

Gull Chain of Lakes Association  
Board of Directors' Meeting  
August 14, 2019, Grand View Lodge

**Present:** Steve Alex, Uldis Birznieks, Jane Edwards, Sue Friedrichs, Rosemary Goff, Linda Harrier, Chuck Herrig, John Ingleman, Sheila Johnston, and Bob Toborg.

**Absent:** Jay Chaney, Robert Eliason, Steve Frawley and Marv Meyer

**Guests:** Dave Anderson, Nicole Baker, Chad Boesen, Jason Houser and Andrew Spicola

The meeting was called to order by Chair Herrig at 8:30 a.m.

On motion by Ingleman, seconded by Goff the minutes of the July 10, 2019, were approved as read.

**Treasurer's Report:** As of July 31, 2019, there were cash assets of \$277,672.44 (including \$151,385.91 in the AIS Contingency Fund). Total income from July 1 thru July 31 was \$39,716.63 and expenses were \$15,416.95 resulting in a net income of \$24,389.07. The treasurer's report was set aside subject to audit.

**Correspondence:**

- Minnesota D.A.R.E requested donations for the annual D.A.R.E officer training conference and golf scramble.
- Nisswa Fire & Rescue requested a donation to the new Fire Safety Education Program. Approved \$60 donation which sponsors 20 children.
- City of Nisswa sent a reminder for the Nisswa Lake Park & Recreation Area grand opening on August 22 from 4-7 p.m.
- Northern Waters Land Trust (formerly Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation) invitation to become a member. Approved \$50 membership.
- Brainerd Sports Booster requested a donation of \$20+ to support Brainerd area athletic programs.

**Elections/Appointments:**

- Motion by Toborg and second by Birznieks to elect Linda Harrier as Vice-Chair. **Passed.**
- Motion by Goff and second by Harrier to approve the committee member roster in Exhibit A. **Passed.**

**USACE/MN DNR Update:**

- Jason Houser reported that the elevation of Gull Lake is at 1193.94, discharging at 25 CFS. The middle of the summer band is 1194, so the lake level is where it should be. The plan to re-route Highway 125 is ahead of schedule.
- Marc Bacigalupi stated, via email, that the mid-July Fish Survey showed no major changes from last year. The August cisco survey showed good numbers, but the data has not been fully analyzed yet. The DNR is collaborating with the U of MN on zebra mussel/walleye research and the grad students did not have any luck sampling young-of-year walleye in the study lakes including Gull.

## 2019 GALA:

- Edwards reviewed the silent auction results and gave special recognition to Chaney, Birznieks, Goff and Johnston for the items they collected. See Exhibit B.
- Ingleman reviewed the overall Gala results which were higher in net revenue and ticket sales than 2018. See Exhibit C.
- Friedrichs presented the survey results with 83% respondents ranking the overall event as very good/excellent, 50% attended for the entertainment and 21% to socialize and 75% suggest using entertainers again next year. See Exhibit D.
- Board discussion for Gala changes:
  - Silent auction - research an alternative to Give Smart due to cost, have more variety of items, communicate to recipients that auction items cannot be left overnight.
  - Bucket Rattle – change the location, have volunteers work the floor to sell tickets, and have a better explanation of how it works.
  - Wine Pull – change the location, add the value of the wine and work with Cash Wise to provide the bottles.
  - Venue – improve the food, dead-spots in the banquet room, start the meal on time, speed up the table service, and create a process for vegetarian meal orders.
  - Live auction - before the entertainment and use Jeremy Wiczek as the auctioneer.
  - Dinner tick sales - increase sales by encouraging non-members to attend.
  - Program - explain the benefits of GCOLA and ask people to join, start on time, and keep the presenters/entertainers on schedule
  - Hosting - volunteers available to direct attendees and a table at the front door.
  - Booths - Move the loon and shoreline restoration booth to the hallway.
  - Entertainment - have more music and less talk.
  - Date - Check the calendar for other local fundraisers to minimize conflicts e.g. sailing regatta.
  - Raffle - Friedrichs will research if need to have the MN gambling raffle permit next year due to the dollar amount and number of trip raffle tickets sold.
- Board discussion for the annual meeting:
  - Change the name of the meeting to make it more enticing e.g. 'Annual Member Meeting'.
  - Use the Grand View PA system to announce when the meeting begins.
  - Harrier and Friedrichs will create a survey to collect input from members on how to encourage attendance.

## Event Updates:

- **Angling, AIS and Access to MN Lakes & Rivers:** Alex, Birznieks, Frawley and Johnston attended the DNR sponsored event. GCOLA members represented 12% of the attendees and lead three of the breakout groups including wake boats (Frawley), unrestricted public access (Doug Johnston) and muskies (Birznieks). The sessions built bridges among the participants with many passionate ideas, but it's not clear how the information will be used.

**AIS Committee:**

- Alex reported that the MAIRSC Starry Trek event will be held on August 17. He will work with the Gull chain trained AIS detectors to either participate in this event or do their own on a different date. PLM is currently searching the chain for starry stonewort and Alex will discuss whether they can also search for blue-green algae.
- Alex is exploring getting regular inspectors at the ramp near Zorbaz on a regular basis.
- Eurasian Milfoil has not been spotted this year and appears to be down state-wide.

**Communications Committee:** Ingleman reported that the newsletter is at the printer and will be mailed in the next couple weeks.

**Environmental Committee:**

- Johnston reported the loon chick survey will be from September 1 to September 9.
- Three shoreline restoration projects have been completed.
- Fifteen Lake Steward signs have been distributed with more site visits scheduled this fall.

**Finance Committee:** No update.

**Fisheries Committee:** No update.

**Legislative Committee:** Birznieks reported that Frawley has attended several meetings regarding wake boats.

**Membership Committee:** Friedrichs reported that paid membership is now at 932 including one new member.

**Recreation and Safety:** Toborg reported that 50 old buoys were delivered to Pine River Recycling and that the new lighted buoys have not been hit by boaters.

On motion by Goff, seconded by Harrier, the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes recorded by Sue Friedrichs.