



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING**

October 13, 2021 – Grand View Lodge

**Present:** Uldis Birznieks, Jay Chaney, Steve Frawley, Sue Friedrichs, Linda Harrier, Jon Mendel, Joel Meyer, Todd Amerman

**Absent:** Claudia Allene, Robert Eliason, Rick Quackenbush

**Guests:** Dave Anderson, Dana Gutzman, Don Hickman, Steve Katka, Kathy Lundberg, Heather Mullane, Brian Turner

The meeting called to order by Chair Harrier at 8:31 a.m.

Motion by Frawley and second by Birznieks to approve the September 8, 2021, Board meeting minutes. Motion approved.

**Treasurer's Report**

Organization	GCOLA*	Gull Chain Preservation Endowment Fund
<b>YTD Time Period</b>	<b>9-30-21</b>	<b>8-31-21</b>
Total Income (Loss)	\$146,126.51	\$56,407.79
Total Expense	\$76,782.13	\$285.89
Net Other Income (Expense)	\$1,002.63	(\$3,688.57)
Net Income (Loss)	\$70,349.01	\$52,433.33
Total Current Assets	\$316,932.43	\$451,369.35

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

Friedrichs reviewed the projected Gala net income of \$23,940. Results are subject to change based on final Lakes Printing expenses and receipt of a refund from Give Smart. The net results for the silent auction are \$12,018 and the raffle \$10,018.

**Correspondence**

- Cass County Ressemann and Winegarner variance hearing – no Board action needed
- Crow Wing County Dondelinger variance approval – no Board action needed
- Going forward Friedrichs will send the variance notifications to Eliason, who is the Environmental Committee Chair. He will bring it to the board meeting if any board action needed.

**Donation Request**

- None

## **Follow Up Items Prior Agenda**

- Beginning with this meeting, the minutes will list 'to-do' items assigned to Board members, committee chairs, and committee members. Harrier will request an update at the next board meeting.

## **Government Agency Update**

- Cass County – Gutzman reported that the starry stonewort Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH) was completed at Leech Lake. MAISRC will establish control plots to research how to prevent any further spread.
- USACE – Turner announced the boat ramp is still closed but will notify GCOLA when it's open again. The lake level is now ½" above the minimum due to the recent rains so a small draw down will begin to prevent ice damage to property next winter.

## **Initiative Foundation (IF)**

- Don Hickman explained that GCOLA can only use money in the Endowment Fund under the following circumstances:
  - Each year the IF calculates a required distribution (like an RMD for an IRA). The GCOLA Board can elect to use the funds or reinvest back into the Endowment Fund.
  - The GCOLA Board can approve a distribution above the annual minimum under special circumstances e.g., major AIS infestation.
- Since the inception of the Endowment Fund the annual distribution has been reinvested.

## **Environmental Committee Re-Structure**

Motion by Birznies and second by Frawley to re-structure the Environmental Committee into three separate committees and committee chairs to enable more a focused effort on behalf of each committee.

- Loon Restoration: Chair Sheila Johnston and committee will be responsible for the loon survey, loon safe boating & fishing education, liaison with the MN DNR loon programs, loon nesting area protection and all other items loon related.
- Name To Be Determined: Chair Dorothy Whitmer and committee will be responsible for the shoreline restoration/habitat program, Lake Steward program and the tree giveaway event.
- Environmental Committee: Chair Robert Eliason and committee will be responsible for the citizen lake monitoring program, end-of-dock program, light pollution, and land development as it relates to water quality.

Motion approved.

## **Event Update**

- MN COLA – Meeting included a presentation by Steve McCormas, The Lake Detective, who stated the amount of Eurasian milfoil exploded this year and he expects the same will happen to curly leaf pondweed next year. Joe Schneider, President, reviewed the MN DNR AIS goals which were established 30 years ago. They are 1) prevent introduction of AIS, 2) prevent spread of AIS, and 3) reduce the economic impact of AIS. The MN DNR is only reporting AIS results/trends and there's no strategy to address the goals. MN COLA intends to demand more of the MN DNR in achieving their AIS goals going forward.

## **AIS Committee**

- No report.

## **Communications Committee**

- Lundberg reported that Mullane will create a process to vet volunteers using Google Docs. The list of volunteers provided by Friedrichs will be used and each person will receive an email with questions to better understand their time commitment, skills, etc. The questions will be limited to the committee(s) they're interested in.
- Motion by Birznieks and second by Harrier to add non-board member committee chairs to the advisory committee including Matt Etzell, Sheila Johnston, Kathy Lundberg, and Dorothy Whitmer. Motion approved.

## **Environmental Committee**

- No report

## **Finance & Audit Committee**

- Birznieks noted the internal audit for 2019 and 2020 will be completed by Tim Bergin, Birznieks, Rosemary Goff, and Harrier on October 27. The Finance committee will meet the week of November 15 to review committee budget requests and finalize the 2022 budget recommendation for December 8 Board meeting.

## **Fisheries Committee**

- Harrier announced Matt Etzell will be the committee chair and will be introduced at the next Board meeting.

## **Gala Committee**

- Harrier provided an update on the Gala committee debrief meeting. She has two people who are considering co-chairing the event next year.

## **Government Relations Committee**

- Frawley announced there are two new members of the Government Relations committee including Tim Thoele and Lorraine Birskovich.

## **Membership Committee**

- No report.

## **Recreation and Safety**

- Chaney stated the buoys have started going out, beginning with the northern lakes.

## **To Do List**

- Birznieks
  - Clarify where the prior annual Endowment Fund distributions were invested e.g., separate account.
  - Recommend a process that the Board will follow to decide if the annual Endowment Fund distribution or annual operating funds will be used to fund a committee project.
  - Collect Endowment Fund investment policy from IF.
  - Request DNR AIS graphs from Joe Schneider.
- Chaney
  - Contact Eric Sullivan (MN DNR) and Travis Collette (Cass County) to attend a future board meeting to discuss law enforcement issues on the lake.

- Committee Chairs
  - Determine what funding they need to support their committee's projects in 2022. The budget dollar amounts, by line item, are due to Birznieks and Friedrichs by 10-30-21.
  - Send newsmagazine articles to Lundberg by 11-1-21.
  - Update committee information in the following documents and send to Lundberg by 11-10-21
    - Infographic which is included in the annual membership mailing
    - 'Who We Are' section which appears in the quarterly newsmagazine
    - About Us>Committees webpage in gcola.org.
  - Provide a list of questions to Lundberg by 11-15-21 that you want to ask potential volunteers to vet their qualifications for your committee.
  - If you are not able to attend a Board meeting, please notify Friedrichs of your designee who will provide your committee update.
- Frawley
  - Request Government Relations meeting with Sarah Strommen, MNDNR, or designee.
- Friedrichs
  - Send annual Endowment Fund donation request mailing.
  - Send prior Gala survey questions to Harrier and Frawley.
- Harrier
  - Contact WAPOA to see how they fund their buoy installations.
- Lundberg
  - Add the free AIS detector course to the newsletter and website.
  - Send USACE ramp completion email and add to the next issue of the newsmagazine.
  - Announce all the committee chairs in the next newsmagazine.
- Quackenbush
  - Make a recommendation to the Board about sponsoring a local AIS detector class.
  - Make a recommendation to the Board regarding incentive to any GCOLA member who attends an AIS detector class e.g., gift card.
  - Present the 2021 AIS inspection report at the 11-10-21 Board meeting.
- Turner
  - Send after pictures of the ramp to Lundberg for the ramp completion communication.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Birznieks and second by Frawley. Motion approved.

The meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m. Minutes recorded by Sue Friedrichs.