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Outcome Documents – January 13th, 2022

January 13th, 2022, 5:00-6:00 pm,
Meeting at Kanabec SWCD Office

Kanabec County - Coalition of Lake Associations (COLA)
Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)

Kanabec Lake Associations:
Ann Lake Watershed Alliance
Fish Lake Improvement Assn.
Knife Lake Improvement District
Lewis Lake Assn.
Pomroy Lake Assn.
Quamba Lake Assn.
Kanabec Rivers

Kanabec County COLA Identity: Concerned citizens of the lakes in Kanabec County working towards better water quality for the common good. Focusing on preventing the introduction and limiting the spread of AIS.

Outcome Documents:

Meeting called to order at 5:00pm

In Attendance: Dennis McNally, County Commissioner; Josh Votruba, Deanna Pomije, Kanabec SWCD; Jon Sanford, Kanabec SWCD Supervisor; Oren Larson, Lewis Lake; Jim Kutil, Fish Lake; Anne Leroy; Quamba Lake; Kyle Hams, Knife Lake; Jeff Hamme, Ann Lake; Paul Weingart, Kanabec Rivers

Civic Organizing Purpose: To broaden governing responsibility to include those impacted, but not replacing existing governing responsibilities of board members and supervisors.

Agenda Items:

- Call Meeting to Order – 5:00 PM
 - Pledge to the Flag
 - Introductions, if new members present,
 - Roll Call
- *Approve Agenda – Any additions

It was requested by member of COLA board to add topic on funding for spraying and Commissioner McNally requested to have added a topic regarding the County and AIS funding/budget.

Motion by Hams, seconded by Weingart to approve the agenda with additions. Motion passed.

- *Approve outcomes, December 9, 2021 - corrections and additions?

Motion by Kutil, seconded by Hams to approve the outcomes. Motion passed.

- *Treasurer's Report –
 - Any invoices from Lake Associations?No invoices needing approval were brought forward to the meeting.

- 2021 AIS Year End Reports

Votruba let the COLA group know that December 31 the County AIS reports were submitted to the DNR. These reports detail how AIS funds were spent in the County. Votruba thanked the Lake Associations for sending him their completed metrics sheets.

- 2022 AIS Budget

Commissioner McNally let the group know at a recent County Board meeting the County Board approved increasing the AIS Administration percentage from 15% to 20%. He also mentioned that keeping the boat inspector work separate from Administration should keep the Soil and Water from overspending in the Administration category.

- 2022 Boat Inspectors – reallocation of funds to potentially hire third inspector

Due to the COLA board decision to not put money towards a decontamination unit this year the COLA and likely not purchase a unit, the COLA board was asked if they would be interested in moving funds so that a third boat inspector could be hired. Funds saved for the decontamination unit could be moved to hire an additional inspector. Looking at the data Kyle Hams with Knife Lake didn't think an additional boat inspector will be required. Upon looking at the data he noted it was mostly minor things such as leaving plug in the boat or not removing all the weeds off boat. Overall, the COLA board thought that the two inspectors covered the accesses well.

- 2022 Soil and Water Newsletter - AIS Article

For this topic, Votruba asked the COLA group if they had any ideas for topics for the AIS article in the Soil and Water Annual Newsletter. Anne Leroy mentioned that we could have an article in newsletter explaining the differences between native aquatic plants and invasive aquatic plants and the importance of having native plants in the lake. It was also recommended that having in the newsletter something recommending ice fishermen to clean up their garbage on the ice would be good to include as well.

- Set Policy for Lake Association Carry Over

In response to Pomroy Lake and Ann Lake having large amounts of unspent AIS funds, the COLA board was asked if they would be open to setting policy on how much carry over is allowed each year. A possible limit would be \$5000, an exception could be made for lakes that had plans on how they would be spending the funds. Jeff Hamme with Ann mentioned Ann Lake would have no problems setting policy on carry over. However, before anything is approved the COLA board would like Pomroy's input on the topic.

- Funding for AIS Spraying

Kyle Hams mentioned that Knife Lake can never fully fund their AIS spraying. Typically, every year they apply for DNR grants for spraying to help fund the treatments. It was mentioned in past years that Lake Associations have donated funds to other Lake Associations to assist in their treatments.

Lake Assn. Check-Ins / Discussion:

- ✓ Each Lake Assn. open to discuss concerns they have & report on activities.

Knife: Nothing new to report.

Lewis: Oren Larson mentioned that Lewis will be treating for Curly Leaf Pondweed next year and will be applying for a DNR grant for spraying

Fish: Jim Kutil mentioned that they will be sponsoring a carp fishing tournament this summer. Fish Lake Association is currently looking into a carp removal program. Jim said he would be talking to carp fishermen.

Quamba: Nothing new to report.

Ann: Nothing new to report.

Rivers: Nothing new to report

Other Items:

- Open Public Comment Period – no public comment provided
 1. Anne Leroy mentioned she would like to know the legality for the Townships to support AIS treatments. COLA board will look into statutes for Townships to support AIS spraying. It was thought during meeting that the Townships should not be supporting AIS treatments.
 2. McNally also commented that AIS funds should be used at all public accesses in the County to prevent spread of AIS, this should include Lake Five and Eleven. The COLA board however did let him know that Lake Five and Lake Eleven did have boat inspectors during the 2021 inspection year. Only the river accesses and lakes with no public accesses had no boat inspectors.
- Meeting Evaluation / Share around the table – How did things go? Were you heard? Did the agenda items get covered?
- Next scheduled meeting: **Thursday March 10th** from 5:00-6:00 pm, in person meeting at the Kanabec SWCD office with a WebEx remote option available.

*Motion to adjourn:

Motion by Kutil, seconded by Larson to adjourn our COLA-AIS meeting. Motion passed.

Meeting Adjourned 6:01 PM

Kanabec County - Coalition of Lake Assn. (COLA) - Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)

Purpose Statement: Meet regularly utilizing civic standards to organize ourselves, building capacity and infrastructure as needed to support our goals in leading toward better water quality through a focus on Aquatic Invasive Species.

Civic Standards:

1. All those impacted by the problem are stakeholders. Together they define the problem, set goals and work toward solutions as active citizens.
2. The stakeholders are accountable for contributing resources (leadership/time, knowledge, constituencies and dollars) to solve the problem for the common good.
3. All stakeholders are engaged in making decisions and policies that contribute to the common good.
4. All stakeholders agree to be transparent throughout this process. We agree to implement policies where we individually have the authority to act.