



BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
November 10, 2021 – Grand View Lodge

ATTENDANCE

Board Member	Present/Absent	Advisory Board	Present/Absent
Claudia Allene	Present	Dave Anderson	Present
Uldis Birznieks	Present	Marc Bacigalupi	Present
Jay Chaney	Present	Kevin Egan	Absent
Robert Eliason	Present	Matt Ezzell	Present
Steve Frawley	Present	Sheila Johnston	Present
Sue Friedrichs	Present	Kathy Lundberg	Present
Linda Harrier	Present	Tim Plude	Absent
Jon Mendel	Present	Brian Turner	Absent
Joel Meyer	Present	Dorothy Whitmer	Present
Rick Quackenbush	Present		

GUESTS

Dana Gutzman, Steve Katka, Heather Mullane, Nicole Erickson, Chuck Herrig, Jeff Woodford

CALL TO ORDER

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

MINUTES APPROVAL

Motion by Birznieks and second by Eliason to approve the October 13, 2021, Board meeting minutes.
 Motion approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

ORGANIZATION	GCOLA*	Gull Chain Preservation Endowment Fund
YTD Time Period	10-31-21	9-30-21
Total Income (Loss)	\$151,848.51	\$42,291.33
Total Expense	87,024.56	42,005.44
Net Other Income (Expense)	1,039.97	(3,688.57)
Net Income (Loss)	\$65,917.92	\$38,316.87
Total Current Assets	\$313,301.25	\$437,252.89

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

Birznieks reviewed the Profit and Loss statement and the Balance Sheet. Linda Harrier reported that she performed a review of the checking account versus the Transaction Report (monthly) and found no discrepancies.



CORRESPONDENCE

- None

DONATION REQUEST

- 28th Annual Radiothon to End Child Abuse – rejected, not pertinent to GCOLA mission

TO-DO LIST

- See attachment for status on the “To Do” List.

GOVERNMENT AGENCY UPDATE

- Cass County – Gutzman reported that the Cass County AIS program report for 2021 will be available in January 2022
- Crow Wing County – Erickson reported the 2022 Crow Wing County AIS plan is being developed and will be available for review in December. Crow Wing County Board action on the plan will be in February 2022. She said the DNR is considering AIS inspection at the Nisswa Lake access in 2022.
- DNR Fisheries – Bacigalupi reported that the 2021 summer survey and the fall electroshocking survey have been completed and will provide the results when available. The Fisheries Round Table is currently being planned. He said that 2,000 lbs. of walleye fingerlings were produced in this area in 2021. He said 2022 will be a critical year for walleye and if there are not sufficient fry in the Gull Lake survey, they will do fingerling stocking in the future. He said 2,000 muskie fingerlings (11” long) were stocked in the Gull Chain in 2021 (had been scheduled for 2020). When questioned if the low count on walleye and the need for stocking of walleye fingerlings might be related to the increased presence of muskies due to the stockings since 2016, Marc said no, it is not related.

CHAIR UPDATE

- Harrier reported that Todd Amerman has resigned from the GCOLA Board due to health issues and is no longer residing on the Gull Chain.
- Harrier reported that the names of the three environmentally related committees are the following:
 - Loon Preservation - Chair Sheila Johnston. 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.
 - Lake Steward - Chair Dorothy Whitmer. Committee will be responsible for the shoreland habitat program, Lake Steward program and the tree giveaway event.



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- Environmental Committee: Chair Robert Eliason. 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.
- Harrier asked Matt Ezzell, the new GCOLA Fisheries Committee Chair, to give a description of his background. Matt was recommended for this position by Marc Bacigalupi (DNR) and Chuck Herrig (past Fisheries Committee Chair). Matt said he has fished on the Gull Chain for 40 years and their family has a home along Green Gables. He said his goals for the Committee were to get increased fishing participation and work with the DNR on getting results for better fishing experiences on the Gull Chain. Matt is a lawyer by trade and lives in the Twin Cities.

COMMUNICATIONS REVIEW GUIDELINES

- Birznieks provided the review guidelines to be used for GCOLA communications.
 - The Communications Committee has approval authority for informational publications or articles, the GCOLA newsletter and the website.
 - Depending on timing, the GCOLA Board or the GCOLA Executive Committee have approval authority for letters to the editor, opinion articles, interviews for articles or newspaper articles that are more than just informational in content. This includes correspondence where GCOLA is either providing support or non-support for an issue.
 - If the issue/letter can be reviewed in time for a GCOLA Board meeting, the GCOLA Board has the approval authority
 - If the issue/letter can't wait for a Board meeting from a timing/effectiveness standpoint, the Executive Committee has the approval authority

AIS COMMITTEE

- Quackenbush presented the PLM Access survey results which were included in the Board packet

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

- Lundberg reported that the articles for the Winter edition of the GCOLA magazine have been received with a projected mailing date of December 15.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

- Eliason reported he is working on the End-of-Dock report for 2021. He had 50% increase in volunteers for 2021. He indicated he would like to have a few more volunteers on Roy Lake.

FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE

- Birznieks noted the Finance Committee will meet on November 20 to review the 2022 budget inputs and come forward with a recommendation for the 2022 GCOLA Budget at the December 8 GCOLA Board meeting,



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- Birznieks reviewed the 2019 and 2020 GCOLA internal audit results which were included in the GCOLA Board packet. Tim Bergin, a certified CPA led the internal audit with assistance from the GCOLA Finance Committee. Based on the rigorous procedures that were identified in the report, no discrepancies were found, and he wrote that the financial statements of GCOLA are accurate. The audit team did not find any issues that need to be resolved.
- A draft restricted donation funds (Endowment Fund) usage process has been generated and is being reviewed by Friedrichs and Harrier. The proposed process will be presented to the Board at the December meeting.

FISHERIES COMMITTEE

- Chuck Herrig reported that the Walleye Dan Fishing to End Hunger Tournament was held in early October on the Gull Chain with a \$15K first prize. Of the 120 boats entered in the tournament, only 66 caught walleyes. Thus, results were not very good.

LAKE STEWARD COMMITTEE

- No report

LOON PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

- Sheila Johnston reported that she is researching the process to see if some loon caution buoys can be placed in critical areas of the north end of the Gull Chain.

GALA COMMITTEE

- Harrier indicated that she is still working on a candidate to chair the 2022 Gala.

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

- Frawley reported that the Government Relations Committee drafted and received approval from the GCOLA Executive Committee for providing a response to an opinion article on enhanced wakes produced by wake boats that was in the Brainerd Dispatch on October 27. The GCOLA response was in the November 6 edition of the newspaper.
- Frawley shared a letter request from Minnesota Lakes and Rivers (MLR) seeking lake association support for a proposed Watercraft Operator's Safety Certificate. The letter is being sent to the DNR Commissioner and the Governor recommending that the creation of the certificate be included in the 2022 DNR Agency language to be considered by the MN Legislature. After significant discussion regarding the proposed operator's certificate, the Board deferred recommendation on support of the letter to get clarification on details for the proposed program.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

- Allene reported that we have 1068 paid members through the end of October, which is over 100 more than we have had in 2019 and 2020. Of this total, 194 are new members.



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RECREATION AND SAFETY

Chaney reported that he will be purchasing additional replacement buoys in 2021 for approximately \$8,500.

ADJOURN

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

The meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m. Minutes recorded by Uldis Birznieks.



TO-DO LIST

ACCOUNTABLE	DESCRIPTION	DEADLINE	STATUS
Birznieks	Clarify where the prior annual Endowment Fund distributions were invested e.g., separate account		Completed
Birznieks	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.	12-8-21	Open - Draft has been generated, in review with Harrier and Friedrichs. Present at dec. 8 board meeting
Birznieks	Collect Endowment Fund investment policy from IF.		Completed
Birznieks	Request DNR AIS graphs from Joe Schneider.		Completed
Birznieks	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	12-8-21	Open
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.		Open
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	10-31-21	Completed
Committee Chairs	Send newsmagazine articles to Lundberg.	11-1-21	Completed
Committee Chairs	If you are not able to attend a Board meeting, please notify Friedrichs of your designee who will provide your committee update.-		Completed
Committee Chairs	Update committee information in the following documents and send to Lundberg <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	11-20-21	Open
Committee Chairs	Provide a list of questions to Lundberg that you want to ask potential volunteers to vet their qualifications for your committee.-	11-15-21	Open
Committee Chairs	Review list of committee members and send changes to Harrier and Friedrichs	12-8-21	New



TO-DO LIST

Frawley	Request Government Relations meeting with Sarah Strommen, MNDNR, or designee.-		Closed - Commissioner will not meet with individual lake associations
Frawley	Get clarification on details of the Watercraft Operator's Safety Certificate from MLR and present the Government Relations Committee recommendation at Board meeting.	12-8-21	New
Friedrichs	Send prior Gala survey questions to Harrier and Frawley.		Completed
Friedrichs	Send annual Endowment Fund donation request mailing	11-30-21	Open - Mailing is in process with Lakes Printing
Harrier	Contact WAPOA to see how they fund their buoy installations.		Completed
Johnston	Check to see if there are any regulations for boats keeping a certain distance from loon nests	12-8-21	New
Lundberg	Add the free AIS detector course to the newsletter and website.		Completed
Lundberg	Send USACE ramp completion email and add to the next issue of the newsmagazine.		Completed
Lundberg	Announce all the committee chairs in the next newsmagazine.		Completed
Quackenbush	Make a recommendation to the Board about sponsoring a local AIS detector class		Open
Quackenbush	Make a recommendation to the Board regarding incentive to any GCOLA member who attends an AIS detector class e.g., gift card.		Open
Quackenbush	Present the 2021 AIS inspection report at Board meeting.	11-10-21	Completed
Quackenbush	Apply for DNR AIS grants to treat curly leaf pondweed for Margaret and Love lakes		New
Turner	Send after pictures of the ramp to Lundberg for the ramp completion communication.		Completed