petitioned before going to the Island Chain of Lakes (3) township boards (Rusk, Big Bend and Sampson) for their support.

Rearing Ponds

1. Materials for the ponds was donated
2. TSB is considering growing minnows. This may significantly reduce the price of stocking the pond
3. A representative from the Long Lake association approached Jeff regarding partnering with our program and would significantly help with the cost of the Walleye pond program.
4. We will need to apply for tax exempt status for the ownership of the pond. John is going to follow up with Rusk County

Highway Cleanup

1. The board would like to thank everyone who participated in the cleanup
2. Suggestion to coordinate next year with the mowing crew to make it easier to walk and to find garbage in the ditches

Website

1. Bob Jenson has been working on the website. At the time of the meeting it has not been updated.
2. A credit card is needed to pay the annual fee for the website. John K will look into it.

Roberts Rules of Parliamentary Procedure

The board discussed how the lake association membership meetings are conducted.

2025 ICOLA Meetings and Locations

5/10/25 meeting at Backwoods - a change from previous years
6/14/25 meeting at Sheps - Speaker on Bats
7/12/25 meeting at Sunnys - Free Brat feed
8/9/25 meeting at Hawks - Speaker on Ice Age Trail

Several lake association board positions will be voted on at this meeting

Other Business

1. The need for secure/fire proof storage for legal documents. A fire proof fire system will be purchased
2. Northwest Wisconsin Lake Conference is being held 6/20/25 in Hayward for those interested in attending
3. Kevin O'Brien will be the new Citizen Lakes Monitoring representative that tests water samples
4. Rick mentioned that the pontoon motor has water in the oil. May need to consider the purchase of a new motor next summer.
5. Carol Hakala will be asked to provide a progress report to the Presto Foundation for their generous gift to the association.
6. Discussed the purchase of BLM Islands on Chain Lake for preservation. In process but not complete
7. Membership dues will be \$20 in 2025. Current dues of \$10 cover approximately 1/4 - 1/2 of our operating expenses. John will have a break down of expenses and dues minus donations for the next meeting. Membership form will be updated to include the increase as well as a question regarding delivery preference for the monthly newsletter (mail or email)

Next Meeting

1/23/25

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn, Ted Hakala, second by Rick Krahn.