



BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

September 11, 2024 – Zoom & Grand View Lodge

ATTENDANCE

Board Member	Attendance	Advisory Member	Attendance
Uldis Birznieks	Present	Dave Anderson	Present
Jay Chaney	Present	Camden Droppo	Present
Robert Eliason	Present	Kevin Egan	Absent
Steve Frawley	Present	Steve Henry	Present
Sue Friedrichs	Present	Sheila Johnston	Absent
Kathy Lundberg	Present	Mike Knapp	Absent
Tim Thoele	Present	Dan Simons	Absent
Jim Woll	Present	Amy Stoneking	Absent
		Brian Turner	Absent
		Dorothy Whitmer	Absent

GUESTS

Matt Seymour, Ann Swenson

CALL TO ORDER

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

ADVISORY UPDATES

Cass County – Henry reported:

- Less activity at accesses in 2024 compared to 2023 with Gull Lake ramps among the top five busiest in the County.

Crow Wing County – No report

DNR – Camden Droppo introduced himself as the AIS specialist for the Gull Lake Chain and reported:

- Cullen Lake Chain
 - Diver surveys have been completed with no starry stonewort located in Lower Cullen.
 - Boaters are asked not to anchor where starry is located
 - The number of inspections have been increased and a decon unit will be located there.
 - There is too much starry for hand pulling so exploring other options.
 - GCOLA asked if DNR could place buoys around the area indicating no boat traffic or anchoring.
- Whitefish Lake Chain
 - The city access is closing.
 - Other plans are to be determined.
- Gull Lake Chain
 - Recommend coordinating volunteers to throw a rake at every boat access monthly to look for starry.

USACE – No report

FUNDRAISING

Ann Swenson hosted a discussion about fundraising since there is Gala volunteer burnout for the silent auction and the raffle ticket sales. Options include:

- Increase dues \$27/member to offset Gala. Need to tell members why we are doing this since it is a sizeable increase.
- Keep social but drop silent auction. Consider:
 - Host live auction
 - Sell raffle tickets at a lower price



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- Have a door prize
- Increase dinner ticket price so that make money instead of breakeven
- Ask people to make donations e.g., envelopes at the table
- Free speaker to keep costs down
- Continue asking for cash sponsors
- Alternative location e.g., Gull Lake Sailing School
- Explore business pricing and tiers for individuals e.g., platinum, gold, silver

MINUTES APPROVAL

Motion by Birznieks, seconded by Lundberg to approve the July 10, 2024, Board meeting minutes. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

GCOLA*	YTD 7-31-24
Total Income (Loss)	\$196,334.47
Total Expense	\$75,898.77
Net Other Income (Expense)	\$24,053.04
Net Income (Loss)	\$144,488.74
Total Current Assets	\$600,282.51
GULL CHAIN PRESERVATION ENDOWMENT FUND	YTD 6-30-24
Operating Revenue	\$22,549.70
Expenditures (including grants to GCOLA)	72,923.27
Change in net Assets	(50,348.57)
Net Assets	\$389,740.20

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

CORRESPONDENCE & DONATION REQUESTS

- Brainerd Sports Booster – no donation since not aligned with mission
- Nisswa Fire & Rescue – no donation since not aligned with mission

EVENTS UPDATE

MN COLA – Frawley reported:

- Meeting topics included the rise of vacation home rentals around the lake, the impact of septic systems on water quality, and that upcoming elections may make a difference on the 2025 legislative session.

ACCL – No report

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Loon Conservancy Committee - Johnston reported:

- On 9-17-24 Johnston will be interviewed by the NPR affiliate KAXE about loon rescue activities.
- Juvenile loon survey was completed on 8-30-24.
- Johnston presented Best Practices for Loon Artificial Loon Platforms at the August ACCL meeting.
- On 9-15-24 there will be Loon Rescue Training on Bass Lake in Merrifield for 32 people.

Nominating Committee

- Frawley reviewed Woll's credentials and recommended Woll for a Board position. Motion by Birznieks, seconded by Eliason to elect Jim Woll to the Board of Directors. Motion carried.

Safety & Recreation Committee – Chaney reported:



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- Buoy removal will begin mid-October.
- Life jackets have been ordered for 2025 classes.

Executive Committee

- Motion by Eliason, seconded by Birznieks to approve the 8-21-24 Annual Meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Communications Committee – Lundberg reported:

- Fall newsmagazine is at the printer and will be mailed soon.
- New website project has kicked off.

AIS Committee - Thoele reported:

- I-LIDS will be installed this fall.

Environmental Committee – Eliason reported:

- AW Research is analyzing the results of the water samples supplied in August.
- This is the last year of the survey and Eliason will prepare a report.
- Reviewed the Executive Summary of the Crow Wing River Watershed Plan.

Finance & Audit Committee - Birznieks reported:

- Finance Committee will meet to make a donations recommendation at the October Board meeting.

Government Relations Committee – No report

Lake Steward Committee – Frawley reported:

- Driessen has resigned as co-chair of the Lake Steward Committee.

Fisheries Committee – No report

Gala – Friedrichs reports:

- Estimated net profit of \$28K after printing expenses.

Membership Committee - Friedrichs reported:

- As of 8-31-24 there are 1033 paid members and 23 new members.

TO DO LIST

Accountable	Description	Deadline	Status
1. All Directors & Committee Chairs	Send input on the Crow Wing River Watershed Plan to Eliason who will respond on behalf of GCOLA	9-22-27	New
2. All Committee Chairs	Contact Birznieks if want change to donation requests initially submitted during the budgeting process	9-27-24	New
3. Chaney	Contact Pelican and WAPOA lake associations for annual dues information	10-09-24	New
4. Frawley	Send Sue a picture of Jim Woll for website & newsmagazine	10-19-24	New
5. Frawley	Contact Driessen to discuss continued involvement in GCOLA	10-09-24	New
6. Friedrichs	Apply for sales tax exemption.	12-11-24	Open
7. Friedrichs	Contact ACCL for lake association dues information	10-09-24	New
8. Friedrichs	Work with Jennie Ward on proposal to sell GCOLA flags as a fundraising option	12-11-24	New
9. Lundberg	Send Gala survey	10-09-24	New
10. Lundberg	Send starry stonewort in Whitefish Lake Chain email	10-09-24	New
11. Lundberg	Notify MAISRC on who will be attending event	10-09-24	New
12. Whitmer	Update Board on action plan if someone purchases a Lake Steward property and makes changes making the property ineligible	10-09-24	New



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CALENDAR REVIEW

- Oct – Dec Board meetings will be held at Grand View and Zoom
- Jan, Feb, and Apr Board meetings will be by Zoom only
- No meeting in March.

ADJOURN

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

The meeting adjourned. Minutes recorded by Sue Friedrichs.