

Island Chain of Lakes, Assn (ICOLA) Membership Meeting Minutes 8/9/2025 - Hawks

Board Members Present: Jeff Pippenger, John Kowalewski, Sandy Johnson, Rick Krahn, Larry Bins, Jerry Shadick, Frank Draxler. LaNette Flunker

Meeting was called to order at 10:00am by Jeff Pippenger

Pledge of Allegiance

New Members

No new members introduced

Speaker - Vicki Christianson - Topic: Ice Age Trail

Vicki is the area Chapter Coordinator. There are 19 chapters. The Ice Age Trail is currently 1153 miles. The miles can change when a portion of the the trail that currently is on private property is no longer allowed by the owner, or when land owners open up more private land for the trail to traverse. Much of the trail in our area is walked on roads. There is a goal to secure the use of more private land to reduce these road miles. **Question:** Has anyone walked the entire trail? **Answer:** Yes **Question:** Have you walked the entire trail? **Answer:** Yes. I completed it in segments and it took me 8 years. People that complete it all in one effort are called “through hikers”. **Question:** What is the fastest time for someone to complete the trail. **Answer:** Female: 22 days Male: 21 days. Each of these hikers were considered “supported” which means they have individuals bring them food and water etc.

This is the 43rd anniversary of the trail. Each fall there is a challenge aimed to get people out on the trail. This years challenge is to hike 43 miles and visit 3 ice age trail communities on the trail during the month of October. Information for signing up for the challenge is on the following website: iceagetrail.org

Secretary’s Report

Motion to approve as written: Mary Niemeyer

Second: Lori Van Damme Passed

Treasurer’s Report

John Kowalewski provided the following information:

Memberships: 228 Associate Memberships: 17

Funds - Money Market

Walleye	\$24,462.08
Conservation Land	\$16,325.60
Shoreland Restoration	\$27,024.49
BLM Islands	\$5,136.08
Unrestricted	\$33,665.81

Funds - Checking

Unrestricted	\$ 7,245.48
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Total \$113,859.54

Motion to approve as presented: Deb Krahn

Second: Dan Borreson Passed

Committee Reports

Shoreline Restoration: Deb Krahn

Shoreline restoration projects as well as rain gardens and rain barrels have been funded. A nursery in the area still has native plants for sale and planting them can take place into early fall. It is also a time to share seeds. Please contact Deb by phone: 715-495-7923, By email: debkrahn@gmail.com or on Facebook messenger if interested in additional information

Walleye: Rod Stegge

The fish are continuing to do well. Rod estimates the walleye are approximately 5 inches. Two hundred pounds of minnows are used to feed them each week. He hopes we will be able to transfer fish to the lakes this fall. **Question:** What is the current water temp of the ponds? **Answer:** In the 80's due to the hot weather which is not ideal. **Question:** How many do you expect to plant in the fall? **Answer:** Approximately 5000. **Question:** How do I volunteer to help? **Answer:** Talk with Rod about getting on the text list. Thank you to individuals who have volunteered to clean the filters and assistance with moving the shed.

Highway Cleanup - No date has been set

Facebook and Website: Sandy Johnson

Currently 722 members. A reminder that the website is routinely updated. If you are looking for area businesses to provide services, there is a link on the website with this type of information. The website is: Islandchainoflakes.org

Old Business

Golf Outing: John Granholt and Mike Niemeyer thanked sponsors and all of the golfers. There were 60 players. John and Mike presented a check for \$250 to the association from Dean Taylor, the owner of Amacoy. A special thank you to Chris Hirschinger for her work on the event.

New Business

Results of ICOLA Advisory Survey:

246 Emailed and 31 Mailed Surveys for a total of 277 surveys were sent. Number completed and returned: 117 or 42.2%. This is a very respectable return rate.

Question 1: Yes 69.2%. No 30.8%. Question 2: Yes 67.5%. No 32.5%

Jeff will meet with the chairpersons of the 3 townships regarding the results and will send the information to our state representatives: Jesse James and Rob Summerfield Results will be sent to the membership. **Question:** Why is the number of surveys sent higher than our current membership total? **Answer:** Per the bylaws, we are required in addition to the current years membership, to include members from the previous year who are not current members.

August Elections:

Jeff requested and was granted the right to only ask if there are additional nominations once rather than three times.

Vice President Nominee: Jerry Salter

Motion to approve Jerry Salter by Linda Carpenter

Second: David Whitehouse - Passed

Treasurer Nominee: John Kowalewski

Nomination for Chris Hirschinger by Shelly Garnett
following the meeting that the name of the person making the second to the nomination was inaccurately recorded. Several board members heard multiple "seconds". This will be taken as legitimate action to have moved forward with the motion.

Second: It was determined

Written vote taken: 39 Chris Hirschinger

17 John Kowalewski

Chain Lake Rep: Frank Draxler

Motion to approve Frank Draxler by Dan Borreson

Second by Jim Van Damme - Passed

McCann Lake Rep: Jerry Shadick

Motion to approve Jerry Shadick by Linda Carpenter

Second by Kurt Johnson - Passed

Other new business

Board will be preparing for Lake Days in April 2026.

Corn feed today from 11:30 - 4:00 for the Back 40 snowmobile club at Adventure Awaits.

Jeff asked the DNR to look at the issues with the island lake boat ramp. In addition to agreeing to repair the ramp, the DNR proposed creating a larger parking area. The parking lot expansion was not requested by the Lake association. This would remove the barrier between one of our members properties and the ramp and road which is not desired. A meeting is being held August 19th in Ladysmith

Jeff plans to meet with the DNR to work on a master plan for our lakes. **Question:** Is there still an invasive species committee? **Answer:** Yes **Question:** Is the membership aware that the swim rafts need to have lights and in several instances are not meeting the distance limitations from shore?

Answer: Jeff stated he was not aware that the rafts needed lights. This was addressed at the July meeting by a DNR warden who stated it was not a requirement. Jeff said he would clarify and get the information out to the membership. If individual rafts are not meeting the distance requirement, that can be addressed privately. **Question:** Is there a current safety committee? **Answer:** The board plans to discuss the function of this committee. A committee chair will then be secured.

Motion to Adjourn: Deb Krahn

Second by Pam Hoekstra

Passed at 11:45am

Respectfully submitted LaNette Flunker Secretary