



Spring 2020

Lake Association Members,

In the midst of Covid-19, I believe it is safe to say that we are all probably looking for those things that bring familiarity and comfort in these uncertain times. As a person who lives on our Chain of Lakes year round, I have looked for and found familiarity and comfort in nature. Familiarity and comfort in the changing of the seasons, in the return of the migrating birds, and in the sights, sounds, smells and feel of spring. (Maybe even taste, if you were lucky enough to get some fresh Maple syrup.) It seems when you can engage your senses with nature, it brings a sense of calm, and when it does, it seems to communicate to us that *we will get through this*. As I write this letter, I will continue to use the nationwide mantra for Covid-19 “WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER” to discuss our lake association “Priority Areas” and lake property ownership.

As I think about, “WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER,” I find myself in awe of those who inspire in the grips of crisis and challenge. This has always been one of those life questions for me...“Why in times of crisis do some people give up while others excel, inspire, grow and demonstrate selflessness so they, and those around them excel and thrive?” Throughout our American history, our country has always found ways to fight back and recover when faced with extreme adversity. As we navigate these strange times of Social Distancing, and Safer at Home orders, my wish is that we all might find a small way to inspire, help, and support those in need. I also hope that on the back end of this crisis, we never forget how that kind word made us feel when we needed it, how lucky we are to have family and friends and how much we missed spending time with them when we were unable to do so due to quarantine, and last I hope you remember the positive aspects of how these times made us slow down and be more present. Remember, “WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER.” Please make sure to support local establishments hit the hardest by this pandemic to help them recover as soon as they re-open. These businesses are all critical to our lives in the northwoods.

You may recall in late 2019, as the Lake Association year came to a close, the board asked members to share their thoughts as to what “Priority Issues” that the Lake Association should address. The board received a few responses, reviewed them, and categorized them into the following four “Priority Issues” members wanted: 1. Water clarity, erosion, and shoreline restoration, 2. Theft, 3. Boating courtesy and 4. Continued focus on Invasive Species impacting the lake and fishing habitats. Initially, the board hoped to have the 2020 Area Lakes Days Speakers address some of these issues. However, as you know, due to COVID-19, Area Lakes Day had to be cancelled. The board and I have

been and will continue to do our best to focus on the Priority Issues throughout the upcoming meetings, newsletters, and projects we do.

PRIORITY ONE: Water Clarity, Erosion, and Shoreline Restoration: As people who live and recreate on these lakes, it is essential that we understand how interconnected we are, and how our actions as Lake property owners affect us all. Yes, you guessed it, “WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER!” In the medical field, one of our code of ethics is “First, do no Harm.” As property owners, we can abide by the principle of, “First, do no harm.” Next, just like a doctor or nurse, we need to **ASSESS-TAKE ACTION- and CONTINUALLY REASSESS**, to ensure the actions we are making are affecting the outcomes we desire. This is what we need to do as lake property owners, we need to assess, take personal responsibility and action, and reassess our actions as property owners to ensure that the actions we take not only positively impacts our own property but that of the Chain of lakes we live and recreate on. We all should want to take positive steps to heal, enhance, and nurture our land, so that our legacy of a clean healthy and vibrant ecosystem excels with our help and ensures that generations to come will be thankful that we understood how great we can be when, “WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER.”

Briefly, in this first Newsletter of 2020, I want to share some ways that we, as a lake community, we may choose to **ASSESS- TAKING ACTION- and REASSESS** on your own properties- to address “Priority One.” If you have been on our chain of lakes for a number of years you would know that our water clarity has been impacted over the years. Some of these changes have been natural, and unfortunately, other impacts to clarity have been due to our choices as property owners. Our Chain is extremely fortunate to have the Ohmart Wetlands as part of our ecosystem. This is true for many reasons, but one of the greatest functions of this area is that it’s a natural filtration system, for all the incoming water from Long lake.

So let's take a more personal look... I encourage you as you assess your own properties, first, do you meet the criteria of do no harm? Second, do runoff areas of your property slow, or stop nutrient rich runoff from flowing into the lake with each rain? Would your shoreline benefit from creating simple buffers zones? This can be done as easily as letting your grass grow by the shoreline instead of cutting right down to the lake. This technique also has been shown to keep geese from coming up on your yard and relieving themselves all over your frontage. As I have grown a buffer area on my property, I have also been pleased to see how the butterflies, frogs and turtles have loved this area. Lastly, I encourage all to assess their use of fertilizer (with or without Nitrogen) on yards that might leach into our lakes. Any product used to stimulate growth of your grass will also stimulate aquatic weeds and/or algae.

Another simple action is to assist in preserving shorelines and address Priority One and Priority Three is abiding by slow-no-wake zones- speed. Boat wakes due to the close proximity of land and the inability of the boat waves to disperse before they reach the shore are another cause of erosion thus leading to the deterioration of water quality. Remember, “WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER,” take time to slow down, enjoy the slow pace and really look all around at the wonderful sights of nature. Have you seen the beaver dams by the McCann boat landing? How many sandhill cranes were in the channel today? Take time to observe the nature around you and in doing so you will be helping preserve the ecosystem and creating a safer chain of lakes.

PRIORITY 2: THEFT: In discussion with the board on this issue, it has been decided that in upcoming newsletters we will be gathering advice from the police in best practices and actions you can take to reduce the chances of theft. Having the plan to share in future newsletters, this is just one more area where, “WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER,” that we can establish an unofficial neighborhood watch around the lakes to let those people know that theft is not going to happen on our chain.

PRIORITY 3: BOATING COURTESY: Having the opportunity to boat on other lakes, I feel we are extremely fortunate on our Chain of lakes. However, that being said there isn’t a single boater on our Chain of lakes that can’t share a story about being disgruntled by an individual that did not practice, in our opinion, the safest boating practices. The site for Wisconsin Boating laws is: <https://dnr.wi.gov/files/PDF/pubs/LE/LE0301.pdf> Please, remember that when “WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER”- we demonstrate what we want and expect from other boaters for another safe 2020.

PRIORITY 4: INVASIVE SPECIES: We will continue efforts to do what we can to identify, prevent, and work to find cures to keep invasive species from taking hold on our lakes. Ken Giehart will continue to chair the Invasive species committee meeting and he will share how we as a our lake community can demonstrate “WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER,” by helping to prevent the spread on our lakes. Stay tuned to future newsletters regarding more information on invasive species.

Last, but I believe the most critical way “WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER,”- is through your membership to the organization. Your membership shows your commitment to the vitality of our Chain of Lakes. The board once again has voted to extend this first newsletter out to as many lake property owners as we have been able to gather. Our list is very extensive with mailings being sent to 371 physical addresses. Despite our efforts to keep this list as current as possible it remains a challenge to know when a property changes hands. If you know of a new buyer on our chain, please direct them to either our website: Islandchainoflakes.org or to me, as your President, so I can make sure membership information gets to them. We have attached a membership form to the end of this newsletter for your convenience. Please, promptly, take the two minutes to complete and return your membership to continue to be updated on Association activities. We greatly appreciate those who have donated above and beyond the standard membership fees. If you choose to donate, please read the membership form to receive a donation receipt. Kindly, note these additional donations are very beneficial to the organization and ensure that we can continue to do projects and make sure we are able to manage the day to day operations of this volunteer organization. There is no question that membership is the best way to show “WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER.” We have also once again teamed up with local sponsors to bring you our Lake Association Calendar free to all those who become members. Please note **CALENDARS WILL NOT BE MAILED, BUT WILL BE AVAILABLE AT ASSOCIATION MEETINGS.** As long as I am allowed to continue as President of your organization, I will always have the aspiration and goal of 100% of property owner members.

From the President: Karl Nordin KarlNordin61@gmail.com 715-577-8692.

ASSOCIATION STORE/ MERCHANDISE FOR SALE: Due to COVID-19, we’ve decided to keep the online store open until Monday, June 15th @ 11:59 p.m.

Items will be ready for pick-up at the **Saturday, July 11, 11:00** Sonny’s Bar Brat Feed/ Meeting.

<https://chippewavalleysportinggoods.itemorder.com/>

SALES CODE: Island20

2020 Meeting Schedule

May 9th-AREA LAKE DAYS CANCELLED DUE TO COVID 19

Saturday, June, 13 10:00 AM Meeting- Backwoods Bar

(If the Backwoods is not open for in dining seating or if Social Distancing guidelines continue this meeting could be cancelled too.)

Saturday, July 11, 11:00 Sonny's Bar Brat Feed/ Meeting.

August 8, 10 AM Hawk's Bar/ Meeting

WALLEYE STOCKING UPDATE

In fall of 2019- the DNR continued the Walleye Initiative which delivered 10 walleye per acre for each acre of the entire chain of lakes. Per the DNR website the acres per lake on our chain is as follows.

Island Lake: 543 Acres

McCann Lake: 126 Acres

Clear Lake: 94 Acres

Chain Lake: 454 Acres

Additionally: 117 Muskies were stocked into McCann Lake.

HUGE THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING:

The Lake Association Board Members and lake Representatives: This group was active all winter working to plan for meetings, Area Lake Days, and just taking care of the ins and outs of the association. Thanks to all of you for your hard work, dedication, and leadership - I am grateful to you all.

BUOY CREW: This years crew included Rick Krahn- who stored and put the association pontoon in for the group, Darrel Bauman for doing Buoy repair, Installation Crew: John Kowalewski, Mike Kasel, Ralph Deluga, and Mark Schmitt.

CALENDAR: Huge thanks to Linda Carpenter for spearheading this project again and working her artistic magic in the layout to put together another outstanding

calendar. Thanks also to all those who submitted pictures, and or helped get or provided us with your local events. Last, thanks to John Kowalewski for getting the vendor contributions.

Thanks to the vendors who choose to donate portions of their Area Lake Day's Vendor fees to the good of the organization.

ISLAND CHAIN OF LAKES ASSOCIATION, INC
MEETING MINUTES August 10, 2019
HAWK'S BAR and CAMPGROUND

INTRODUCTION

- I. Call to order – President Karl Nordin called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.
- II. Karl welcomed Gary and Jayn Gotter (Chain Lake) to the ICOLA.
- III. Karl advised that the July ICOLA minutes had been published and distributed. He advised that there was a correction to be made in the heading to correct the date (July 13) and location (Backwoods) of the meeting. Mark Schmitt motioned the minutes be approved followed by a second from Tom Frank and the minutes were approved by a unanimous voice vote.

IV. Bea Burnap provided the treasurer's report which follows:

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|---|--|
| a. Checking Account Balance as of 6/5/2019 | \$9,319.05 |
| i. Income (Dues and Donations, calendars and brat feed) | \$605.00 |
| ii. Expenses (Brat feed, door prizes, office) | \$353.80 |
| b. Bank Balance as of 8/9/2019 | \$9,578.97 (\$674 restricted for walleyes and \$38.07 restricted for invasive species) |
| c. CDs | \$15,000.06 |
| i. Walleye | \$4141.09 |
| ii. Walleye | \$10858.97 |
| d. Land Acquisition | \$15,049.08 |
| e. ICOLA Savings | \$5,539.27 |
| f. Deb Krahn made a motion to approve the treasurer's report and Dan Borreson seconded the motion. The treasurer's report was approved unanimously by voice vote. | |

OLD BUSINESS

- V. Karl reminded everyone who had not picked up their calendar to do so.
- VI. Tom Frank gave an update regarding the Invasive Species Committee activity. Tom reminded members that the committee had planted beetles in June to combat the Purple Loosestrife and that he had done an inspection on August 9, 2019. He found the beetles have been doing an excellent job controlling the loosestrife as he found only 2 blooming in an area where 4 or 5 had been seen earlier in the spring. He said that there is some loosestrife on the north side of the channel and that the committee will be meeting later this year to decide on how to combat that area next year. Karl asked Tom about the invasive snails and Tom advised he would have to check on those and get back with Karl.

- VII. Karl gave an update on the status of being tax exempt for land taxes on the ICOLA property. He said that he had been working with Ralph Heuschele and they have notarized several documents and are now accumulating the needed documents.
- VIII. Karl thanked Carol Hakala (in her absence) for writing an article for the August newsletter. He also thanked Bonnie Bins for retrieving the store merchandise for Mary this month.
- IX. Karl asked if there was any other old business to discuss but no one addressed anything.

NEW BUSINESS

- X. Karl led the elections for Vice President, Treasurer and the Chain Lake and McCann Lake representatives. For each office Karl asked three times for additional nominees and each time there were no additional nominations.
 - a. Vice President – Mark Schmitt agreed to run for another two year term. There were no other nominations and he was re-elected by a unanimous voice vote.
 - b. Treasurer – John Kowelewski had agreed to run for treasurer to replace Bea Burnap, the longtime outgoing treasurer. Karl thanked Bea for her many years of service. There were no other nominations and John was selected by a near unanimous voice vote with one member apparently jokingly voice dissenting vote.
 - c. Chain Lake Representative – Ron Ottum agreed to run for another two year term. There were no other nominations and he was re-elected by a unanimous voice vote.
 - d. McCann Lake Representative – Ted Hakala agreed to run for another two year term. There were no other nominations and he was re-elected by a unanimous voice vote.
- XI. Karl advised that available at the meeting was paper and an issues box for members to bring up issues to be discussed by the board. Karl also reminded members that they could call or email him with issues also.
- XII. Karl asked if there was any other new business and nothing was brought up.
- XIII. Karl asked for a motion to adjourn and there was a motion and a second to do so and the meeting was adjourned by a unanimous voice vote.
- XIV. Door prizes
 - a. Mark Schmitt and Michelle Scalzo each won an ICOLA cap.
 - b. Sandy Steege won a 6 pack of beer.
 - c. Janet Bauman won a 6 pack of soda.

GUEST SPEAKER – Randy Mundt

- 1. Randy became unavailable to make the meeting, therefore there was no guest speaker.

REMINDERS:

- **Important Phone Numbers**
 - Rusk County Sheriff 715/532-2200 Call with any lake abuse and/or boating and jet ski issues
 - DNR Satellite Office Ladysmith 715/532-3911
 - Forestry Department 715/532-2113 Call with any boat landing issues