

## ISCCW Board Meeting Minutes

APPROVED – February 18, 2014

Immaculate Conception Church Hall, Watersmeet

Board Members Present: Ken Wendt, Steve Wilkinson, Will Buergey, Dan Straszewski, Joe LoMastro, David Sherrill, Jeff Pytlarz, Bob Turnquist, Margaret Marrs, and Jim Floriano.

Guests Present: Diana Mehlhop (ISCCW Membership Committee), Ian Shackleford (US Forest Service), Barbara Gajewski (Many Waters), Mike Rogers (Watersmeet Township Supervisor), Christine Scott (ISCCW Education Coordinator), Carol Mason-Sherrill (Long Lake), Mike Golas and Sara Bosso (Iron Cty).

Ken Wendt thanked Fr. George Maki for allowing us to use the church hall due to the water problems at the USFS District Offices.

The meeting was called to order at 9:06 AM by ISCCW President, Ken Wendt

Quorum was verified by Mr. Ken Wendt

1. President's Report: Ken addressed the issue raised last month concerning the storage and availability of ISCCW records by referencing data taken from the internet via a Michigan legal opinion website. The crux of the data was that we, as a private 501(c)3 and:
  - not created by a state or local authority, and
  - not primarily funded (50% or more) by or through a state or local authority (i.e. millage assessment), and
  - not formed under a specific state or local law or ordinance that specifies compliance with FOIA or not having specified in its creating documents that it will be subject to FOIA
  - are, therefore, not subject to either a federal or state FOIA law.
2. Vice-President's report: Will Buergey had no report.
3. Treasurer's report: Steve Wilkinson reported a starting January 14, 2014 bank balance of \$69,947.30; Deposits of \$1,350.46; membership contributions were \$1,050.00 and liability insurance reimbursement (due to carrier change) were \$300.49. Disbursements were \$2,062.10; 2013 contract services were \$153.60, bookmarks were \$248.50, and fish rulers were \$1,660.00. This left a new bank balance as of February 17, 2014 of \$69,235.66.
4. Finance Committee Report: Ken Wendt reported that the Township has placed \$15,000 in the 2014 budget for the ISCCW Township AIS Services Contract.  
  
Ian Shackleford reported that there may be \$41,481 in GLRI funds available in 2015, and again in 2016, for education/outreach AIS activities. This could include expenses for education, boat washing, contract biologist, office equipment and supplies, and some of the professional services; it would not include fund raising, travel, lodging, meals, memberships, or eradication. These funds would require a 30 percent match from other sources and regular reports to the USDA.

5. Membership Committee Report: Diana Mehlhop reported we have 372 paid members through 2014. Donations from members paid through 2014 total \$35,185.00. We still have about 108 current 2013 members who we hope will renew. Snail mail reminders will go out in March.
6. Education/PR Committee Report: Jeff Pytlarz reported on several on-going activities.
  - a. Book Marks and Fish Tapes are again in stock.
  - b. Final quote from SCA was for \$8,000, which is about \$8.05/hr, and will be for twelve weeks covering June, July, and August.
  - c. We are still looking for boat washers and expect to fill the positions by end of March.
  - d. A sample letter and placard detailing the pitfalls of AIS and ISCCW's efforts towards abatement was circulated amongst the board members. The letter will be included in several outreach programs: (1) "door hanger" initiative, (2) informational packets handed out as a component of the check-in process at area resorts, motels, and rental properties, and (3) in the form of a flyer put into a weather proof real estate box, mounted at boat landings, that includes a map showing where AIS has been found and tips on how to prevent further spreading of it. The placard will be laminated and placed in area motel rooms, resort cabins, and rental properties.
7. Biologist Reports: Barb Gajewski reported that she is working to get the contracts finished for the upcoming year.
8. Approval of Reports and Minutes:
  - a. Ken called for a motion to approve Officer/Committee Reports. Motion made by David Sherrill, second by Steve Wilkinson. Motion carried.
  - b. Ken called for a motion to approve the January 21, 2014 minutes as distributed. Motion to approve David Sherrill, second by Joe LoMastro. Motion carried.
9. Public Comments:
  - a. USFS: Ian Shackleford thanked Ken Wendt for attending the WePIC meeting in Iron River on February 10th. Jennifer Ricker is the new coordinator for WePIC. While she is most familiar with Iron County, she will be making an effort to expand her knowledge of and activities into Ontonagon and Gogebic Counties. Jen Ricker is also the AIS Coordinator for Iron County, and runs their boater education and boat washing program.

The USFS Regional Office in Milwaukee has received 2014 Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding, and is soliciting projects from the National Forests. The Ottawa NF will request continued funding for WePIC, which could include mini-grants for invasive plant treatments (terrestrial or aquatic). The USFS will also request GLRI funds to continue the AIS prevention work by ISCCW, Iron County Conservation District, and Bergland Township.

Ian reminded us that, under our agreement to use their two boat washers, we are committed to sending a boat washer to a site out of Watersmeet Township about once every three weeks. Like in 2013, Ian will work with ISCCW on locations and dates.

Ian stated that the USFS is looking for recruits for seasonal employment. Ian will again oversee an invasive plant crew that will work across the Ottawa National Forest. .

Ian informed us that MDEQ is giving more attention to water discharge from the boat washers. Our current permit (GWO1110557) expires in one year. It is possible we may no longer be allowed to discharge water on the ground near boat launches in 2015. In that case we would need to use drive-on mats along with and water capture and filtration systems.

Ian concluded his report with the information that Sylvania entrance roads will be rebuilt this summer, which will severely public reduce access to Clark Lake, Crooked Lake, and Sylvania Campground. Watersmeet Township Supervisor Mike Rogers pointed out that CR 535 is also having some culverts replaced, further making access in the area difficult this summer. A question arose as to this access: Should signage be posted on Crooked Lake where a small sliver of USFS land on Crooked Lake Road is sometimes used as an ad hoc access point? Ian said he would follow up on this subject.

- c. MDNR: No Report
- d. CCROA: No report
- e. OTHERS: No Report

10. Agenda Changes/Approval of Agenda: Motion to Approve the Agenda as presented made by Will Buergey, second by Steve Wilkinson. Motion carried.

#### 11. Old Business

- a. LVD Stakeholders Meeting Update: Barb Gajewski reported that the grant funding plan was submitted on a 50/50% basis in order to gain maximum point allocations with their application in hopes of a positive acceptance. LVDLA stakeholders will hold a secondary meeting to discuss alternate funding in the event that their proposed funding is not approved by the WDNR. If this happens the extent of the need will be contingent on whether or not 2% money will be available for their effort. Ken Wendt read an email from Rob Anderson saying that they once again received CBCW grant for an educator at Thunder Bay. He asked would the ISCCW do this as they did in 2013? After discussion reiterating the problems with having to report employees to Michigan and Wisconsin, a motion to decline this request was made by Joe LoMastro, with second by Steve Wilkinson. Motion carried. Ken said he would inform Rob Anderson and discuss alternatives that they might consider. Ken mentioned again that LVD is a very important lake to our efforts, saying that some may consider it key in the effort to prevent the spread of AIS.
- b. Bass Lake Update: The MDEQ has the permit application proposing to treat Bass Lake in 2014 with fluridone and also the required LMP. The MDNR TES permit for the takings of *M. farwellii* plan was accepted and approved by the MDNR. As part of the permitting requirements, if *M. farwellii* is not present in Bass Lake after three years, a restoration plan to reintroduce *M. farwellii* must be implemented.

- c. Volunteer Youth Corps: Ken Wendt and Barb Gajewski report that nine people attended an informational meeting hosted by Roger Labine, including representatives from the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), ISCCW, Conserve School, Many Waters, and the Tribe. Topics included the prevention and monitoring of aquatic and terrestrial invasive species; evaluation, restoration, and monitoring of wild rice; LVD fish hatchery and Sugar Bush; gardening; monitoring surface and ground waters; habitat restoration; and, global warming. Discussion followed as to the nature and makeup of this club. The scope has grown and may have become too ambitious. There was overall agreement that more discussion is needed but the general consensus was that the program should be community wide and be a volunteer effort. Ian Shackelford noted that the USFS has a Youth Conservation Corp program every summer, and this summer it will be based in Watersmeet.

## 12. New Business

- a. Michigan Island Lakes Convention, May 1-2-3, Boyne Falls, MI: ISCCW was offered a free table for exhibition of our organization at the event. This will give us more state wide exposure. Ken has made a reservation for himself and Dave Sherrill has made a reservation for himself and his wife. After a brief discussion a motion to send these three people to the event at an approximate cost of \$1,381.08 (Lodging and Food) plus cost of fuel was made by Margaret Marrs, with support by Steve Wilkinson. Motion carried.
- b. ISCCW Website: Diana Mehlhop reported that the annual lake survey information is not current and needs to be updated. Diana will work with Barb Gajewski to update.

13. Meeting Adjourned at 10:19. Motion to adjourn made by Ken Wendt, with second by Joe LoMastro. Motion carried.

Note: Mark Calendars for next meeting March 18, 2014 at USFS Conference Room

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Daniel Straszewski, Secretary