



BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

December 13, 2023 – Grand View Lodge and Zoom

ATTENDANCE

Board Member	Attendance	Advisory Member	Attendance
Uldis Birznieks	Present	Dave Anderson	Present
Jay Chaney	Present	Kevin Egan	Absent
Robert Eliason	Present	Steve Henry	Present
Steve Frawley	Present	Erik Hidalgo	Absent
Sue Friedrichs	Present	Sheila Johnston	Absent
Kathy Lundberg	Present	Mike Knapp	Absent
Jon Mendel	Absent	Tim Plude	Absent
Tim Thoele	Present	Dan Simons	Present
		Brian Turner	Absent
		Dorothy Whitmer	Absent

GUESTS

None

CALL TO ORDER

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

MINUTES APPROVAL

Motion by Birznieks, seconded by Eliason to approve the November 8, 2023, Board meeting minutes. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

ORGANIZATION	GCOLA*	Gull Chain Preservation Endowment Fund
YTD Time Period	11-30-23	10-31-23
Total Income (Loss)	\$271,134.61	\$25,837.65
Total Expense	153,192.25	36,916.31
Net Other Income (Expense)	10,017.66	(3,756.43)
Net Income (Loss)	\$127,960.02	(\$14,835.09)
Total Current Assets	\$474,708.55	\$392,789.20

*The treasurer's report was set aside subject to audit.

CORRESPONDENCE

- None

DONATION REQUEST

- Crow Wing County National Safety Council – No since outside the scope of the GCOLA mission.

ADVISORY UPDATES

- Cass County – Henry reported the Gull Narrows access will have 400-600 inspection hours over 18+ weekends in 2024 since the Lake Shore Police does not have the staff to do them anymore. The Gull Point access will have the same number of hours in 2024 as 2023. Cass County will be using mats along the perimeter of a starry stonewort infestation on a trial basis.
- Crow Wing County – No report
- DNR – No report
- USACE – No report



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FISHERIES COMMITTEE

- Simons is looking for volunteers at the Brainerd Jaycees Fishing Extravaganza.

LAKE STEWARD COMMITTEE

- No report.

LOON CONSERVANCY COMMITTEE

- No report.

EVENTS UPDATE

- MN COLA Board meeting – Frawley reported that he will be attending the MN DNR Roundtable in 2024.

TO DO LIST

Accountable	Description	Deadline	Status
1. Frawley	Send pictures of the MAISRC 10 th Anniversary event to Lundberg	1-10-24	New
2. Friedrichs	Provide name of swimmer's itch cream. It is called Chigg Away.	1-10-24	New
3. Friedrichs	Request IF send \$21,100 to BLACK GCOLA AIS Fund	1-10-24	New
4. Friedrichs	Transfer \$50K from GCOLA Operating account to AIS Contingency Account.	1-10-24	New
5. Friedrichs	Transfer all but \$50K from AIS Contingency Account to BLACF GCOLA AIS Fund	2-14-24	New
6. Simons	Send Friedrichs information needed to send an email soliciting volunteers for the Brainerd Jaycees Fishing Extravaganza	1-10-24	New
7. Chaney	Review the buoy map and let Friedrichs know the location of new navigational buoys.	11-8-23	Complete
8. Friedrichs	Prepare preliminary Investment Policy to include IF and BLACF fund investment strategies.	10-11-23	Complete
9. Friedrichs	Request a copy of the signed Maddens kiosk agreement from Deb Thuringer	10-11-23	Complete
10. Friedrichs	Purchase the tickets for the MAISRC 10 th Anniversary celebration.	11-22-23	Complete
11. Friedrichs	Prepare summary of how anonymous AIS donation was spent in 2023.	12-13-23	Complete
12. Friedrichs	Contact CPA to determine how to record the IF transfer.	12-13-23	Complete
13. Thoele	Submit reimbursement requests to Cass County for 2024 curly leaf pondweed treatment and public access surveys.	1-10-24	Complete
14. Thoele	Research eligibility for DNR reimbursement for 2024 curly lead pondweed treatment.	12-13-23	Complete

AIS COMMITTEE

- Thoele attended the November 29 Crow Wing County meeting and announced the DNR is working on a program to provide college credit to AIS inspectors, it will prioritize infected lakes for inspections and has discovered that more AIS violations are found on roadside stops instead of at boat landings. Nisswa Lake is now the busiest access in Crow Wind county and will have full



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inspection coverage every Saturday and Sunday. Thoele will request coverage on Fridays which will be paid for by GCOLA.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

- Lundberg reported the newsmagazine has gone to press. She asked all the Committee Chairs to review the Our Priorities at a Glance (infographic) and What We Do newsmagazine pages and let her know about changes. She announced she is looking into using an outside consultant to revamp the website with a more contemporary design and improved forms.
- Anderson reported the top four webpages are Home, Lake Steward Awardees, Annual Gala Photos, and Our Lakes.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

- Eliason asked if anyone was aware of any swimmer's itch problem areas on the Gull Lake Chain and if the problem was getting worse. The consensus was the entrance to Love Lake was bad and there are more problems throughout the Chain than before.

FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE

- Motion by Eliason, seconded by Lundberg to approve the 2024 Budget. Motion carried.
- Motion by Eliason, seconded by Thoele to request withdrawal from Initiative Foundation Gull Chain Preservation Endowment the 2024 Available Spending Amount (\$21.1K) and transfer to BLACF GCOLA AIS Fund. Motion carried.
- Motion by Birznieks, seconded by Eliason to a) transfer \$50K from GCOLA Operating account to AIS Contingency Account and b) transfer all but \$50K from AIS Contingency Account to BLACF GCOLA AIS Fund. Motion carried.

GALA COMMITTEE

- Frawley reported he is looking for a committee chair and intends to start meetings in January.

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

- Motion by Eliason, seconded by Birznieks to approve the 2024 legislative priorities. Motion carried.
 1. Consider legislation (distance from shore, depth, etc.) for watercraft creating enhanced wakes that are a safety issue, cause shoreline erosion and sub-surface ecological damage
 2. Provide sustained funding to Minnesota Aquatic Research Center (MAISRC) for finding solution(s) to eradicate zebra mussels, starry stonewort, and other AIS
 3. Maintain/increase funding level to counties to prevent the spread of new or existing aquatic invasive species (AIS)
 4. Support efforts to limit encroachment by land developers on marginal lakeshore property
 5. Increase boater AIS compliance with fines for violations that are in parity with Minnesota game and fish fines with authority to impound
- The committee will add dark sky to the list of possible priorities for 2025.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

- Friedrichs reported there are 1062 paid members with 98 new members as of 11-30-23.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

- No report



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RECREATION & SAFETY COMMITTEE

- Chaney is buying the buoys for 2024.

ADJOURN

Motion by Eliason, seconded by Birznieks to adjourn meeting. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 10:19 a.m. Minutes recorded by Sue Friedrichs.