

**ISLAND CHAIN OF LAKES ASSOCIATION, INC**  
**MEETING MINUTES June 11, 2022**  
**BACKWOODS**

**INTRODUCTION**

- I. Call to order – President Karl Nordin called the meeting to order at 9:59 a.m. and opened with the pledge of allegiance.
- II. Karl asked for new members to identify themselves. Dave and Lori Bushendorf from Chain Lake were welcomed to the ICOLA.
- III. Karl advised that the secretary’s report had been emailed to everyone and asked the members if there were any discrepancies found. No one identified any discrepancies and Jeff Pippenger motioned to approve the report and Tom Frank seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.
- IV. Treasurer John Kowalewski advised that the current ICOLA membership is 234, with 217 members and 17 associate members. He said the ICOLA has a new fund, the Shoreline Restoration Fund, thanks to a donation made by Joseph Stienessen on behalf of the Presto Foundation. He gave the treasurer’s report as follows:
  - a. Unrestricted funds total – \$22,412.90
  - b. Walleye account - \$19,454.99
  - c. Land acquisition - \$15,344.33
  - d. Shoreline Restoration - \$15,000.00
- V. The committee reports were as follows:
  - a. Walleye committee – Rod Steege advised that the committee has concluded the shoreline survey on all four lakes and the results were sent to the DNR.

- b.** Invasive species committee – Tom Frank advised that the beetle production is going very good. Ten plants were planted with eight of them growing. Tom anticipates mid-July as the release time for the beetles as they should know by then where the most productive locations to release the beetles will be.
- VI. Karl advised that the board had discussed the Clear Lake boat landing concerns brought up at May’s meeting. At the board meeting it was noted that the landing ramp is tilted due to erosion at the end of the ramp, presumably caused by boaters “power loading/unloading” their boats at the landing. The County Forestry Dept was notified of the issue.
- VII. Karl advised that the board had discussed the sunken boat lift in McCann Lake and the DNR Hotline will be notified as the ICOLA lacks the jurisdiction or authority to remove private property.
- VIII. Karl reminded everyone that elections will be held at August’s meeting for the offices of President, Secretary, and Island and Clear Lake Reps. He encouraged anyone interested in any of the positions to contact him as he believes new people bring new ideas.
- IX. Karl reminded everyone that the firework displays will be Saturday, July 2, 2022 at Shep’s Northshore Resort and Monday, July 4, 2022 on Chain Lake. He also advised that at May’s meeting it was approved to increase donations to Shep’s to \$1050 and the Bonacordas to \$1000. A member questioned why Shep’s got the \$50 for the permit fee while the Bonacordas did not and it was advised that the Chain Lake display is in Chippewa Co which does not require a permit. Alec read a letter from the Bonacordas to the members regarding their appreciation of the ICOLA member support and safety requirements for the displays.
- X. Reminders on the safety near the launch locations – Alec read this in the above item.
- XI. Karl asked about other old business and no old business was brought up.
- XII. Karl reminded everyone that the ICOLA board is always looking for projects to support and if anyone has any ideas for a project or projects, to please contact him.
- XIII. NEW BUSINESS
- XIV. Karl advised that Joseph Stienessen, representing the Presto Foundation, donated \$15,000 to the ICOLA for the purpose of shoreline restoration. A committee consisting of Karl, John and Carol Hakala met to discuss the criteria for disbursement of the funds to members. They looked at the DNR and Rusk County criteria as well as Joe’s request that disbursement is easy, to assist in developing ICOLA criteria. Karl advised that anyone interested in being on this committee should contact him and that being on the committee does not disqualify a member from receiving shoreline funds.
- XV. Karl thanked Jeff and Jeanine Rossow for taking over the organizing responsibilities for the brat feed.
- XVI. John inquired at the board meeting about the ICOLA participating in the “Adopt a Highway” program. John had contacted the DOT and learned that there were two, two mile sections of Hwy 40 available. Karl inquired about persons interested in participating in the program and a decision to commit to participating was postponed until the number of persons interested in participating was determined.
- XVII. Karl reminded everyone that July’s meeting will be on July 9, 2022, at 11 AM as it will be the brat feed at Sunny’s.
- XVIII. Karl asked about other new business.
- a. John reminded everyone that the 2022 Northwest WI Lakes Conference is on June 17, 2022, from 9 AM to 3:45 PM at Spooner High School. Registration closes on June 12, 2022. John said that he will be attending the conference and anyone interested in attending should contact him.

- b. LaNette Flunker, who had brought up concerns about vacation rentals (VRBOs) in the area, advised she had done some research and learned that all 72 of WI counties have regulations regarding VRBOs. Rusk Co currently has 19 permitted VRBOs and six in the permitting process. Notices are submitted to neighbors of properties in the permitting process and she thought the notices were sent to properties within 500' of the requesting property. She said that any county resident can attend the public hearing for the permit by physically going to the courthouse or by phone or teleconference. She said that property owners are responsible for "keeping the peace." Linda Carpenter brought up a concern for septic systems not being able to handle the number of renters at some VRBOs. Tom Meisner, the Big Bend Town Chairman, advised that the town currently can only put a room tax on VRBOs; however that tax MUST be used for tourism advertising and cannot be used for road improvements. Karl reminded everyone that the ICOLA has no jurisdiction regarding VRBOs.

GUEST SPEAKER: Lia Landowski (Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator at Beaver Creek Reserve)  
Lia was introduced after Karl had called the meeting to order and she did her presentation at that time. Lia advised that aquatic invasive species (AIS) grants used to be dispersed under the Aquatic Education Prevention and Planning (AEPP) program and were competitive grants in which counties competed for the funds. The AEPP program has since been replaced with the Lake Monitoring and Protection Network (LMPN) program which has non-competitive grants in which all 72 WI counties now receive funds. She said the services the LMPN program provides are:

1. Lake Volunteers:
  - a. Monitor water quality
  - b. Other testing if volunteers interested in doing
2. Clean Boats, Clean Water: which does boat inspections at boat landings
3. AIS programs and outreach:
  - a. Providing input for surface water grants request (not writing the grants)
  - b. Water monitoring
  - c. Assist DNR with AIS responses
  - d. Purple Loosestrife biological control
  - e. Grant technical assistance